



# The Centaur

Educating Horse and Rider as Partners.

An RMDS Publication

March 2012

## Congratulations to our 2012 RMDS Scholarship Winners!

A hand-written note in a Christmas card spelled out in black and white my high hopes for this year. My trainer Kathy Simard wrote in her card to me: "Looking forward to 2012 and Show Season!"

**Leg-Up Scholarship:**  
Linda Gaber

With 2011 the first consistent year in RMDS show rings for my 10-year-old Welsh Cob Gallod Enki and me, it was work, fun, disappointing and

Linda: Cont'd on pg 23



I applied for an RMDS scholarship this year to assist me in my quest to perform my first freestyle with my mare, Boucheron, at the I1 level. I found the whole concept of freestyle a daunting task, and so collaborated (to save money—rather than just letting someone do it) with a freestyle designer to select the music and plan the choreography. That took several months and

**Solid Seat Scholarship:**  
Ann Edelman



Photo by Kathleen Bryan

Ann: Cont'd on pg 23

What a welcome home I had on January 15th when the first voice mail I listened to was from Mary Jo Hoepner telling me that I was awarded the RMDS scholarship. I had been out of touch on a Caribbean cruise for the last 7 days (a cruise I won from Parker Adventist Hospital) and was not expecting the results of the scholarship winners to be out so soon.

Photo by Kathleen Bryan



**Opening Doors Scholarship:**  
Gwen Ka'awaloo

I plan to use the funds to get the instruction and coaching I need with my horse Safarie. Over the last 4 years I have concentrated on achieving my judging licenses ("r" Dressage and DSHB).

Gwen: Cont'd on pg 23



**JR/YR Scholarship:**  
Zoe Austermann

awarded scholarship money will be used for shows; however some it will go towards regular lessons with my trainer, Angel Hoskins, and monthly clinics with Cindy Spalding. With a lot of assistance from my two instructors, Escort and I are crossing our fingers (and hooves) for a great show season with the help of the RMDS scholarship!

This show season, Escort and I are going to show first level early in the season and start working towards our Bronze Medal scores. Hopefully, we'll progress to second level towards the end of the show season. Most of the

What a wonderful modern day world we live in! I hope many of you took advantage of the USEF Network and were able to watch the World Dressage Masters in Florida at the end of January. It was fun to be able to watch horses from all over the United States and Europe live in our homes at no charge! The network did get overloaded periodically and I know some had a hard time getting on to the broadcast but it was worth it once the coverage began. It was a great learning opportunity and I can't wait for more dressage shows to be added to the schedule.

Fundraising efforts are under way for the USDF Region 5 Juniors and Young Riders as they try to qualify and travel to the 2012 FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships. The Championships will be held July 17-22, 2012 at the Kentucky Horse Park – one week earlier this year due to the Olympics. It is a very large undertaking to take our group of 8 riders to Kentucky with their horses, grooms and Chef d'Equipe and they need all the support we can give them. If you would like to contribute or help with their fundraising efforts, please contact Joan Clay, our new Region 5 Jr/YR FEI coordinator at [jnclay@comcast.net](mailto:jnclay@comcast.net) or 970-420-0877. If you are still

interested in participating in the FEI Junior and Young Rider program for 2012, the last intention deadline is April 1st, so be sure to get in your intentions.

The USDF website has been updated with the minutes from the 2011 Board of Governors' meeting, the updated USDF By-Laws, the BOG approved 2012-2013 budget, and several other very important documents. The link to these important documents is <http://www.usdf.org/about/about-usdf/governance/index.asp>. If you have any questions about these items, please feel free to contact me or any of the USDF staff members for more information. If you are interested in being a delegate to the Board of Governors' meeting, there is still time to contact our Nominating Council representative and have your name added to the ballot for Participating Delegate. Please contact Kay Lorenzen at [kaylorenzen@cox.net](mailto:kaylorenzen@cox.net) and let her know your interest and she can provide you with more details on the potential responsibilities. USDF is also seeking nominations for USDF President and USDF Secretary.

And a final note, another step into technology for USDF...USDF Members now receive a FREE Gold Membership to PerfectWorldDressage.com!

Register with the code USDF/PW2012. PerfectWorldDressage.com is an interactive website which allows riders to upload videos of dressage tests and have them judged by licensed, experienced USEF Dressage judges. No show clothes required! Film yourself at home, upload the video for judges to view, and get ready to advance your skills, abilities, and love of dressage.

USDF member benefit: USDF members can simply enter the promo code USDF/PW2012 on the Perfect World Dressage website to receive a FREE Perfect World Dressage Gold Membership! Gold Membership also allows members to post videos and pictures to their profile page, post a blog, and post unlimited classified and horse ads. Gold Members can also participate in the USDF/Perfect World – Dressage Challenge, which gives USDF recognition for Introductory–Second Level through PerfectWorldDressage.com. Members can improve their core dressage skills and at the same time, be recognized for their achievements without ever leaving their home or local barn.

Till next month!

*Heather Petersen, Region 5 Director*

### **Pikes Peak Dressage**

Welcome to the newest chapter of RMDS – the Pikes Peak Dressage Society. Our members are from all over CO, UT and NM, although most of our events will be held in CO. We started our year with a lunging clinic and a long lining demo on Feb 12, 2012. We are currently working on a schedule for 2012. We have one very exciting announcement: our first big clinic as a chapter will feature Gary Rockwell, Olympic Dressage judge for 2008 and 2012. He will be here on May 5 and 6, 2012, sharing his secrets for a successful ride in the ring. Details on location, etc. will be announced soon. Follow us on our website: [pikespeakdressage.org](http://pikespeakdressage.org).

-*Simone Windeler*, President

### **High Plains Dressage**

Well, we will have had our first meeting of 2012 by the time you read this. A Bit of Tack in Parker is hosting us with hot hors d'oeuvres and champagne with a special discount for chapter members.

Your HPD officers for 2012 are Wendy Cibis, President; Suzie Halle, Vice-President; and Judith Weber, Treasurer. We have a vacancy for the office of Secretary for which we welcome interested members to inquire. Our plan is to hold bi-monthly meetings at various locations so it's convenient for all our members to attend.

Your 2012 officers want to make this a member-centric year. We want

to hear your input before we map out any final plans for the year. Do you want scholarships, symposiums, clinics, chapter awards/recognition, lottery for show fee reimbursement or.....? Be sure to "like" High Plains Dressage on Facebook to keep up with our going's-on and share your thoughts about how we can encourage participation and make this the best chapter ever. If you are not a Facebook user, you can email or call Wendy directly at [wcibis@comcast.net](mailto:wcibis@comcast.net) or (720)570-6413.

Members who are trainers, facility owners, or other equine service providers: If you would like yourself or your business listed on the HPD website ([www.highplainsdressage.com](http://www.highplainsdressage.com)) or you are a Facebook user and would like HPD to "like" your business page, call or email Wendy and she will follow up with immediately.

Stay tuned for the thaw. It's going to be a great year.

-*Wendy, Suzie and Judith*, HPD

### **Arkansas Valley Chapter**

The Arkansas Valley Chapter met on Tuesday, January 14 at the Penrose Public Library. At this meeting the club elected to change the regular meeting time to 5 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. Additionally, the meetings will alternate between and hour-long educational session one month and a typical board-type meeting the next month. The club elected President Jamee Amundson to

chair the Show Management Committee and the committee will also include members Marcy Wadlington, Terry Palm and Ginny Wagener. The club wants to focus on education this year, choosing to have 2 Ride-A-Test clinics that are treated more like schooling shows (prizes, entry forms etc) than a regular clinic. The Show committee will meet in early February to start planning these clinic/shows. The next meeting of AVDA will be on Tuesday, February 21 and it will be an educational meeting about the structure of US Dressage and the levels included. It will be at the Penrose Public Library.

-*Jamee Amundson*, President Arkansas Valley

### **Foothills Chapter**

The chapter is pleased to announce that the Heather Robertson Clinic hosted by Capricorn Farm in Golden is all planned and registration forms for the couple of rider spots we have left (and auditors) will be posted on our Foothills website for all RMDS members to participate. The first scheduled clinic is May 19-20 and the second clinic is scheduled for August 4-5. If anyone plans on attending get your registration forms in as soon as possible: registration is on a first come first serve basis for both clinics.

On our website you will also find the registration for the Ride-a-Test with Dolly Hannon scheduled for June 16 at Robert Ranch Equestrian Center in Littleton. The website has a fabulous

Cont'd on pg 5

## President's Message



Lori and Unico GPA

Spring arrives this month, though it has not been too tough of a winter, at least until that last storm. In March we have the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo at the National Western. This year I am very excited to see Jane Savoie and Susan Harris both presenting. RMDS will have a large booth there to promote the sport of dressage and each chapter is encouraged to participate. Sharon Soos, RMDS Marketing Chair does such a wonderful job of organizing this event for us each year and puts so much time into it. Please take some time to volunteer at the RMDS booth, or just stop

by and say "hello and thank you" to Sharon.

I encourage everyone to look at the RMDS website calendar as it is filling up with events for March and the rest of the year. This is the most up to date calendar we can offer our members, so please check it often. There are some "ride a test" events that have been added, a clinic and a few schooling shows for this month. Take the opportunity to visit other chapters and participate in their events. We are all RMDS members and all members are welcome to participate in RMDS events and chapter activities. You might learn a new skill, be introduced to a new vet or trainer, find a new idea you would like to try out or just have a good time and laugh with new friend.

Kelly Hendricks of Conifer, CO has been appointed liaison between the Western Dressage Association of Colorado and RMDS. With the Western Dressage tests and "ride a test" events being offered at some of our shows there will be communication between the two organizations. Western Dressage is their own organization and we are only offering a venue for their members and our members to try out the sport. Kelly will be attending

some of the Western Dressage events and reporting about them at the RMDS board meetings and occasionally writing an article for the Centaur. Thank you Kelly for stepping up to serve in the position!

A reminder that The Dressage Foundation is here to support dressage at all levels - from Adult Amateurs to High Performance, from Pony Club to Century Club, and everything in between. Their Board of Directors has approved awarding over \$260,000 in grants and scholarships to qualified applicants throughout 2012. To be a part of this exciting year, visit [www.dressagefoundation.org](http://www.dressagefoundation.org).

The RMDS Executive Board meeting has been moved to March 15th. Everyone is welcome to join in on the meeting. If you, as an RMDS member, have a comment, concern, idea or just want to see what those volunteers on the Executive Board discuss at the meetings please join us. Information can be found on the RMDS website, in the Centaur and by contacting the Central Office.

Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!" -Robin Williams, Comedian

-Lori Mitchell, President, RMDS

Cont'd from pg 3

new look with some of our members' photos too (hope to get more).

The Foothill Dressage Chapter has a Facebook Page and everyone is welcome. "Like" us, so you may join in on our activities and discussions.

The Chapter would like to congratulate our member, Linda Gaber as the recipient of the RMDS Leg Up Scholarship.

The chapter has meetings once a quarter; our next meeting is scheduled April 9 at Capricorn Farm in Golden.

*-Lori Mitchell, Foothills President*

### Northern Colorado

NCDA held its business meeting

on Jan. 17, 2012. Potential activities for 2012 were discussed. A visit with trainer and competitor, Jessica Greer is planned for February (date to be announced). The membership will be surveyed for their preference between holding a schooling show versus a "Ride-A-Test" in April. The current membership list was passed to Kathleen Killkelly, Secretary, and Pat Cole, Treasurer. Joan Clay has agreed to serve as proxy for the RMDS Executive Board meetings. The NCDA "beer basket" expertly put together by Paula Lundberry brought \$160.00 at the awards auction that helped to support the RMDS Board meeting.

Several NCDA members gathered at Hana Van Campen's home on Jan. 22 to view two DVDs: Suzanne Von

Dietze's "Back-to-Back," and Steffen Peters schooling Ravel with commentary by Rae Ann Cook. "Back-to-Back" clearly illustrated exercises for the rider aimed at developing balance, core strength and a supple seat. Watching Steffen Peters ride Ravel was an inspiration about rhythm and suppleness. This is a fantastic partnership based on mutual respect. This educational activity was enhanced by grazing on gourmet Spanish hams, cheeses, and an assortment of other goodies . . . a truly fine way to spend a very windy afternoon on the Front Range of Colorado.

*-Hana Van Campen, NCDA President*

### Important Things to Know This Month





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## RMDS SPONSORED EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

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

### 2012

March 17	Teaching the Rider to Feel, Sarah Martin, Stellar Stables, Parker, CO
June 9-10	RMDS Winter Wake-Up (in the Summer), Tomora Training Center, Greeley
July 18-21	RMDS Junior Camp, Tomora Training Center, Greeley, CO
July 22	USDF Youth & Adult Team Competition, Tomora Training Center, Greeley, CO
Sept 20	RMDS Breed Show, Colorado Horse Park, Parker, CO
Sept 21-23	RMDS Championships, Colorado Horse Park, Parker, CO
Nov 10	RMDS Board of Governors' Meeting & Awards' Banquet

For details on these and other RMDS events:

Contact Michelle Anderson, the RMDS Education Chairman, at 303-646-1375, michand@hotmail.com. Also, read the Centaur, go to [www.rmids.org](http://www.rmids.org), or contact the RMDS Central Office at 720-890-7825, [rmids@rmids.org](mailto:rmids@rmids.org).



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Photos courtesy of Mary McDonald, Lilo Fore and USDF.

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Region 5: April 21-22, 2012  
Golden Spike Event Center  
Ogden, UT

[WWW.USDF.ORG](http://WWW.USDF.ORG)

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Current USDF members receive a pre-register discount.  
For information on this or future clinics plus other educational events, visit [www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org).



Auditor door prizes provided by Jane Heart Jewelry.



# *Tomora Training Center*

11000 US 34 bypass Greeley CO 80634

is proud to present

## Reese Koffler-Stanfield

March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

Reese is a United States Dressage Federation Certified Instructor/Trainer through Fourth Level. She has trained with Olympic Coach, Conrad Schumacher, Hofgut Neuhof, near Frankfort Germany from October 1998 – May 1999, and from November 2001- April 2002. She presently trains with both Mr. Schumacher, and FEI “S” judge and world-class trainer, Kathy Connelly, in Wellington Florida. Additionally, she has worked with Jessica Ranshausen, Ellen Bontje, and George Williams.

- January 2009, Reese and Kasper won the Grand Prix Special at the Gold Coast Opener, and went on in February to win the Grand Prix Special and placed third in the Open Grand Prix at the Wellington Dressage Classic CDI\*\*\*.
- March, the pair placed fourth and were the highest scoring American Horse/Rider combination in the WEF CDI\*\*\*.
- Collection Gaits National Grand Prix Festival of Champions in June 2009 Reese and Kasper finished fourth overall placing them on the distinguished USEF Long List and Eligible Athlete Committee.
- 2010, Reese and Kasper competed in several International Competitions finishing in Fourth Place Grand Prix Freestyle in the Kentucky Cup CDI \*\*\* and Lamplight CDI \*\*\*.
- 2010, Reese was the Head Eventing Dressage Coach for Argentina in the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games.
- 2010 and 2011, Reese was asked to be a presenter and performer at Equine Affair in Columbus, Ohio.

Along with a very active High Performance career Reese is a member of several local and National Committees including USEF Safety Committee, USEF Stewarts and Technical Delegate Committee, Advisor to the University of Kentucky Equine Initiative, Advisor to the Georgetown College Equine Scholars, and member of the Masterson Equestrian Trust or M.E.T. Reese is a sought after trainer and clinician who gives numerous clinics nationwide to all levels of riders and resides on her farm (Maplecrest Farm of Lexington) in Georgetown, KY with her husband Travis, her Newfoundland dog Annapurna, and her horses.

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## 2012 RMDS Executive Board

President .....	Lori Mitchell .....	303-816-2375 .....	bandwdressage@aol.com
Past President .....	Simone Windeler .....	719-540-2000 .....	simonedressage@gmail.com
Vice President .....	Mary Jo Hoepner .....	719-495-3648 .....	vicepresident@rmds.org
Secretary .....	Heather Petersen .....	719-683-8435 .....	slush@drwgw.net
Treasurer .....	Sharon Soos .....	303-904-7534 .....	sksoos@mesanetworks.net

## Permanent Committees

Adult Amateur .....	Beth Geier .....	303-673-9840 .....	Bethgeier1@comcast.net
Awards .....	Shannon Lemons .....	719-686-0064 .....	lemons_shannon@yahoo.com
Results .....	Central Office .....	720-890-7825 .....	rmds@rmds.org
Communications .....	Nicole Bizzarro .....	303-939-0110 .....	nicbiz@indra.com
Centaur Production .....	Cathy Van Berg .....	303-916-6136 .....	vanbergc@yahoo.com
Omnibus Advertising .....	Central Office .....	720-890-7825 .....	rmds@rmds.org
Omnibus Production .....	Nicole Bizzarro .....	303-939-0110 .....	nicbiz@indra.com
Webmaster .....	Michael Petersen .....	719-683-8435 .....	webmaster@rmds.org
Constitution, By-laws .....	Central Office .....	720-890-7825 .....	rmds@rmds.org
Education .....	Michelle Anderson .....	303-646-1375 .....	michand@hotmail.com
Insurance, Show Standards .....	Central Office .....	720-890-7825 .....	rmds@rmds.org
Junior/Young Riders .....	Julie Haugen .....	970-217-7820 .....	youngriders@rmds.org
Junior Camp 2012 .....	TBA		
Marketing .....	Sharon Soos .....	303-904-7534 .....	sksoos@mesanetworks.net
Membership and Horse Registration .....	Central Office .....	720-890-7825 .....	rmds@rmds.org
Registration Officials and Show Standards .....	Central Office .....	720-890-7825 .....	rmds@rmds.org
RMDS Show Liaison .....	Susan Rudman .....	303-697-8528 .....	sewrunred@msn.com
Scheduling .....	Central Office .....	720-890-7825 .....	rmds@rmds.org
Scholarship .....	Mary Jo Hoepner .....	719-495-3648 .....	scholarship@rmds.org

## Chapter Presidents

Arkansas Valley .....	Jamee Amundson .....	308-672-1364 .....	piaffenpassage@aol.com
Boulder Valley .....	Kim Lampert .....	303-638-3606 .....	Dive4java@comcast.net
Colorado Springs .....	Pat Leech .....	719-749-2860 .....	pat.leech@skybeam.com
Foothills .....	Lori Mitchell .....	303-816-2375 .....	bandwdressage@aol.com
Grand Valley .....	Inka Spatafora .....	970-260-2660 .....	classicaldressage@earthlink.net
High Plains .....	Wendy Cibis .....	720-570-6413 .....	wcibis@comcast.net
Northern Colorado .....	Hana van Campen .....	303-918-3863 .....	bigsprucefarms@bendelow.net
Pikes Peak .....	Simone Windeler .....	719-540-2000 .....	simonedressage@gmail.com
Platte River Dressage .....	Laura Speer .....	970-330-7233 .....	riversidestables_evans@yahoo.com
Wasatch Mountains .....	Linda Nickerson .....	801-647-3291 .....	mail@snowypeaksranch.com
Western Colorado .....	Judith Family .....	970-923-8832 .....	dns@rof.net

## Governing Bodies

### UNITED STATES DRESSAGE FEDERATION

USDF .....

859-971-2277 .....	www.usdf.org
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4051 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511

### USDF Region 5

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

US EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC .....

859-258-2472 .....	www.usef.org
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USEF  
4047 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511

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

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## RMDS CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE

**Arkansas Valley:** 3rd Tuesday, 5 pm, location TBD. Jamee Amundson, 308-672-1364, piaffenpassage@aol.com

**Boulder Valley:** 2nd Mon., even months, location TBD, Kim Lampert, 303-638-3606, Dive4java@comcast.net

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

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

**Grand Valley:** 2nd Thurs. each month, location TBD, Inka Spatafora, 970-260-2660, classicaldressage@earthlink.net

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

**Northern Colo.:** 3rd Tues., each month, location TBD, Hana van Campen, 303-918-3863, bigsprucefarms@bendelow.net

**Pikes Peak:** Mtg time and location TBD. Simone Windeler, 719-540-2000, simonedressage@gmail.com

**Platte River Dressage:** Mtg time and location TBD, Laura Speer, 970-330-7233, riversidestables\_evans@yahoo.com

**Wasatch Mountains**  
Linda Nickerson, 801-647-3291, mail@snowypeaksranch.com, Location TBD

**Western Colorado:** Judith Family, 970-923-8832, dns@rof.net

### Meeting Schedule of the RMDS Executive Board

All RMDS Executive Board meetings are open to all and occur on the second Thursday of every odd-numbered month. Meeting time is 6:30 pm. Meeting dates in 2012 are January 12, March 15, May 10, July 10, September 13, and October 11. Contact the RMDS Central Office for location. Steering Committee meetings are held on the second Monday of every even-numbered month. Board of Governors' meeting is held the second Saturday of Nov (this year is Nov 10). Contact the Central Office for precise details.

### Horse Terminology! ~ Submitted by Simone Windeler



Event Prospect = Big Fast Horse  
Dressage Prospect = Big Slow Horse  
Hack Prospect = Pretty Color  
Sporting Prospect = Short Fast Horse  
Camp Prospect = Fast Horse which can turn  
Endurance Prospect = Fast Horse which will turn sometimes  
Flashy = White Socks  
Attractive = Bay  
15.2hh = 14.3hhh  
16.2hh = 15.3hh  
To Loving Home = Only Expensive  
To Show Home Only = Very Expensive  
Needs Experienced Rider = Potentially Lethal  
Elegant = Thin



**StoneGateRanch**  
Horse Branding, Training, Lessons

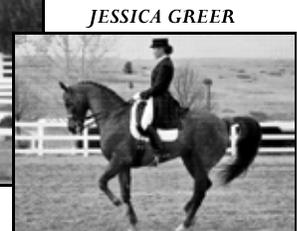
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- USDF "L" Graduate
- Available for clinics, judging & training

970-581-5613  
jessicagreerdressage@hotmail.com www.jessicagreerdressage.com

3628 N Taft Hill Rd, Ft Collins, CO  
970-430-0181 www.stonegatehorses.com

# The Centaur Newsletter

The Centaur newsletter is published monthly. To guarantee that ads and articles will run in a given month, they must be received by the 7th of the month prior to the month of publication, i.e. January 7th for the February edition. If not received by the deadline, articles and ads may be placed in the following issue, if not time sensitive.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For article suggestions, articles, columns, letters-to-the-editor: Centaur Editor, Cathy Van Berg, 1767 Rose Petal Lane, Castle Rock, CO 80109, Phone: 303.916.6136, email: vanbergc@yahoo.com

## ADVERTISING

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

## DISPLAY ADVERTISING

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

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

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

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

## PAYMENT AND AD COPY DELIVERY

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

## AD RATES AND SIZE SPECIFICATIONS

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

Full Page ..... \$150 ..... 7" x 9.5"  
Half Page ..... \$90 ..... 7" x 4.5"  
Outside back half ..... \$105 ..... 7" x 4.5"  
1/4 Page (Vertical Only) . \$55 ..... 3.25" x 4.5"  
1/8 Page (Business Card) \$30 ..... 3.5" x 2"

(horizontal only)

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

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

## EDITORIAL POLICY

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

# Utilize the RMDS Network:

## Trainers and Instructors:

### Use the RMDS Website to Build New Business

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

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

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

## Advertise Events on the RMDS Website

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

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

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

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

## Important Info on RMDS membership

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

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

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

# Technical Delegates, Judges, and Certified Instructors

## Dressage Judge Ratings and Levels Qualified to Judge

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

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

\*may only judge at RMDS recognized shows.

### FEI PARA Dressage 3\*

Kristi Wysocki ..... 303-648-9877

### FEI 4\*

Janet Foy^ ..... 719-260-1566

### USEF 'S'

Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez^\* 303-263-0768

Sandra Hotz^ ..... 303-817-2030

Anita Owen ..... 303-953-9904

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

Kristi Wysocki^\* ..... 303-648-9877

^ = FEI Young Horse Certified

\* = Dressage Seat Equitation Certified

### USEF 'r'

Loni Gaudet ..... 985-966-3832

Amy Jablonovsky ..... 970-493-2833

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

### USDF 'L' Graduates (Schooling and RMDS

Only recognized shows)

Simone Ahern\* ..... 719-749-9274

Julie Burt ..... 719-431-2342

Alison Child\* (UT) ..... 435-640-3287

Linda Coates-Markle ..... 303-469-0279

Kathleen Donnelly\* ..... 970-310-8729

Amy Fulstone\* ..... 775-721-1123

Beth Geier ..... 303-673-9840

Jessica Greer ..... 970-581-5613

Julie Haugen ..... 970-290-8360

Sarah Martin\* ..... 719-379-3716

Linda Ohlson-Gross\* ..... 303-840-9818

KC Parkins-Kyle ..... 303-841-9953

Kathy Simard\* ..... 720-981-4448

Simone Windeler ..... 719-540-2000

\*Denotes Graduation with Distinction

### Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Judge

Janet Foy 'R' ..... 719-260-1566

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

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

Kristi Wysocki 'R' ..... 303-648-9877

### Technical Delegates USEF

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

Rusty Cook (NM), r ..... 505-877-1456

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

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

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

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

Dianne Stanley (MT), R .... 406-652-4061

### Technical Delegates, RMDS sanctioned shows only

Joan Clay ..... 970-420-0887

Jeannette Hillery ..... 303-494-7718

Mary Jo Hoepner ..... 719-495-3648

Mindy Maguire ..... 720-301-0089

Dee Stiers ..... 970-876-2987

### USDF Certified Instructors

#### Training - Second

Julie Burt ..... 719-431-2342

Jill Cantor Lee ..... 970-209-8491

RaeAnn Cook ..... 970-225-1408

Janet "Dolly" Hannon ..... 303-279-4546

Ellene Kloepper ..... 303-523-0191

Clayton Martin ..... 719-379-3716

Bridget Milnes ..... 303-660-4986

Kristi Wysocki ..... 303-648-9877

#### Training - Fourth

Simone Ahern ..... 719-749-9274

Nancy DeVaney ..... 303-681-2516

Loma Fowler ..... 303-841-0417

Sarah Martin ..... 719-379-3716

Kathy Simard ..... 720-981-4448

Melinda Weatherford ..... 970-484-5218

# Shows and Events

All shows are RMDS recognized except schooling shows.

## MARCH 2012

- 9-10 **Jane Savoie, Rocky Mountain Horse Expo, Denver, CO**  
Contact Bill Scebbi, 303-292-4981,  
bill@coloradohorseouncil.com
- 10 **Triple Creek Ranch Schooling Dressage Show, Longmont, CO.** Contact Lynn McChesney, 303-444-4291,  
www.triplecreek-ranch.com
- 15 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting, OPEN TO ALL, 6:30 PM**  
Contact RMDS Central Office for more details, 720-890-7825,  
rmds@rmds.org
- 17 **Teaching the Rider to Feel, Sarah Martin, Stellar Stables, Parker, CO**  
Contact Beth Geier, 303-673-9840, bethgeier1@comcast.net
- 17-18 **GVDS Schooling Show & Clinic, Mesa County Fairgrounds, Grand Junction, CO**  
Contact Inka Spatafora, 970-260-2660,  
classicaldressage@earthlink.net
- 18 **Ride-A-Test/Test-A-Wine, Somerset Farm, Longmont, CO**  
Contact Shara Rutberg, 720-289-6723, sharashara@hotmail.com
- 24 **Mariah Farms Schooling Show, Mariah Farms, Castle Rock, CO.** Contact Lisa Lamke 303-660-2456 llamke@msn.com
- 24-25 **Reese Koffler-Stanfield Clinic, Tomora Training Center, Greeley, CO**  
Contact Natalie, 970-381-3499,  
tomoratrainingcenter@gmail.com

## APRIL 2012

- 7-8 **USDF L Program, Session D2, Tucson Dressage, Tucson, Arizona.**  
Contact Dorie Vlaten Schmitz, 480-580-0634,  
dvschmitz@msn.com
- 14 **Sun Prairie RMDS Show I, Sun Prairie Farms, Peyton, CO**  
Contact Camille Griffin, camillegriffin@msn.com, 719-287-9197
- 14 **Triple Creek Ranch Schooling Dressage Show, Longmont, CO.** Contact Lynn McChesney, 303-444-4291,  
www.triplecreek-ranch.com
- 20 **Dressage for the Cure Warm-Up, Colorado Horse Park, Parker, CO-USEF**  
Contact Heater Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 21-22 **Dressage for the Cure at the Peak, Colorado Horse Park, Parker, CO-USEF**  
Contact Heater Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 21-22 **Region 5 USDF Adult Clinic with Lilo Fore, Utah**  
Contact Nance Allen, 801-274-1288, nance@xmission.com
- 28 **Boulder Valley Ride-A-Test with Janet Hannon, Singletree Farm, Boulder, CO**  
Contact Beth Geier, 303-673-9840, bethgeier1@comcast.net
- 28 **Mariah Farms Schooling Show, Mariah Farms, Castle Rock, CO.** Contact Lisa Lamke, 303-660-2456, llamke@msn.com
- 29 **Boulder Valley Spring Fling, Singletree Farm, Boulder, CO-RMDS**  
Contact Beth Geier, 303-673-9840, bethgeier1@comcast.net

## MAY 2012

- 5-6 **GVDS Spring Schooling Show I, Mesa County Fairgrounds, Grand Junction, CO**  
Contact Inka Spatafora, 970-260-2660  
classicaldressage@earthlink.net

- 10 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting, OPEN TO ALL, 6:30 PM**  
Contact RMDS Central Office for more details, 720-890-7825,  
rmds@rmds.org
- 12 **Mariah Farms Schooling Show, Mariah Farms, Castle Rock, CO.** Contact Lisa Lamke, 303-660-2456, llamke@msn.com
- 12-13 **Rocky Mountain Dressage I & II, Somerset Farm, Longmont, CO**  
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 19 **CDEC Annual Spring Schooling Show, Cheyenne, WY**  
Contact Jane Swanhorst Ringolsby, 307-634-2870  
swanhorst@aol.com
- 19-20 **Heather Robertson Clinic, Capricorn Farm, Golden, CO**  
Contact Lori Mitchell, 303-816-2375, bandwdressage@aol.com
- 20 **AHIEC Sunday Series #1, Autumn Hill Equestrian Center, Longmont, CO**  
Contact Julie Barringer-Richers, 720-341-5033,  
jbarringerrichers@comcast.net
- 25-27 **Dressage in the Plains I & II, Sun Prairie Farms, Peyton, CO-USEF**  
Contact Camille Griffin, camillegriffin@msn.com, 719-287-9197

## JUNE 2012

- 1-3 **High Prairie Dressage I, II, III, Colorado Horse Park, Parker, CO-USEF**  
Glenda McElroy, 818-841-3554, glenda@glenroys.com
- 2-3 **GVDS Ned Marshall Schooling Show II, Mesa County Fairgrounds, Grand Junction, CO**  
Contact Inka Spatafora, 970-260-2660,  
classicaldressage@earthlink.net
- 9-10 **RMDS Winter Wake-Up In Summer, Tomora Farm, Greeley, CO-USEF**  
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 15-16 **Sage Creek I & II, Sage Creek Equestrian, Heber, UT-USEF**  
Contact Bobbie Jo Derksen, 801-376-9062,  
bbjsagecreek@hotmail.com
- 16 **Foothills Chapter Ride-A-Test with Janet Hannon, Roberts Ranch, Littleton, CO**  
Contact Lori Mitchell, 303-816-2375, bandwdressage@aol.com
- 17 **Centaur Rising Dressage Show I, Pine, CO, RMDS**  
Contact Kristann Cooper, 303-838-5086,  
kris@anchoragefarm.com
- 23-24 **Autumn Hill Dressage Festival I & II, Autumn Hill Equestrian Center, Longmont, CO-USEF**  
Contact Julie Barringer-Richers, 720-341-5033,  
jbarringerrichers@comcast.net
- 30 **Sun Prairie RMDS Show II, Sun Prairie Farms, Peyton, CO**  
Contact Camille Griffin, camillegriffin@msn.com, 719-287-9197

## JULY 2012

- 1 **Sun Prairie RMDS Show III, Sun Prairie Farms, Peyton, CO**  
Contact Camille Griffin, camillegriffin@msn.com, 719-287-9197
- 7-8 **Rocky Mountain Dressage III & IV, Somerset Farm, Longmont, CO**  
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 10 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting, OPEN TO ALL, 6:30 PM**  
Contact RMDS Central Office for more details, 720-890-7825,  
rmds@rmds.org
- 13 **Dressage at the Peak Summer Warm-Up, Fountain Valley School, Colorado Spgs, CO-USEF**  
Contact Heater Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net

- 13 **Wasatch Back I, Heber City, UT-USEF**  
Contact Alison Child, 435-640-3287, achild@kirwin.com
- 14 **Wasatch Mountain Dressage Show, Heber City, UT-USEF**  
Contact Heater Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net
- 14 **Dressage at the Peak Summer II, Fountain Valley School, Colorado Spgs, CO-USEF**  
Contact Heater Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net
- 15 **Centaur Rising Dressage Show II, Pine, CO, RMDS**  
Contact Kristann Cooper, 303-838-5086, kris@anchoragefarm.com
- 15 **AHIEC Sunday Series #2, Autumn Hill Equestrian Center, Longmont, CO**  
Contact Julie Barringer-Richers 720-341-5033, jbarringerrichers@comcast.net
- 18-21 **RMDS Junior Camp, Tomora Training Center, Greeley, CO**  
Contact Julie Haugen, defiancesport@q.com
- 22 **USDF Youth & Adult Team Competition, Tomora Training Center, Greeley, CO**  
Contact Julie Haugen, defiancesport@q.com
- 27-28 **Sage Creek III & IV, Sage Creek Equestrian, Heber, UT-USEF**  
Contact Bobbie Jo Derksen, -801-376-9062, bbjsagecreek@hotmail.com
- 28-29 **Autumn Hill Dressage Festival III & IV, Autumn Hill Equestrian Center, Longmont, CO-USEF**  
Contact Julie Barringer-Richers, 720-341-5033, jbarringerrichers@comcast.net

## AUGUST 2012

- 3-5 **Dressage in the Rockies I, II, III, Colorado Horse Park, Parker, CO-USEF**  
Glenda McElroy, 818-841-3554, glenda@glenroys.com
- 4-5 **Cheyenne Dressage & Eventing Dressage Show, Cheyenne, WY-USEF**  
Contact Steve Siegel, 307-632-7587, steve@wyomingcarriages.com
- 4-5 **Heather Robertson Clinic, Capricorn Farm, Golden, CO**  
Contact Lori Mitchell, 303-816-2375, bandwdressage@aol.com
- 10-12 **Dressage at Sun Prairie I & II, Sun Prairie Farms, Peyton, CO-USEF**  
Contact Camille Griffin, camillegriffin@msn.com, 719-287-9197
- 11-12 **Millbrook Farms Dressage Show, Fairfield, UT-USEF**  
Contact Jan Lawrence, 801-631-2516, millbrk@xmission.com
- 12 **Centaur Rising Dressage Show III, Pine, CO-RMDS**  
Contact Kristann Cooper, 303-838-5086, kris@anchoragefarm.com
- 17-19 **Paragon I, II, III CDI\*\*\*, Estes Park, CO-USEF**  
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net
- 26 **Boulder Valley So Long to Summer, Sextant Farm, Longmont, CO-RMDS**  
Contact Beth Geier, 303-673-9840, bethgeier1@comcast.net
- 25-26 **Utah Dressage Society Annual Show I & II, Heber, UT-USEF**  
Contact Susan Jero, 801-330-5763, sjero@aol.com

## SEPTEMBER 2012

- 1 **Foothills Chapter Ride-A-Test-with Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez, A Rising Star, Arvada, CO**  
Contact Lori Mitchell, 303-816-2375, bandwdressage@aol.com

- 1-2 **GVDS Fall Show, Mesa County Fairgrounds, Grand Junction, CO-USEF**  
Contact Inka Spatafora, 970-260-2660, classicaldressage@earthlink.net
- 2 **Foothills Last Chance Dressage Show, A Rising Star, Arvada, CO**  
Contact Lori Mitchell, 303-816-2375, bandwdressage@aol.com
- 8 **Pendragon Stud Dressage Show II, Larkspur, CO-RMDS**  
Contact Leslie Terry, 303-688-4147, Lt2@kellin.net
- 13 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting, OPEN TO ALL, 6:30 PM**  
Contact RMDS Central Office for more details, 720-890-7825, rmds@rmds.org
- 20 **RMDS Breed Show, Championships & Open Show, Parker, CO-USEF**  
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net
- 21-23 **RMDS Championship & Open Show, Parker, CO-USEF**  
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net

## OCTOBER 2012

- 5-7 **USDF/Great American Region 5 Championships, Wasatch Event Center, Heber City, UT**  
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net
- 11 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting, OPEN TO ALL, 6:30 PM**  
Contact RMDS Central Office for more details, 720-890-7825, rmds@rmds.org
- 13-14 **GVDS Fall Harvest Schooling Show III Mesa County Fairgrounds, Grand Junction, CO**  
Contact Inka Spatafora, 970-260-2660, classicaldressage@earthlink.net
- 20 **Dressage in Pink, Sextant Farms, Longmont, CO**  
Contact Donna Baxter, 303-857-3879, highbrowbling@mesanetworks.net

## NOVEMBER 2012

- 3-4 **USDF L Program, Final Exam, ADA Fall Fiesta, Scottsdale, Arizona.**  
Contact Dorie Vlatten Schmitz, 480-580-0634, dvschmitz@msn.com
- 10 **RMDS Board of Governors'**
- 10 **RMDS Awards' Banquet**

For updates to the calendar, go to [www.rmds.org](http://www.rmds.org)

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

# DECOROSO SMDR

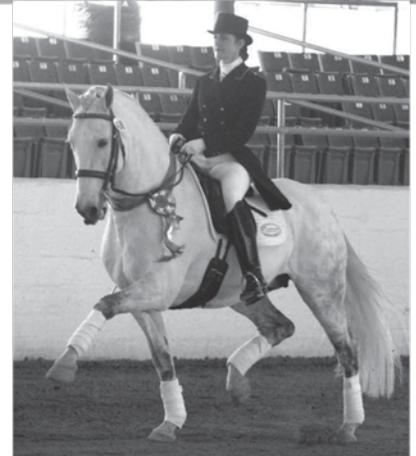
“Decoroso is a majestic stallion with a commanding presence of which it has been an honor to train & show thru the levels to Grand Prix. I emphatically stress that he is unmatched in his willingness to please, athleticism, rideability, and trainability suitable for professionals, as well as, the unmistakable kind, gentle and tolerant disposition suitable as a school master for any age or level of amateur.”

Christa Elaine Wood—Gold Medal & Gold Bar Rider



**2011 USDF Region 5**  
**Grand Prix Musical**  
**Freestyle Champion**  
**Open Grand Prix**  
**Reserve Champion**

**2011 RMDS**  
**Grand Prix Musical**  
**Freestyle Champion**  
**& Horse of the Year**



**A True Champion 14 year old PRE Stallion with a Great Temperament!**

**USDF National Awards**

**Champion 1st Level Musical Freestyle Challenge**

**Reserve National Champion 3rd & 4th Levels Musical Freestyles**

**# 22 Open Prix St. Georges HOY**

**# 7 Open 1st Level HOY**

**# 8 Open Training Level HOY**

**USDF Region 5 Championships**

**Open 4th Level; 1st, 3rd & Grand Prix Musical Freestyles**

**USDF Region 5 Reserve Championships**

**Open 1st, 2nd, 3rd & Grand Prix; 4th & I-1 Musical Freestyles**

“I have had the privilege of working with this horse on a regular clinic basis since he was first started under saddle & he has been a joy to work all along the way from Training level to Grand Prix. He has an amazing kind temperament ...; has always been cooperative in the training process...; has been a very sound horse & is the most well behaved stallion I have been associated with. He has been successful at every level & has been especially successful in the Freestyles he has performed from first level through Grand Prix. I am happy to discuss this horse or answer any questions for anyone who is interested. He is a wonderful horse!”

**Janet "Dolly" Hannon**, USEF "S" Dressage Judge, USDF Certified Instructor,  
Dressage Instructor, & Clinician. Ph: 303-919-4112

**FOR SALE: \$99,000**

**Skelton Mountain Dream Ranch, LLC e-mail: [smdrllc@wildblue.net](mailto:smdrllc@wildblue.net) Ph: 970-482-1954**

**For videos see: [www.skeltonpurespanishhorses.com](http://www.skeltonpurespanishhorses.com)**

# Pure Spanish Dressage Fillies For Sale

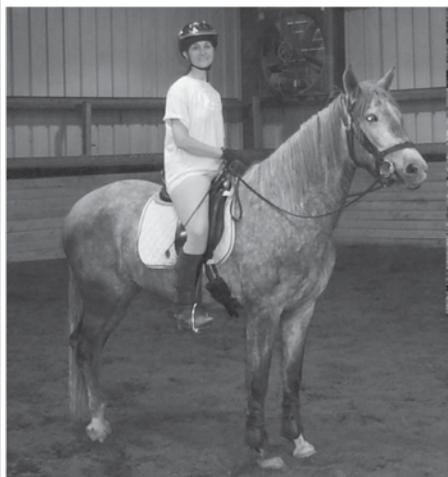


## MELENA SMDR \$15,000

**5-yr-old, ready to show 1st Level; Sire: Decoroso SMDR**

"I own the full brother to Melena & want to stress the great qualities of this bloodline. Melena is a lovely & feminine version of her sire Decoroso SMDR, having inherited classical Spanish looks, terrific athleticism, and a sensibly kind & willing temperament. She is a quick learner who handles herself well on all occasions whether at a new facility, at a show, on the trails, or working at home in the dressage arena."

Christa Elaine Wood—Gold Medal & Gold Bar Rider



## NINA de SORPRESA SMDR \$15,000

**4-yr-old, ready to show Training Level; Sire: Amoroso IX**

"Having raised Nina de Sorpresa as an orphan, she is dear to my heart, & her attachment to people has remained. She has a profound gentleness & kindness about her that is truly endearing. In addition, Nina has the bloodlines, mental focus, & beautiful big gaits to be a top dressage competitor. This is a premium filly!"

Christa Elaine Wood—Gold Medal & Gold Bar Rider

Skelton Mountain Dream Ranch, LLC e-mail: [smdrllc@wildblue.net](mailto:smdrllc@wildblue.net) Ph: 970-482-1954

For videos see our web site: [www.skeltonpurespanishhorses.com](http://www.skeltonpurespanishhorses.com)

Like us on Facebook

# An Older Amateur and a Young Horse

By *Laura Quakenbush*, 2011 Foothills Chapter Scholarship Recipient

In July of 2011, I was awarded a \$500 scholarship by the Foothills chapter of RMDS. One of the requirements of the scholarship is that I write an article for the Centaur. So this is it!

In March of 2011, I purchased a new horse, Kazan SMDR, a 6 year old PRE Andalusian, who became a gelding a few days later. The specific plan for using the scholarship money was to assist in paying my instructor for lessons for me and training rides for Kazan.

I am 55, have been riding consistently since I was 27, and have been taking dressage lessons for 20 years or so. I had recently retired my 20 year old Oldenburg, Homer, who I had also purchased as a 6 year old. I showed Homer several times a year for the first 4 years or so (1997-2000), but was “stuck” at 1st level, with consistent judges comments of “horse needs to move more forward.” I eventually learned how to get Homer to move forward in front of my leg (I even eventually transitioned from needing a ground person with a lunge whip!). However, I then discovered I couldn’t sit his “good” trot and attempting a sitting trot made my back hurt!

Showing was also a frustrating experience due to Homer’s tendency to spook theatrically or stop-dead in astonishment at the sight of a judge, a scrap of paper, or scary creatures visible only to Homer.

However, I do not regret my years riding Homer. By having my trainer ride

Homer once or twice a week, we managed to create my own “school-master,” on whom I could joyride flying changes and play with lateral moves. I also really enjoyed watching the handful of times my trainer showed him at higher levels (up to 4th).

Kazan nicely fulfilled the requirements of what I was looking for, which you may be able to guess by my descriptions of Homer. Kazan has a calm, level-headed, and kind disposition, a trot I can sit, and who wants to move forward! However, I knew he was a bit green for my riding ability, so working closely with my trainer (including having my trainer ride him frequently) was essential. I also wasn’t specifically looking for such a large horse (a shade under 17 hands, with a fairly massive presence). But I loved Kazan’s beautiful kind eyes and it just felt “right” riding him.

The first problem I ran into with Kazan was with his somewhat green, unbalanced and big canter. I discovered this problem the first time I rode him. At that time I had decided my ride



Laura and Kazan

was done and dropped my stirrups while talking to his trainer. Then I decided I would ride him just a bit more. While I was squirming around trying to pick up my stirrups he took off into a canter. We cantered for quite awhile before I managed to circle him to a stop, with verbal instructions and encouragement from his trainer.

I had probably bumped him with a spur, and Kazan is unlikely to have encountered much squirming and accidental spurring from the professional who had trained him from birth! He also had little experience with a rider who gets anxious and then clamps her legs and thighs against the horse

and struggles to not curl into the fetal position.

I had a similar incident while riding him about a month after his purchase and gelding. This was just before I moved him to my “home” boarding farm in Arvada. After several lessons on Kazan with his original trainer, I was riding alone with no one around and, in a burst of overconfidence, decided to ride him up to the mountain-top outdoor ring for the first time. The walk and trot went well, and I was enjoying the spectacular view of the surrounding mountain ranges. However the second attempt at canter ended up in another wild ride. I remember thinking “Geez, if he keeps trying to gallop towards the exit and the rocky mountain-path down to the barn, maybe I should bail?” An instant later, I was lying on the ground watching Kazan leave the arena and clatter back to the barn. [Note to self: avoid thinking about bailing.]

Once Kazan was moved to my “home” boarding farm in Arvada, we focused hard on keeping both Kazan and I relaxed, and getting him used to my sometimes random movements and touches. We made quick progress in getting Kazan comfortable with the sometimes chaotic conditions of a small riding arena at a busy multi-discipline boarding farm. I bought Kazan from his breeder’s farm, where he likely was mostly ridden and worked by himself. He had been shown training level as a four-year-old, but his highly competent professional rider would have been much better at keeping Kazan’s attention focused than I was!

We started by just standing with him on a lead-rope in the middle of the

small indoor arena during busy jumping lessons. Even the first time, Kazan showed interest and curiosity but no excitement. Within a few weeks, I was trotting him about among the confusion. By the end of the summer, I was confident enough to work in some canter work while sharing the ring with a hunter/jumper group lesson.

With regards to his canter, I learned that if didn’t keep him balanced he would start really “rolling downhill” and I would have difficulty getting him to stop. I had to work hard to avoid getting into a “pulling” match, but instead use shoulder-fore, shoulder-in, and transitions to get him to balance himself. He has a very large, strong neck, and his balance in the canter improved quickly as he built up his hind-end and back muscles. After the first month or two (with patient lessons and encouragement from my instructor) I was able to canter Kazan around the arena confident that I would be able to bring him back to a trot and walk. Now his canter is easier to balance than his trot.

I also have to concentrate hard on pushing him into the outside rein with my inside leg. Luckily, I had been riding and taking lessons on some different horses during the months I was horse-shopping. This had helped me realize that Homer and I had evidently worked out my riding primarily with the right rein in both directions. I have difficulty maintaining a soft steady contact with my left hand. Some of this may be due to an injury to my left index finger many years ago. It no longer hurts to squeeze the reins with my left hand, but the protective habit still lingers. With Kazan, I am still struggling with this

some, but at least I am aware of it! At times, I still need to grab the bucking strap with my left hand to get my hand to hold steady. The lovely soft trot Kazan gives me when I get it right is an excellent reinforcement!

I have also had to work on developing a consistent half-halt with my seat and legs, and teaching Kazan to respond to it. (With Homer, he would use any excuse to downward transition or stop dead.) With Kazan, we initially gave verbal commands also, reinforced with many transitions on the lunge-line. It is worth repeating the need to avoid getting into pulling matches with this big guy! Kazan and I are beginning to refine more subtle half-halt signals.

Some of my current riding “notes to self”:

- Don’t forget to push with the legs into the bit for a balanced downward transition!
- A little shoulder-fore feeling always helps!
- Breath.
- Lean back. (If I think “lean back” I end up leaning forward less!)
- Stretch tall, heels to head.
- Let go of the inside rein!
- Breath.

We still have a ways to go until I am ready to attempt a dressage show. But I believe that Kazan and I are both enjoying learning how to work together.



# Introducing Western Dressage, Part I

By Jennifer C. Chisholm-Hoibraten

First Appearing in the February 2012 issue of *Hastfocus* in Sweden

Submitted by Neide Cooley, Western Dressage Association™ of America



Chris Newbert at the WEG Western Dressage demo.

You're an enlightened western rider who cares deeply for the welfare of your horse. You try hard to keep educating yourself to be a better horse owner, faithfully applying the principles laid down in the horsemanship revolution. You've gone to countless clinics and done hours of groundwork with your horse. You're proud of your well-mannered western horse – he's not only handy and light in the bridle, but a pure pleasure to ride with one hand which is the signature of the western style of riding. You love the comfort and security of riding in your western saddle and you treasure the history and the legacy of the western riding tradition. You've had lots of fun with the myriad competition forms that riding western offers you – every thing from super-slow pleasure classes, the practicality of trail, the utility of the ranch horse, all the way to the fire and excitement of reining and cow horse classes. And you are the envy of your friends as you ride in equipment that is not only supremely comfortable but that is also a work of utilitarian art. Yes, you're mostly pretty content there in your world of western riding – but...but...but...

...There's still something missing. You wish your pleasure horse carried himself better and went with more energy and impulsion. You wish he responded better to your leg in the trail class and that he didn't go quite so much on his forehead. You long for more precision and a higher degree of finesse in your riding in the western riding and horsemanship classes. And a cloud of concern crosses your brow when you watch the futurity reiners at work – sometimes it seems that things are done too quickly there – young horses being pushed too hard too soon and used up way too fast....

Yet when you look across the fields at your colleagues doing dressage, you're not happy with everything you

see there either. You and your horse just aren't comfortable riding with so strong a degree of contact, and when you watch the rollkür horses in the warm-up ring, you start to feel achy and sore in the neck yourself. For all FEI's talk of "happy athletes" in competition, you privately wonder just how sound and happy some of those competition horses actually are with their tails swishing in irritation, unable to relax and chill, so high-strung and wired that they nearly jump out of their skins at the slightest provocation or movement in the stands.

The words from that Bent Branderup clinic in academic riding your best friend dragged you to last weekend echo and haunt you, playing over and

over again in your mind: "The horse must be trained according to its abilities, with respect to both body and mind. Thoughtful gymnastic exercises will keep the horse healthy and long living." You think of the soundness problems that seem to plague competition horses in every discipline and you recognize that those words apply to the western horse too. How far could you and your horse go if you trained in a way that utilized the best of both worlds? You'd really like to build into your horse the suppleness and strength that classical training affords, the relaxation in his back and his muscles and his mind, the impulsion, longitudinal and latitudinal straightness and the cadence and rhythm in his gaits – but you've no

desire whatsoever to trade in your western saddle. Is there anything anywhere that permits riders to enjoy the best of both worlds?

### **A New Discipline For The Enlightened Western Rider**

If this describes you as a rider, look up and take heart! For there is a place for you in the newly founded discipline of Western Dressage that is now taking America by storm. Classical dressage techniques have been used by top western horsemen and horsewomen for years. However, it is only now that an organized effort has been made to recognize the benefits that this kind of interdisciplinary training brings to the western equestrian – to give the combination of classical and western riding a formal name and recognize it as its own discipline with its own form of competition. With the “renaissance” and improvement in training practices that has followed in the wake of the “horsemanship” revolution, people have become receptive to input from other disciplines in their quest to become better horsemen. That western dressage would one day come into being therefore was probably inevitable. In a nutshell, Western Dressage is a melding of training methods, combining the centuries-old classical training techniques of the great European masters with the best fruits of the revolution in western horsemanship pioneered by the Dorrance Brothers and Ray Hunt.

### **A “Breed-Blind” Discipline For The Enlightened Western Rider**

Western Dressage as a discipline is something that appeals to the modern thinking rider, and as a discipline it is completely “breed blind.” It fos-

ters an intelligent approach to training, showing and judging in which a thorough knowledge of the biomechanics of the horse is incorporated into the training of the horse to allow the horse to develop its gaits so that it moves naturally to the full extent of its capability without causing damage to itself. The fact that the discipline can be done on any type of horse and is beneficial to all, commands added appeal. Formally launched last year at the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky by Cowboy Dressage pioneer Eitan Beth Halachmy on his Morgan stallion, the new discipline is attracting lots of adherents on lots of different kinds of horses. Indeed, the advisory board of the Western Dressage Association of America reads like an all-star showcase of America’s top horsemen. Leaders in the industry such as horsemanship guru Dr. Robert Miller, legendary Quarter Horse trainer Jack Brainard, Quarter Horse trainer Lynn Palm, Western Horseman publisher Darrell Dodds and musical ride specialist Diane Olds Rossi (she rides baroque type horses) are all on WDAA’s advisory board. So are prominent American breeders of Quarter Horses, Morgans, Saddlebreds and Arabians. So are the Beth Halachmys along with western writer Julie Goodnight, dressage Grand Prix rider Pam Fowler Grace and Jec Aristotle Ballou, an interdisciplinary rider who writes dressage books and was a student of the late Egon von Neindorff. All of these people recognize and acknowledge the benefits of classical training for the improvement of the western horse and rider.

### **What is Western Dressage?**

Western Dressage as a discipline is incorporated into the United States

Equestrian Federation and is defined as “training and developing the equestrian to improve themselves as individuals and as partners through the use and discipline of dressage.” Any breed that can walk, trot and canter can participate. Western Dressage also heavily emphasizes the partnership between rider and horse, asking the rider to assess his horse partner holistically and fairly when setting his goals, and to approach the training of the horse with enlightenment and a full understanding of the horse’s abilities and limitations as an individual. Not only does classical training make him a better and more responsive western riding horse, it builds him up physically and lengthens his useful life too. The philosophy behind Western Dressage is defined as follows:

“Through the study and use of classical dressage principles, the western rider improves the cadence, balance and carriage of the western horse. The western horse becomes stronger, more supple and flexible as it moves up the levels, working more off its hindquarters, which allows for increased lightness of the forehand and encourages a natural head carriage.”

Likewise for the rider, the classical approach also improves the capabilities of the rider and teaches him or her how to ride a horse properly.



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## 2012 RMDS Scholarship Winners Cont'd

Linda: Cont'd from pg 1

rewarding. Unpredictable show day trailer loading was an unexpected trial, learning to use a reader, and mental and physical preparation all were part of our education.

This year is the time to step off and step up. I will use my 2012 RMDS Leg Up Scholarship to show that we have mastered these basics and are making more horse and human harmony. To do this, I have set an optimistic show schedule, up to 10 events. I am listing the RMDS Championships as a hopeful possibility to end the year. Kathy already told me that's her goal for me this year, too.

Thank You! *Linda Gaber*

Ann: Cont'd from pg 1

was the easy part! I plan to use the scholarship money to assist me in refining the freestyle, both in adjustments to the music and floor plan as we get further into it, and improving the technical aspects of our performance (i.e. lessons with my coach, Grant Schneidman). I think the I1 freestyle is an excellent bridge for me to Grand Prix because it is making me work on my control over my horse's engine as well as improving her suppleness/throughness and our accuracy.

Thank you RMDS! *Ann Edelman*

Gwen: Cont'd from pg 1

Unfortunately the cost of this endeavor meant I had very little left over for proper coaching and lessons. My riding and my horses training took a back seat to the judging and it showed in how well we were doing in competition. I plan to use the funds to pay for lessons with both of my trainers and to have a better show season as a result. Thank you RMDS for the chance to put my horse first.

Aloha, *Gwen Ka'awaloa*



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

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## RMDS Horse Registration Form

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

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

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

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

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

Horse Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Breed (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**Morgan sport horse gelding: Bev Ann's All Jazzed Up** Sire Statesman's Signature. Dam MD's Jasmine. Flashy chestnut with white hind stockings and blaze; 15'3"; 8 years old. Two years' training by dressage professional. NMDA reserve high-point horse, training level, 2008. Great work ethic; fun to ride. 505 861-7235; bevann\_farms@msn.com.

**Morgan mare: Bev Ann's Spring Delite** Sire Statesman's Signature. Dam Lady Jana Command. Classic type; 14'1"; dark bay, white sock on left hind; 8 years old. Two years' training and competition by dressage professional. Suitable for dressage, pleasure, or driving pony. Loves to work. 505 861-7235; bevann\_farms@msn.com.

**Morgan mare: Bev Ann's True Miracle.** Sire Greentree Brigadier. Dam MD's Jasmine. Dark bay, 16 hands; 8 years old. Two years' training by dressage professional. NMDA Training level high-point champion, 2008. Will be a top-level competitor in sport horse and dressage. Also will be top broodmare. 505 861-7235; bevann\_farms@msn.com.

**OTHER**

Trainers/Instructors and Barn owners RMDS would like to compile a current list of trainer/instructors and barn owners. This list is available to anyone who inquires about trainers/instructors or barns in the area by RMDS Central Office, at the RMDS booth at the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo in March and we hope to post it on the RMDS website. Please contact the Central Office at rmds.org with name, phone, location city, willing to travel?

**OMNIBUS CORRECTIONS**

Page A-11	Ellene Kloepfer 303-523-0191
Page C-5	August 25-26 Utah Dressage Society Annual Show I & II
Page C-7	May 12 Mariah Farms Schooling Show- not the 19th
Page C-29	Dressage for the Cure Warm Up and Dressage for the Cure at the Peak now being presented by 2 White Feet, Inc.
Page C-29	Licensee is now 2 White Feet, Inc, Heather Petersen, Owner
Page C-30	Checks should now be drawn to 2 White Feet and all proceeds will go to Sense of Security.
Page C-35	Jane Ayers has been replaced by Ida Anderson Norris (S), Maine/Florida
Page C-35	Technical Delegate is Eva Maria Adolphi (r), Utah
Page C-43	Second Judge is Eleanor Stine-Masek (S), Arizona
Page C-63	Dressage at the Peak II Summer Warm-Up and Dressage at the Peak II Summer now presented by 2 White Feet, Inc.
Page C-64	Checks should now be drawn to 2 White Feet.



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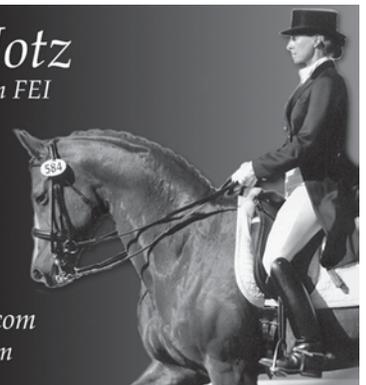
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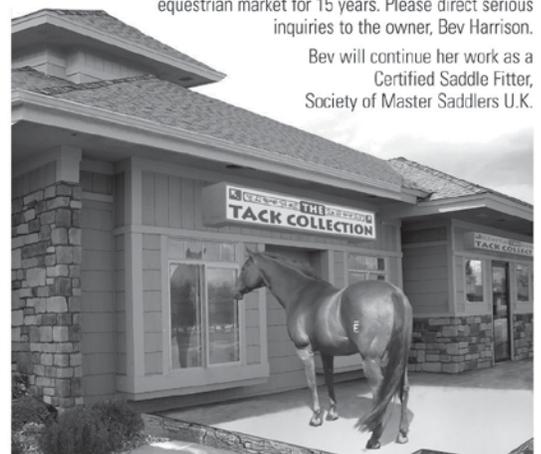


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