



THE CENTAUR

Educating Horse & Rider as Partners

MARCH 2017

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**SIGN UP NOW FOR
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**SHARE THIS
CENTAUR WITH
SOMEONE WHO
SHOULD JOIN
RMDS!**

Information and articles in the Centaur Newsletter are the sole opinion and responsibility of their authors, and not that of RMDS or its Executives.

Planning a Freestyle This Year?

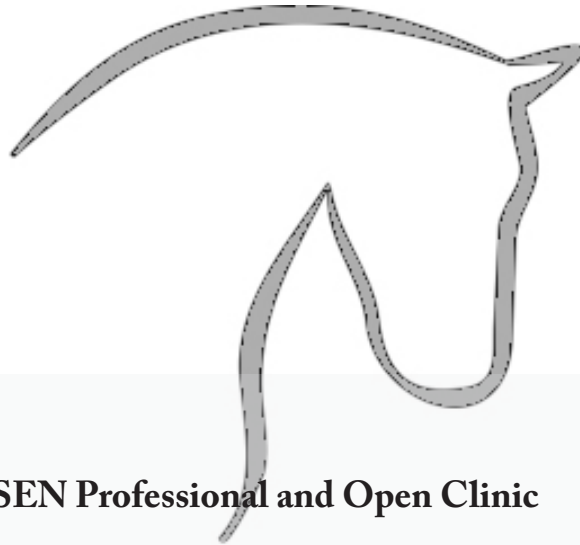
See what the judges are looking for...pg 8

Show Season Ready

Can complementary therapies give your horse an edge? ...pg 23

Are Your Skills Outpacing Your Horse?

Read about leasing options in "Tips From the Pros" ...pg 18



PLUS...

LARS PETERSEN Professional and Open Clinic

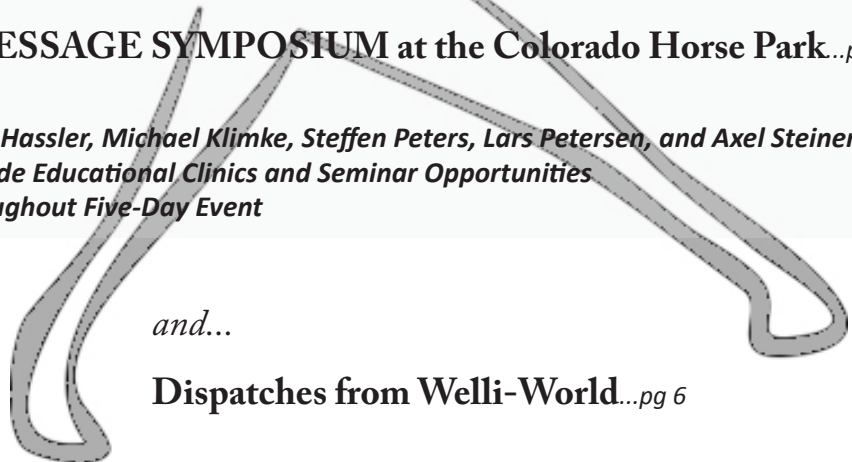
Sign up to ride or audit on the website, rmds.org

DRESSAGE SYMPOSIUM at the Colorado Horse Park...pg 20

Scott Hassler, Michael Klimke, Steffen Peters, Lars Petersen, and Axel Steiner to Provide Educational Clinics and Seminar Opportunities Throughout Five-Day Event

and...

Dispatches from Welli-World...pg 6



Spring is Coming!

March has arrived and the early part of this year has left the mountains with snow and the Front Range short on moisture. Hmmm... are we due for a big snow storm in March or April?

RMDS has had two fantastic clinics, the "L" Education Program on Freestyles which also provided the USEF requirement for a Freestyle designation after a written test for USEF judges (USEF will provide information on this later). Next the Show Management and TD Clinic with lots of updates and discussions. RMDS was able to use local talent for both clinics, we are fortunate to have some of the best in the U.S.

As we prepare our horses for the warmer weather, for shows, clinics and trail rides we need to remember that spring brings crazy weather. Blankets on and blankets off, 30 degrees one day 70 the next. Keep



Safari helped Gwen Ka'awaloa complete her USDF Gold Medal requirements. Photo by Kathleen Bryan.

a close eye on your equine partners as this craziness drives their behavior and digestive systems towards imbalance.

As spring approaches remember the vaccinations required for show season and that you must have a record to send in with your entries. Prepare early for show season by reviewing the new entry form. If you are new to showing get together with your trainer to go over the whole process. Lots of rules to review and follow.

Please keep a close eye on the calendar as RMDS will be involved in even more educational offerings. Colorado Horse Park will be holding the first Dressage Symposium in the Rockies. Each clinic will have different levels of riding participation and fees. Auditing prices will offer several options. Please pay close attention when applying for rider spots and auditing levels. Hint..... May 20th thru 24th is a special and unique opportunity. May 18th and 19th is our annual Professionals symposium so plan ahead.

I can hardly wait to see all the RMDS members this season. Shows, clinics and fun events, lets enjoy 2017.

*Aloha,
Gwen Ka'awaloa*



Olympic Rider Christilot Boylen with Rockylane

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Foothills Chapter

Foothills Chapter officers have planned a busy set of activities for all. Join us for these scheduled educational programs, many detailed at our website, <http://www.cofoothillsdressage.org>.

- Give-A-Friend-A-Seat Lesson Clinic on Sunday, March 12, Anchorage Farm, Pine. Foothills Chapter President Kris Cooper and Jim Cooper presenters.
- Ride-A-Test Clinic on Saturday, June 10, (the day before Foothills' Spring Into Summer dressage show) – with USEF 'r' Judge Julie Haugen at Table Mountain Ranch, Golden.
- Spring Into Summer Show on Sunday, June 11, with USEF 'S' Judge and Foothills member Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez at Table Mountain Ranch, Golden. Check Omnibus and website for prize list for dressage and Western dressage classes and entry information. Both our June and August dressage shows qualify for Western Dressage Association of Colorado high-point awards.
- Last Chance Show on Saturday, Aug. 26, with Judge Julie Haugen 'r' at Table Mountain Ranch. Details are in Omnibus and at our website.

New this year is a chance to win a gift certificate for volunteering at our two dressage shows, as well as an increased reimbursement of \$100 per member for helping at chapter programs and attending an equine educational event. It pays to learn!

Still being planned are a Western dressage clinic, Foothills' participation in RMDS Junior/Young Rider Camp July 5-7 and a gathering to celebrate our volunteers and members.

Renew your RMDS membership and chapter affiliation now in time to attend and/or ride in clinics with international professionals including Lars Petersen, Axel Steiner and Steffen Peters coming in May to the Colorado Horse Park in Parker. Renew online at rmds.org. For questions, contact Kris Cooper, kris@anchoragefarm.com.

Kris Cooper, Foothills President

On The Bit

On The Bit has a lot happening this spring. We are planning a community tack and clothing swap on April 22nd. It will be open to anyone in the Laramie, Cheyenne and Fort Collins/NCDA areas. If you have horse "stuff" or show clothes that you would like to sell, bring a table and chair and set up for a fun day with us. We are attempting to

make our monthly meetings more interesting and get better attendance, so we will be offering some educational opportunities before our regular meeting. Before our March meeting, we will be learning about equine first aid. We are planning a Kentucky Derby party as a fundraiser for the first Saturday in May - stay tuned for more information and an invitation to join us to watch the Run for the Roses. Our schooling show will be July 22nd at Spur Ridge Equestrian Center. We have an indoor and outdoor arena with stabling available. Julie Haugen will be our judge and we will have her on Sunday for a clinic. Stay tuned for more information on all of these events and we'd love to see some of our Colorado friends in our neck of the woods.

Stephanie Gies, On The Bit Communications Chair

Pikes Peak Chapter

The January meeting, which was the first of the 2017 year, was held at Guadalajara's in Falcon, CO. We discussed and planned out some fun activities for the year including possibly hosting a riding clinic with a judge or trainer. Please follow for further information.

Our annual RMDS show has been scheduled at Latigo Trails Equestrian Center in Elbert, CO for April 15th. Everyone please plan on coming out and starting the show season right! Our judge will be Gwen Ka'awaloa.

The next educational meeting will be hosted on March 19th, location to be determined, and will include a talk of one of the following topics, equine nutrition, fire evacuation safety, or trailer safety. You won't want to miss this wonderful educational opportunity in March!

For the most current information on our chapter activities visit our website at <http://pikespeakdressage.org>.

Tiffany Busch, PPDS President

High Plains

High Plains will have held their second annual Youth Day by the time this is printed. We are planning on more riders this year! We are looking for more clinic and educational meeting ideas going forward. If you know anyone looking for an outlet to spread their knowledge tell them to contact me or AnClaire Spaulding. Everyone is welcome to our meetings in the tech center at Las Brisas Mexican restaurant. Meeting and margaritas is our motto! We are excited to see everyone out and about at the shows as spring nears. I have already seen some of you at the schooling shows. I hear there are lots of new ponies this year! Can't wait to see you on your new mounts!

Kathy Simard, HP President

GVDS

Grand Valley began the calendar year with a horseless fun and educational event. We offered the event for free for 2016 and 2017 members and guests. We asked 2016 members to bring their renewal forms and checks and the club mailed them in together. We had two dressage arenas with all the letters set up in a gym in a local church. We marked the 20 meter circle tangent points plus had cones for those needing quarter line markers. We had lunge lines to use for those that needed to experience what a true accurate circle feels like. Stephanie Soule "L" judge and a member of the Western Dressage test riding committee was there to give help and insights. Tammy Fagan, a local trainer, also volunteered her time for the set up, provided copies of the new WD tests and helped participants as needed.

We had fun watching each other work out our tests and got our morning exercise as well! One member used the arena to work out the choreography for her next freestyle. Another member made changes to her current freestyle by walking different options and getting feedback. Several new members got their first experience of what a dressage arena looks like while the experienced members worked on the preparation and strategy for their movements.

We all chipped in for pizza and the club provided the morning snacks and water. Overall it was well worth the time and effort - definitely something to repeat next year as we start to prepare for show season.

Arlene Rhodes, President

NCDA

We are pleased to say NCDA continues to operate in the plus column financially and with offerings to our members. Last year was a busy one with events, and we are continuing with more this year.

This year we have already had two presentations at our meeting: Dr. Dora Ferris, DVM lectured on equine sport medicine, and Mr. Bill Lange of Houska's Garage gave a presentation on winter trailer safety. We will have two Clinic Series this year. The first is a set of 3 Centered Riding sessions with Ms. Andrea Chirich, Centered Riding Instructor II. The sessions will be held in February and March at Phantom Hill Farm in Fort Collins. Our next series will start late summer/early fall with Ms. Joan Clay. NCDA members receive a discount for the clinics.

Judges have been contracted for our two schooling shows; Ms. Julie Haugen, "r" for the Spring, and Ms. Sharron Sarchet, "L" for our Fall show. Check out the Omnibus for details and the Prize List!

Didi DeKrey, President, 970-222-3104



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Sabine Schut-Kery Awarded TDF's \$25,000 Carol Lavell Advanced Prize

The Dressage Foundation (TDF) has announced that U.S. High Performance rider, Sabine Schut-Kery, has been awarded the 2017 Carol Lavell Advanced Dressage Prize in the amount of \$25,000. She was selected because she displays the characteristics and qualities of being a talented, committed, qualified rider whose plans are to reach and excel at the elite, international standards of high performance dressage.

Sabine is based in Thousand Oaks, CA, where she trains and competes with her 2006 Hanoverian Stallion, Sanceo, owned by Alice Womble-Heitman and Dr. Mike Heitman. Sabine's goals for 2017 include developing Sanceo to be internationally competitive at Grand Prix and qualifying for the 2018 World Equestrian Games to represent the US. She plans to train intensively with Christine Traurig in northern California this spring, and then spend eight weeks in Europe training with Jan Nivelle and gaining European competition experience.

"My sincere thank you to Carol Lavell and TDF; I am beyond excited and honored to receive this generous prize! It is fantastic that this grant gives many riders the opportunity to take their riding and the development of their horses to the next level of excellence," Sabine said. "In my case, I will be able to focus solely on Sanceo while traveling this year to Europe for intensive training and competition. The Prize will also help me achieve my goal to develop Sanceo into the best possible International Grand Prix horse with the help and support from my long time coach, Christine Traurig. Thank you to TDF and my supporters!"

The Carol Lavell Advanced Dressage Prize Fund was established in 2009 in special remembrance of Carol's mother, May Cadwgan, and in honor of her father, Gordon Cadwgan. Since that time, the Prize Fund has made eleven awards totaling \$275,000 in support of U.S. High Performance teams.

Further details about The Dressage Foundation's Carol Lavell Advanced Dressage Prize can be found at http://www.dressagefoundation.org/grants-and-programs/apply/high_performance_dressage/lavell-prize.html. The application deadline is December 13th of each year.

Prize Money Announced for Great American/USDF Regional Dressage Championships

Lexington, KY (February 2, 2017) - The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) and Great American Insurance Group are pleased to announce that prize money totaling over \$180,000 will be awarded at the 2017 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Regional Championships. This prize money will be divided evenly among the nine regions and 35 divisions that are offered, allowing each region to present competitors with over \$20,000 in prize money and awards. Champions in each region and division will receive \$344 in prize money and an embroidered jacket and gift certificate provided by SmartPak, official supplement feeding system of USDF. Reserve champions in each region and division will receive \$229 in prize money, along with a saddle pad provided by the Great American Insurance Group, title sponsor of the championships.

"It is with great pleasure that we continue to provide recognition to these outstanding competitors through our sponsorship of the regional championship program," stated Kathy Sedlak, Great American Insurance Group Assistant Vice President of the Equine Division.

"We're so pleased that through the generous support of our sponsors, we are able to see this program continue to grow and be so well received by USDF members," adds Stephan Hienzsch, USDF Executive Director.

The Great American/USDF Regional Championships are presented by SmartPak, and supported by Platinum Performance and Merial. For more information about the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Regional Dressage Championships, please visit the USDF website at www.usdf.org, or contact the USDF office at regchamps@usdf.org.

2017

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Dressage for the Cure
(MAY 5TH - 7TH)

Dressage Symposium in the Rockies
(MAY 20TH - 24TH)

Paragon Dressage Show
(MAY 25TH - 28TH)

High Prairie Dressage I, II & III & CDI
(JUNE 2ND-4TH)

Dressage in the Rockies I, II & III
(AUGUST 4TH - 6TH)

Dressage in the Rockies Fall
(SEPTEMBER 8TH - 10TH)

**Rocky Mountain Dressage Society
(RMDS) Regional Championships**
(SEPTEMBER 13TH - 17TH)



Fine Tuning Freestyle Judging

By Kathleen Donnelly

Kathleen is an 'L' graduate and a member of Boulder Valley chapter.

Over the years, freestyles have helped promote our sport and gained popularity among competitors. Freestyles became even more popular after they were added to the 1996 Olympics. To help judges and "L" graduates learn the nuances and improve freestyle judging, RMDS hosted a continuing education program taught by "S" Judge and USDF Freestyle Committee Chair, Janet Dolly Hannon and "S" Judge and "L" Faculty member Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez.

Terri Ciotti Gallo composed, created and developed the program as well as many famous freestyles for top riders such as Steffen Peters and Debbie McDonald. Terri's program along with Debbie and Dolly's knowledge provided an excellent opportunity. While the program was geared towards "L" graduates and judges, this was also a chance for riders to learn what goes into judging freestyles and how to understand the feedback they receive. This educational opportunity focused on the Artistic Impression side of the score sheet. What criteria and modifiers go

into each box? How do judges arrive at their final scores? These questions and more were answered throughout the day.

One of the many comments often heard from riders is, "the judge didn't like the music." Actually, music and how it enhances or changes the horse, for the positive or the negative, has quite a bit of criteria to consider. To make this point clear, Terri included a video of Steffen Peters and Ravel doing a half-pass. The same movement was set to four different songs—one of which was the music Steffen used in his freestyle. Seeing how music could change how Ravel seemed to move was eye-opening. One set of music enhanced his movement and made the half-pass look like the 10 score it is. Other music almost seemed to make Ravel look a bit clunky, well, sort of. It's still Ravel! But it did change the impression.

This helped make the point that "music should enhance the horse's way of moving...and fit the character of the horse." The wrong music can make a horse look rushed and fast or big and clunky. Some other things to keep in mind about music are: Is the music edited well? Or does it

have abrupt cuts or long fades? Is the music cohesive meaning is it connected in some way by theme, genre or musical instrument?

Along with suitability, judges look for interpretation of the music. This means the tempo should fit the gait and the rider should work to choreograph movements that fit the phrasing of the music. For example, a crescendo or where the music becomes louder would be a good spot to perform a lengthening, medium, or extended gait depending on the level. Judges must look for the phrases and interpretation throughout the freestyle and this can add or deduct points in the final score.

After working on better understanding Music and Interpretation scores, we learned about Harmony, Degree of Difficulty and Choreography. Degree of

cont.pg 10

TECHNICAL EXECUTION		TIME MAXIMUM: 5 minutes		TRAINING LEVEL		
<small>NOTE: Elements which must be performed on both hands are so indicated by a dotted line under "Preliminary Notes." Omitted compulsory elements receive a "0" and are averaged into the "Judges Marks." Judges marks for Technical Execution must be given in half points or full points (no tenths). Posting will be allowed; sitting is optional. Must be ridden in a standard arena (20x60 meters.)</small>						
COMPULSORY ELEMENTS	POSSIBLE POINTS	PRELIMINARY NOTES	JUDGE'S MARKS	CO-EFFICIENT	FINAL SCORE	REMARKS
1. Walk (20m minimum continuous free walk)	10					
2. Walk (20m minimum continuous medium walk)	10					
3. 20-meter circle in working trot	10	L R				
4. Serpentine in trot	10			2		
5. Stretch forward & downward on a 20m trot circle	10			2		
6. 20-meter circle in working canter	10	L R				
7. Transitions	10			2		
8. Halts at beginning and end of test	10					
9. Gaits - rhythm and quality	10					
10. Impulsion - energy, elasticity, and engagement	10					
11. Submission - basic issues of submission, technical aspect of the rider	10			2		
Further Remarks:			TOTAL TECHNICAL EXECUTION			
			DEDUCTIONS (Forbidden Movements)			
			FINAL TECHNICAL EXECUTION (150 total possible)			

Forbidden movements will incur a deduction of 4 points from Total Technical Execution for each forbidden movement, but not for each recurrence of the same movement.



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Freestyle Judging *cont. from pg. 8*

difficulty is something to think about when working on the choreography of the freestyle. If a horse can perform a movement well that adds to the degree of difficulty then that will help the score. But if a movement creates tension and problems then it's better to leave it out. Judges and riders need to be aware of what movements are required, what movements are allowed and what movements are prohibited for freestyles. Score sheets provide this information for both judges and riders.

Some examples from Terri for adding to degree of difficulty are, "steeper angles than required at the standard test, placing movements on an exposed line such as a shoulder-in on a quarter line, and doing movements with the reins in one hand." These are just a few examples and again, Debbie and Dolly stressed to riders that they should only do this if they can perform the movements well.

Choreography plays a factor in the degree of difficulty. Debbie and Dolly mentioned that they have seen rides where the competitors try to get a little too creative and the ride does not come out "clear, concise or cohesive." In

fact for the judges it's important that the freestyle pattern uses the whole arena in a balanced way. Sometimes a freestyle pattern can use the area of the arena away from the judge. Yes, judges notice this and a rider will have points deducted. But if a rider has a horse that can perform a harder pattern with difficult choreography in a "clear and cohesive" way then the rider will be rewarded for their pattern. Riders might feel it's best to ride a test pattern for their freestyle. Judges will also recognize this and the rider will have points deducted.

Harmony was the final artistic score discussed. As in any judging of a dressage test, harmony is when "we see a good relationship (trust) between horse and rider. The horse displays confidence in the rider and in the demands of the test." When a judge sees a harmonious ride with music that enhances the horse, this is very exciting to reward. Debbie and Dolly both discussed and showed us freestyles they have judged that had all of the above components working well together and received excellent scores.

We finished our day by practice judging several different freestyles. Debbie and Dolly were wonderful and patient teachers as each attendee worked to develop their own methodology and the ability to think about all of these components at the same time while judging. Debbie and Dolly gave great tips such as an extra sheet to mark modifiers for the artistic side of the score sheet. This helped in developing a better judging method and being ready to give better feedback on musical freestyles.

For anyone who wants to learn more about freestyles, visit the USDF website to listen to a podcast with Dolly discussing freestyles.

ARTISTIC IMPRESSION

NOTE: Non-compulsory movements must be rewarded or penalized under "Choreography" and/or "Degree of Difficulty" (Artistic). Judges marks for Artistic Impression may be given in one tenth (1) increments.

NO.

	POSSIBLE POINTS	JUDGE'S MARKS	COEFFICIENT	FINAL SCORE	REMARKS
1. Harmony between Horse & Rider	10		4		
2. Choreography design cohesiveness, use of arena, balance, creativity	10		4		
3. Degree of Difficulty	10		1		
4. Music suitability, seamless, cohesiveness	10		3		
5. Interpretation music expresses gaits, use of phrasing and dynamics	10		3		
Further Remarks:					
TOTAL ARTISTIC IMPRESSION (150 total possible)					
DEDUCTIONS (Overtime Penalty)					← Overtime penalty will incur a deduction of 1 point from Total Artistic Impression.
FINAL ARTISTIC IMPRESSION (150 total possible)					
FINAL TECHNICAL EXECUTION (150 total possible)					
FINAL SCORE (300 total possible)					
PERCENTAGE (Final Score divided by 300)					In Case of Tie: The higher total for Artistic Impression will break the tie.



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If you're thinking of selling, now is the time to list.

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ANDRIA ALLEN

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Shows and Events

All shows are RMDS recognized except schooling shows.

RMDS CALENDAR

2017

MARCH 2017

- 4** **Mariah Farms Schooling Show-Franktown, CO**
Contact Lisa Lamke 303-660-2456 LLamke@msn.com
- 9** **RMDS Executive Board Meeting-Open to all-D'Arcy's Bistro-4955 S. Ulster #103-Denver, CO**
Contact RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org
- 12** **Foothills Chapter Give-A-Friend-A-Seat Lesson Clinic**
Anchorage Farm, Pine CO Kris Cooper 303-847-9862 kris@anchoragefarm.com
- 17-19** **Fred Kappler clinic**
Anchorage Farm, Pine CO Kris Cooper 303-847-9862 kris@anchoragefarm.com
- 18-19** **TDC March Madness I & II-Tucson, AZ-USEF**
Debbie Garris 312-401-1157 dgarris@horseshowolutions.com
- 25-26** **Jeanne McDonald Fix-A-Test Clinic-Faith Farms-Castle Rock, CO**
Contact Sarah Dodge 303-726-2127 sarahdodge3@gmail.com

APRIL 2017

- 1** **Mariah Farms Schooling Show-Franktown, CO**
Contact Lisa Lamke 303-660-2456 LLamke@msn.com
- 9** **NCD A Schooling Show-Tomora Training Center-Greeley, CO**
Contact Denise DeKrey 970-222-3104 denisedekrey@gmail.com
- 15** **Pikes Peak Dressage RMDS Show-Latigo Trails-Elbert, CO**
Contact Heather Petersen 303-648-3164 slush@drwgw.net
- 16-17** **George Williams Clinic**
Elbert, CO. Heather Petersen, 303-648-3164, slush@drwgw.net.
- 30** **BVD Ride-A-Test – Lookout Ridge-Boulder, CO**
Contact Patti Hallock 720-323-6691 bvdressage@comcast.net

MAY 2017

- 5-7** **Dressage for the Cure-Colorado Horse Park-Parker, CO USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen, 303-648-3164 slush@drwgw.net
- 6** **Mariah Farms Schooling Show-Franktown, CO**
Contact Lisa Lamke 303-660-2456 LLamke@msn.com
- 6-7** **GVDS Schooling Show Mesa County Fairgnds-Grand Junction, CO**
Contact Arlene Rhodes 970-201-1779 Arlene@skypony.org
- 11** **RMDS Executive Board Meeting-Open to all-D'Arcy's Bistro-4955 S. Ulster #103-Denver, CO**
Contact RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org
- 12-14** **Fred Kappler clinic**
Anchorage Farm, Pine CO Kris Cooper 303-847-9862 kris@anchoragefarm.com
- 18-19** **RMDS Professionals Symposium-Lars Petersen Colorado Horse Park-Parker, CO-Indoor Arena-Closed-for Professionals only**
Contact Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org
- 20-21** **RMDS Adult Clinic-Lars Petersen- Colorado Horse Park-Parker, CO-outdoor arena**
Contact Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org
- 20-24** **Dressage Symposium - coloradohorsepark.com**
dressage@coloradohorsepark.com
- 26-28** **Paragon Dressage I, II, III-Colorado Horse Park- Parker, CO USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen, 303-648-3164 slush@drwgw.net

JUNE 2017

- 2-4** **High Prairie Dressage CDI3* I, II, III-Colorado Horse Park-Parker, CO USEF**
Contact Monica Fitzgerald 954-647-7940 mon1206@aol.com

- 3** **Mariah Farms Schooling Show-Franktown, CO**
Contact Lisa Lamke 303-660-2456 LLamke@msn.com
- 10** **Shiloh Ranch Schooling Show 1 -Shiloh Ranch, Black Forest**
Simone Windeler 719-287-2040 www.theeleganttrider.com
- 10** **Ride-A-Test Clinic With Julie Haugen**
Table Mountain Ranch-Golden, CO Cassandra DiPentino 303-641-9162 dipentinodressage@gmail.com
- 10-11** **Cheyenne Dressage & Eventing Open Show-Laramie Community College-USEF**
Contact Deede Randle 307-631-1875 drandle@wyoming.com
- 10-11** **GVDS Schooling Show Mesa County Fairgnds-Grand Junction, CO**
Contact Arlene Rhodes 970-201-1779 Arlene@skypony.org
- 11** **Foothills Chapter Spring into Summer-Table Mountain Ranch Golden, CO**
Contact Linda Gaber 303-674-7998 wriders@icloud.com
- 16-17** **Sage Creek I & II-Charleston, UT USEF**
Contact Donnette Hicks 435-901-0095 hickssagecreek@gmail.com
- 17-18** **Fountain Valley Dressage-Colorado Springs, CO USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen 303-648-3164 slush@drwgw.net
- 24-25** **Autumn Hill Dressage I, II-CSU -Ft Collins, CO USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen, 303-648-3164 slush@drwgw.net
- 24-25** **Magic City Dressage I & II-Billings, MT-USEF**
Contact Emily Brewster 406-698-9646 e_luoma@hotmail.com

JULY 2017

- 8** **USDF Region 5 Adult & Youth Team Competition Table Mtn. Ranch, Golden CO**
Contact RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org
- 8-9** **Millbrook Farms Summer Dressage Festival-Fairfield, UT USEF**
Contact Jan Lawrence 801-631-2516 millbrk@xmission.com
- 13** **RMDS Executive Board Meeting-Open to all-D'Arcy's Bistro-4955 S. Ulster #103-Denver, CO**
Contact RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org
- 16** **Centaur Rising Dressage Show-I Anchorage Farm-Pine, CO**
Contact Kris Cooper 303-838-5086 kris@anchoragefarm.com
- 18-23** **NAJYRC-Saugerties, NY**
- 21-22** **Sage Creek I & II-Charleston, UT USEF**
Contact Donnette Hicks 435-901-0095 hickssagecreek@gmail.com
- 22-23** **SFDA Dressage at Santa Fe I, II-Hipico-Santa Fe, NM-USEF**
Debbie Garris 847-367-8813 dgarris@horseshowolutions.com
- 29** **Shiloh Ranch Schooling Show 1 -Shiloh Ranch, Black Forest**
Simone Windeler 719-287-2040 www.theeleganttrider.com
- 29-30** **Autumn Hill Dressage III, IV-CSU -Ft Collins, CO USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen, 303-648-3164 slush@drwgw.net

AUGUST 2017

- 4-6** **Dressage in the Rockies I, II, III-Colorado Horse Park Parker, CO USEF**
Contact Monica Fitzgerald 954-647-7940 mon1206@aol.com
- 12-13** **Millbrook Farms Dressage Show-Fairfield, UT USEF**
Contact Jan Lawrence 801-631-2516 millbrk@xmission.com
- 13** **Centaur Rising Dressage Show-II Anchorage Farm-Pine, CO**
Contact Kris Cooper 303-838-5086 kris@anchoragefarm.com
- 18-20** **Estes Park I, II-Stanley Park Fairgrounds-Estes Park, CO USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen, 303-648-3164 slush@drwgw.net
- 19-20** **Utah Dressage Days I & II Millbrook Farms-Fairfield, UT USEF**
Contact Caryn Bloom 214-551-1211 stryker520@gmail.com
- 26** **Foothills Chapter Last Chance Show-Table Mountain Ranch Golden, CO**
Contact Linda Gaber 303-674-7998 wriders@icloud.com

- 27 **BVD So Long to Summer Show-**
Contact Patti Hallock 720-323-6691 bvdmessage@comcast.net
- 29 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting-Open to all-**
D'Arcy's Bistro-4955 S. Ulster #103-Denver, CO
Contact RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org

SEPTEMBER 2017

- 1-2 **Grand Valley Dressage Show-Mesa County Fairgrounds-Grand Junction, CO USEF**
Contact Arlene Rhodes 970-201-1779 Arlene@skypony.org
- 3 **GVDS Schooling Show Mesa County Fairgrds-Grand Junction, CO**
Contact Arlene Rhodes 970-201-1779 Arlene@skypony.org
- 9 **Shiloh Ranch Schooling Show 1 -Shiloh Ranch, Black Forest**
Simone Windeler 719-287-2040 www.theelegantrider.com
- 8-10 **Dressage in the Rockies Fall Dressage I, II -Colorado Horse Park Parker, CO USEF**
Contact Monica Fitzgerald 954-647-7940 mon1206@aol.com
- 13 **GAIG/USDF Breeders' Championships & RMDS Sport Horse Championships-USEF- Colorado Horse Park -Parker, CO**
Contact Heather Petersen, 303-648-3164 slush@drwg.net
- 13 **X Halt Salute RMDS Show- Colorado Horse Park -Parker, CO**
Contact Heather Petersen, 303-648-3164 slush@drwg.net
- 14-17 **USDF Region 5 Regionals & RMDS Championships- USEF- Colorado Horse Park -Parker, CO**
Contact Heather Petersen, 303-648-3164 slush@drwg.net

OCTOBER 2017

- 7 **Shiloh Ranch Schooling Show 1 -Shiloh Ranch, Black Forest**
Simone Windeler 719-287-2040 www.theelegantrider.com
- 7-8 **GVDS Schooling Show Mesa County Fairgrds-Grand Junction, CO**
Contact Arlene Rhodes 970-201-1779 Arlene@skypony.org
- 12 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting-Open to all-**
D'Arcy's Bistro-4955 S. Ulster #103-Denver, CO
Contact RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org
- 15 **NCDA Schooling Show-Tomora Training Center-Greeley, CO**
Contact Denise DeKrey 970-222-3104 denisedekrey@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 2017

- 4 **Board of Governors -TBA**
Contact RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org
- 9-12 **USDF National Finals**
Contact USDF
- 18-19 **TDC Fall Festival I & II-Tucson, AZ**
Contact Debbie Garris 312-401-1157 dgarris@horseshowolutions.com

2018

JANUARY 2018

- 20-21 **TDC Winter Heat I & II-Tucson, AZ**
Contact Debbie Garris 312-401-1157 dgarris@horseshowolutions.com

MAY 2018

- 15-16 **Professionals Symposium with Lilo Fore-TBA**
Contact Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org
- 17 **RMDS Adult Clinic-Lilo Fore-TBA**
Contact Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS – open to all-2nd Thursday of the odd months-6:30 p.m. See Calendar listings for dates, contact RMDS Central Office for location updates. For latest updates to the calendar, check the website at www.rmds.org

**For updates to the calendar, go to the website:
www.rmds.org**

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS – open to all-2nd Thursday of the odd months-6:30 p.m.

Contact RMDS Central Office for location

OMNIBUS CORRECTIONS

Page A-14 Technical Delegates/USEF: change Heather Petersen to "R"

Page C-3 Add:

March 18-19 TDC March Madness I & II-Tucson, AZ-USEF

Contact Debbie Garris 312-401-1157 dgarris@horseshowolutions.com

April 15 Pikes Peak Dressage RMDS Show-Latigo Trails-Elbert, CO Contact Heather Petersen 303-648-3164 slush@drwg.net

Nov 18-19 TDC Fall Festival I & II & AZ State -Tucson, AZ-USEF
Contact Debbie Garris 312-401-1157 dgarris@horseshowolutions.com

Page C-52 Centaur Rising Show I - Change date from July 9 to July 16

2017 RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Gwen Ka'awalo	303-917-3679	Kaimana_co@hotmail.com
Past President.....	Simone Windeler.....	719-540-2000	simonedressage@gmail.com
Vice President.....	Joan Clay	970-420-0887	jncly@comcast.net
Secretary	Heather Petersen	303-648-3164	slush@drwg.net
Treasurer	Sharon Soos.....	303-904-7534	sksoos@mesanetworks.net

PERMANENT COMMITTEES

Adult Amateur	Anclaire Spaulding.....	303-903-7878	anclaire@live.com
	Michelle Stevens	951-264-4100	mshoops@hotmail.com
Awards.....	Shannon Lemons.....	719-686-0064	lemons_shannon@yahoo.com
Results.....	Central Office.....	720-890-7825	rmlds@indra.com
Communications.....	Beverly Swanson	720-401-0357	centaurpublisher@gmail.com
Centaur Editor/Production.....	Beverly Swanson	720-401-0357	centaurpublisher@gmail.com
Advertising.....	Central Office.....	720-890-7825	rmlds@rmlds.org
Omnibus Production	Nicole Bizarro.....	303-939-0110	nicbiz@indra.com
Webmaster	Michael Petersen.....	719-683-8435	webmaster@rmlds.org
Education.....	Michelle Anderson	303-646-1375	michand@hotmail.com
Junior/Young Riders.....	Cassandra DiPentino.....	303-641-9162	dipentinodressage@gmail.com
Marketing	Una Schade	720-862-4444	unaschade@gmail.com
Professional Trainers/Riders	Sarah Dodge	303-726-2127	sarahdodge3@gmail.com
RMDS Show Liaison	Una Schade	720-862-4444	unaschade@gmail.com
	Andrea Chirich.....	810-569-5088	ajc2314@gmail.com
Scholarship	MaryJo Hoepner	719-495-3648	scholarship@rmlds.org

APPOINTED COMMITTEES

Banquet	Beth Geier	720-890-7825	rmlds@indra.com
Western Dressage Liaison.....	Simone Windeler.....	719-540-2000	simonedressage@gmail.com

RMDS CENTRAL OFFICE

Constitution, By-laws.....	Central Office.....	720-890-7825	rmlds@indra.com
Insurance, Show Standards	Central Office.....	720-890-7825	rmlds@indra.com
Registration Officials and Show Standards	Central Office.....	720-890-7825	rmlds@indra.com
Scheduling	Central Office	720-890-7825	rmlds@indra.com

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Arkansas Valley.....	Beth Hart	719-821-9354	bethhart7@gmail.com
Boulder Valley	Sandra Rosewell	303-638-2525	sandra.rosewell@colorado.edu
Colorado Springs	Pat Leech	719-749-2860	pat.leech@skybeam.com
Foothills	Kris Cooper	303-838-5086	kris@anchoragefarm.com
Grand Valley	Arlene Rhodes	970-201-1779	arlene@skypony.org
High Plains	Kathy Simard	303-525-8284	katsimard@msn.com
Northern Colorado	Didi DeKrey.....	970-222-1304	denisedekrey@gmail.com
On the Bit Dressage.....	Ginka Kubelka.....	307-399-8763	gbuchner@uwyo.edu
Pikes Peak.....	Tiffany Busch	719-237-4115	tiffanybusch@hotmail.com
Western Colorado.....	Barbara Graham Terry	970-963-4649	bgterry1@comcast.net

GOVERNING BODIES

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

USDF REGION 5

Director	Heather Petersen	303-648-3164	slush@drwg.net
FEI Jr/YR Coordinator	Joan Clay.....	970-420-0887	jncly@comcast.net
Website			www.usdfregion5.org

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

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

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RMDS CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE

Arkansas Valley: 2nd Thurs.-monthly, location TBD, Beth Hart, 719-821-9354, bethhart7@gmail.com1 check www.arkansasvalleydressage.org for times and locations

Boulder Valley: 2nd Mon., even months, location TBD, Robin Gay 303-516-1917 blondie17536@yahoo.com

Colorado Springs: 3rd Tues.-even months, location TBD, Pat Leech 719-749-2860 pat.leech@skybeam.com

Foothills: quarterly meetings, location TBD, Kris Cooper 303-838-5086 kris@anchoragefarm.com

Grand Valley: third Monday of the month, February through November at Canyon View Vineyard Church, Classroom T106, at 736 25 1/2 Rd, Grand Junction, Arlene Rhodes 970-201-1779, arlene@skypony.org

High Plains: Bimonthly- location-TBD, Olga Hendrickson 720-556-4852 olgahendrickson@gmail.com

Northern Colo.: 2nd Tues., each month, location TBD Renee Martig 970-278-0500 silverpony@frii.com

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

Pikes Peak: 2nd Tuesday of the month - check www.pikespeakdressage.org for dates & location, Tiffany Busch 719-237-4115, tiffanybusch@hotmail.com

Western Colorado: location TBD, Barbara Graham Terry 970-963-4649

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

All RMDS Executive Board meetings are open to all and occur on the second Thursday of every odd-numbered month. Meeting time is 6:30 p.m. Meeting dates in 2016 may be variable, please check the calendar or the website. Contact the RMDS Central Office for location.

2017-18 RMDS-SPONSORED EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

All events are open to **EVERYONE** to audit or participate unless otherwise stated. A great opportunity to continue your learning! Register for these events at www.rmids.org

A lot is happening in RMDS throughout the year - DO NOT MISS OUT!

2017:

May 18-19	Professionals Symposium with Lars Petersen-Colorado Horse Park
May 20-21	Adult Clinic with Lars Petersen-Colorado Horse Park
Sep. 13	X Halt Salute RMDS Show-Colorado Horse Park
Sep. 13	USDF & RMDS Breeders' Championships-Colorado Horse Park
Sep. 14-17	RMDS Championships-Colorado Horse Park

2018:

May 15-16	Professionals Symposium with Lilo Fore
May 17	Adult Clinic with Lilo Fore

For details on these and other RMDS events:

- Contact the Education Chairman: education@rmids.org
- Read the Centaur
- Go on the website - www.rmids.org
- Contact the RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 rmids@indra.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 5th of the month prior to the month of publication, i.e. January 5th for the February edition. If not received by the deadline, articles and ads may be placed in the following issue, if not time sensitive.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For article suggestions, articles, columns, letters-to-the-editor: RMDS Office, Beth Geier, 2942 Park Lake Dr., Boulder, CO 80301, Phone: 720.890.7825, email: rmds@indra.com

ADVERTISING

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

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

AD RATES AND SIZE SPECIFICATIONS

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

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

(Horizontal only)

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

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

Utilize the RMDS Network

Trainers and Instructors

Use the RMDS Website to Build New Business

If you wish to increase business, you can place your information on the RMDS website at very low cost. Send information to: RMDS Central Office, 2942 Park Lake Dr, Boulder, CO 80301, Phone 720.890.7825, or email: rmds@indra.com (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 marketplace receives between 300-400 hits per month, and the trainer page averages about 80. RMDS receives emails 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@indra.com), 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. If emailed to you, they are free. Request a new one by mailing the Central Office at rmds@indra.com.

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

Technical Delegates, Judges and Certified Instructors

Dressage Judge Ratings and Levels Qualified to Judge

All Current RMDS Members

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

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

FEI 4*

Janet Foy^{^*} 719-260-1566
Sandra Hotz [^] 303-817-2030

FEI PARA Dressage 4*

Kristi Wysocki 303-648-9877

FEI PARA Dressage 3*

Sue Curry Shaffer [^] 707-483-0860

FEI 3*

Kristi Wysocki 303-648-9877

USEF 'S'

Janet Foy ^{^*} 719-260-1566
Janet "Dolly" Hannon ^{^*} 303-919-4112
Sandra Hotz [^] 303-817-2030
Anita Owen 720-250-6023
Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez ^{^*} .. 303-263-0768
Sue Curry Shaffer [^] 707-483-0860
Kristi Wysocki ^{^*} 303-648-9877

[^] = FEI Young Horse Certified

* = Dressage Seat Equitation Certified

USEF 'r'

Julie Haugen 970-290-8360
Amy Jablonovsky 970-493-2833
Gwen Ka'awaloa 303-917-3679

USDF 'L' Graduates (Schooling and RMDS

Only recognized shows)

*Denotes Graduation with Distinction

Simone Ahern * 719-749-9274
Michelle Anderson 303-646-1375
Megan Bretey 970-250-5812
Julie Burt 720-347-8084
Kathleen Donnelly* 970-310-8729
Wendy Fryke 720-314-0974
Beth Geier 303-673-9840
Jessica Greer 970-581-5613
Sarah Martin * 720-891-1369

Julie McDermott* 720-206-8351
Linda Ohlson-Gross * 303-840-9818
KC Parkins-Kyle 303-841-9953
Sharron Sarchet* 720-320-4461
Kathy Simard* 720-981-4448
Stephanie Soule* 970-201-0747
Simone Windeler 719-287-2040

L FACULTY

Janet Foy 719-260-1566
Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez 303-263-0768

Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Judge

Janet Foy 'R' 719-260-1566
Gwen Ka'awaloa 'r' 303-917-3679
Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez 'R' 303-263-0768
Kristi Wysocki 'R' 303-648-9877

USDF Sport Horse Seminar Faculty

Janet Foy 719-260-1566
Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez 'R' 303-263-0768
Kristi Wysocki 'R' 303-648-9877

FEI Level 1 Dressage Steward

Debbie Moloznik 818-515-0377
Heather Petersen 303-648-3164
Dianne Stanley 406-690-9450

Technical Delegates USEF

Eva-Maria Adolphi (UT), r. 801-913-6054
Rusty Cook (NM), R 505-249-7586
Laurie Mactavish (CO), R . 970-390-5160
Debbie Moloznik (CO), r ... 818-515-0377
Heather Petersen (CO), R 303-648-3164
Dianne Stanley (FL), R 406-690-9450

Technical Delegates, RMDS recognized shows only

Joan Clay 970-420-0887
Didi DeKrey 970-568-3916
Mary Jo Hoepner 719-495-3648

USDF Certified Instructors

Training - First

Sheila Buschette 406-672-9378
Joan Clay 970-420-0887

Training - Second

Julie Burt 720-347-8084
RaeAnn Cook 970-225-1408
Bridget Milnes 303-660-4986
Kristi Wysocki 303-648-9877

Training - Fourth

Simone Ahern 719-749-9274
Loma Fowler 303-229-5108
Janet "Dolly" Hannon 303-919-4112
Gwen Ka'awaloa 303-917-3679
Clayton Martin 719-379-3716
Sarah Martin 720-891-1369
Kathy Simard 720-981-4448

USDF Instructor/Trainer Junior Faculty

Training - 1st Level

Kathy Simard 720-981-4448

USDF Instructor/Trainer Faculty

Training - 4th Level

Sarah Martin 720-891-1369

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

Tips From The Pros

Sarah Dodge, 2017 Professional Liaison for RMDS, edits this feature column. RMDS members are encouraged to send questions/topics to Sarah for area trainers to answer. RMDS professionals who are interested in contributing as a guest responder also are asked to contact her at sarahdodge3@gmail.com.



This month's column is all about leasing a horse—from both sides of the horse.

Leasing can be a great option for some horse owners and riders. There are several types of leases including a partial lease, full lease, and both free and paid leases. The horse's abilities, training level, and the goals of the rider will often dictate what type of lease is offered. But let's look at some

common scenarios.

The partial lease is a great way for an owner who has limited time or money to help maintain their horse. In some cases the owner has limited time to ride and the partial lease is beneficial to keep the horse in regular training, or perhaps it can ease the financial burden of maintaining the horse. In some cases a trainer may also have a schoolmaster type available for a partial lease. These leases are usually more casual and happen often at barns. It is important to consider the temperament of the horse in this situation as some horses do not appreciate changing riders. Also consider the goals and temperaments of both riders. It is best for the horse for everyone to have similar expectations of him. Lease fees for partial leases vary but usually include a portion of the horse's expenses and require a certain amount to lesson or training.

Full leases are also common in barns and can be a great way for a rider to gain more experience. There are on occasion schoolmaster types that are offered for lease and this can be an incredible opportunity for a rider. It is important to be honest and realistic about your goals for the horse. One rider may want to simply take lessons and learn how to ride flying changes while another has her sights set on competing every weekend. In a full lease the rider usually assumes all cost relating to training, boarding and maintaining the horse. Depending on the horse that

may also include mortality and major medical insurance. If the full lease involves moving the horse to another barn it is imperative that both parties agree on the level of care offered.

One rider may want to simply take lessons and learn how to ride flying changes while another has her sights set on competing every weekend.

Paid leases have been popular in hunter/jumper circles for a long time and are gaining popularity in dressage as well. This arrangement is similar to a full lease but with an additional fee paid to the owner. Sometimes this a monthly fee but can also be a fee paid up front for the show season or a predetermined amount of time. A paid lease is usually offered on an upper level horse that has a proven show record. Paid leases can be a smart way to go if you are looking to fulfill a certain goal like obtaining your USDF Gold Medal or competing at the NAJYRC. These leases are usually for a specific amount of time with a particular goal in mind. For young people in particular these leases are becoming more popular. When you consider the caliber of horse needed to be competitive at national or international level it can seem out of reach for many. A paid lease can give a rider access to the quality of horse that they may not be able to buy outright. For young people especially there are other factors, for example they may only be needing this type of horse for a year or two. So rather than purchase and have to resell before going to college a paid lease may be a good option.

Paid leases can be a smart way to go if you are looking to fulfill a certain goal like obtaining your USDF Gold Medal or competing at the NAJYRC.

Get it in writing!

In any of the scenarios I cannot stress enough how important it is to get it in writing. Lease contracts can be anything from simple 1-2 page documents for

a partial lease to a several page agreement drawn up by lawyers for paid leases. Communication is key to have a successful lease situation. I advise clients to talk with the owner at length, going over every scenario possible. For example you should discuss things like hauling to shows or clinics, discuss the show schedule if you intend to show, are you hauling out of state. Talk about the horse's team, the vet, farrier, chiropractor, etc. Do these people "come with the horse" or are you allowed to make changes? Who pays for the horse if he needs prolonged rest? Does the horse come with his tack? Are you allowed to make changes to the tack?

cont.pg 19

Leasing cont. from pg.18

Also discuss the things you think could never happen, major injuries, colics and even death need to be discussed. It should be clear who is responsible for expenses when it comes to injuries, emergencies, etc. It is also so important to discuss how the owner would handle the emergency scenarios, in the event that they are not available. For example, is the horse a candidate for colic surgery? Who is allowed to make decisions in the owner's absence? Talk over every scenario and then put it in writing. Never assume someone will behave in a rational way when their horse has been injured or worse.

Most trainers are very familiar with lease agreements so definitely get your trainer involved in the process as well. He/she will be able to guide you and help you understand what is normal or acceptable in most cases. The owner may also want references from your trainer, vet, other riders, don't be offended by this. This shows they really care about their horse. You may also want to ask around about the owner, find out was the horse previously leased, has the horse been receiving regular good care and training?

Show your appreciation!

Owners love to hear updates on how things are going. Whether you are in the same barn or have moved the horse it is nice to receive regular updates. Even on a partial lease where the owner is still involved. Share the news of your great lesson or fantastic trail ride. Send photos and updates regularly. It builds trust in the relationship. If the owner has chosen leasing over selling it is usually because they still have a deep attachment to the horse. Appreciate that, and let them know you appreciate them!

From an owner's perspective, leasing a horse offers assurance that a serviceable horse will continue to have a productive life in the care of another rider. That knowledge can provide welcome peace of mind for the owner of a cherished horse who may have health issues, financial reasons, or work and life changes that make leasing a viable choice while keeping a dear friend.

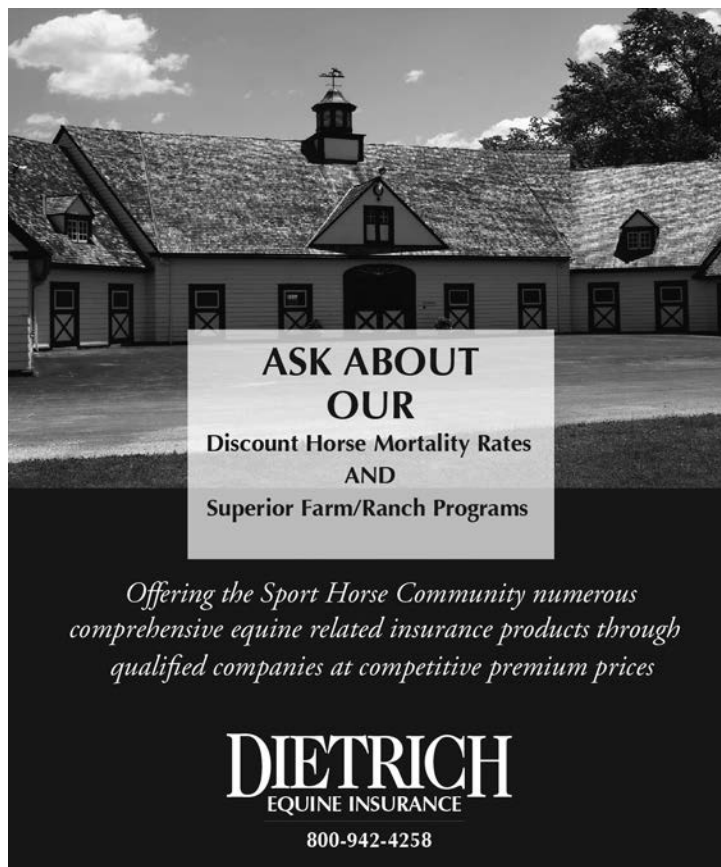
Leasing Options

Once a match has been made, the horse's owner (technically, the "lessor") and the rider who'll be leasing him (the "lessee") must agree on the terms of the arrangement.

A lease agreement may be verbal, but most owners and riders prefer to put the details in writing to minimize the possibility of miscommunication and misunderstanding later on. Even one drawn up by a lawyer isn't foolproof. Although the extent of the details covered in a lease agree-

ment will vary according to the circumstances of a situation, the matters usually addressed include:

- Names, addresses and telephone numbers of the horse owner (the lessor) and rider (the lessee);
- Description of the horse (name, age, breed, gender, height, color, distinguishing markings, registration number, etc.);
- The start and end dates of the agreement (which may be month-to-month or for a year, a season or a series of shows);
- Conditions for early termination;
- Fees (deposit, rent, late charge) and due dates;
- Stipulations of use (number of days per week, purpose/activity, under the guidance of a specific trainer/instructor, etc.);
- Limitations of use;
- Instructions for care (stabling, turnout, feed, water, supplements, routine veterinary and farrier care, emergency assistance) and who bears the cost;
- Insurance requirements;
- Stipulations prohibiting the horse from being sub-leased or moved to another location except for travel to a show;
- Special rights (such as for the lessor to sign a release for the horse at a show); and
- Options for lease renewal and the right to purchase the horse.



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The Colorado Horse Park Announces Inaugural Dressage Symposium In The Rockies and Featured Clinicians

By Carly Weilminster

Scott Hassler, Michael Klimke, Steffen Peters, Lars Petersen, and Axel Steiner to Provide Educational Clinics and Seminar Opportunities Throughout Five-Day Event

Parker, CO – February 15, 2017 – The Colorado Horse Park (CHP) is proud to announce the start of a new initiative aiming to bring an elevated level of exposure and clinic opportunities with world-class dressage riders to the venue through Dressage Symposium In The Rockies (DSIR) to be hosted from May 20-24, 2017.

DSIR will span five days and offer clinic and auditing opportunities with five internationally recognized dressage riders and professionals. The symposium will be hosted in benefit of the **Rocky Mountain Dressage Society (RMDS)** and is open to riders from around the country. The symposium will host clinic sessions focusing on mounted and un-mounted horsemanship, as well as improvements of technical dressage movements taught by masters of the sport.

“This is a very exciting venture for The Colorado Horse Park and for the breadth of equestrian enthusiasts in the Rocky Mountain region,” commented Meg Krueger, COO of The Colorado Horse Park (CHP). “We feel that our organization is poised to serve as a catalyst for interest and exposure for equestrian sport and the Dressage Symposium in the Rockies will bring dressage back into the spotlight in Colorado. We’re looking forward to hosting this educational symposium, just a few weeks before our inaugural FEI CDI 3.”*

CHP will welcome Scott Hassler, Michael Klimke, Steffen Peters, Lars Petersen, and Axel Steiner to the venue as headlining clinicians for the inaugural five-day educational event. Each day is open to auditors interested in attending the sessions. Packages of one, three, and five day passes

are available and can be reserved by contacting ebaker@coloradohorsepark.com.

“The clinicians supporting the event are some of the world’s best riders, trainers, and judges and we’re looking forward to welcoming them to the venue and hosting an event that is both multi-faceted and positive for riders, auditors, and visitors to the Rocky Mountain region,” Krueger continued.

Lars Petersen is a Danish dressage competitor and trainer competing in the US. He competed in the 1996 Summer Olympics where he finished in 12th in the individual dressage competition. He has two European Championship bronze medals and is a five time Danish National Champion. Petersen will teach sessions on Saturday, May 20, and Sunday, May 21.



Steffen Peters will join Scott Hassler, Michael Klimke, Lars Petersen, and Axel Steiner as clinicians at the inaugural Dressage Symposium in the Rockies hosted at The Colorado Horse Park from May 20-24.

DSIR will then welcome Axel Steiner, a world-renowned FEI CDI 5* judge, who has sat on panels during the Olympic Games, FEI World Cup Finals, Pan American Games and other major CDI 5* events around the globe. Steiner will begin his portion of DSIR on Sunday, May 21, and conclude Monday, May 22, focusing his sessions on a Ride-A-Test format. Each session will span 45 minutes. Steiner will begin by helping participating pairs enhance their communication skills and cues, while the second day will offer the opportunity to select a test to work through and improve upon.

Michael Klimke, son of the famous Dr. Reiner Klimke, who currently competes for the nation of Germany and has served numerous positions in

the dressage industry throughout his career, will host the next set of sessions at DISR. Currently competing at the FEI Grand Prix level, Klimke has been an integral member of the dressage community in Europe and Asia, serving as the National Team Coach for Japan in the early 2000’s. Klimke will be hosting two sessions on Monday, May 22, and Tuesday, May 23, focusing on the classical techniques

cont.pg 22

DRESSAGE SYMPOSIUM IN THE ROCKIES



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Inaugural Dressage Symposium cont. from pg. 20

of dressage with junior, amateur, and professional riders, as well as working with young horses in-hand.

In one of the highlights of the symposium, 2016 Rio Olympic team medalist, FEI World Equestrian Games™ medalist, and individual Pan American Games gold medalist, Steffen Peters, will host two days of sessions on Tuesday, May 23, and Wednesday, May 24. Each clinic session will be 45 minutes in length and is open to junior, amateur, and professional riders. Peters will focus his sessions on preparing horse and rider combinations for competition, fine-tuning the movements and skills necessary to succeed.

Concluding the week of clinic and auditing opportunities, CHP will welcome Scott Hassler, one of the top trainers in the U.S. to the venue on Wednesday, May 24. Hassler has chaired the USDF Sport Horse Committee for many years and is active in the education and training of young horses and emerging professional riders around the country. Hassler will focus the final session of the clinic on guiding emerging horses through the education of their riders, offering confidence-building techniques that will ensure success. Junior, amateur, and professional riders are invited to participate.

Accompanying the featured educational seminars with clinicians, the symposium will also host demonstrations and exhibitions featuring local equestrians and a taste of the Wild West, as well as an expansive trade and vendor fair. If interested in reserving vendor space during DSIR, please contact lisak@coloradohorsepark.com.

For sponsorship and advertising opportunities available during the event, please contact Sarah Tredennick at stredennick@coloradohorsepark.com.

Additional clinicians may be added to the current schedule for DSIR. Click [here](#) to access the DSIR Entry Form and Release and to learn more about clinic opportunities please contact vvanburen@coloradohorsepark.com.


Auditing opportunities will be available to individuals wishing to watch and listen to clinic sessions. General and VIP auditing packages, offering one, three, or five day passes can be reserved by contacting Elizabeth Baker at ebaker@coloradohorsepark.com.

General Admission packages will include an auditing notebook and pen, as well as free entrance to The Colorado Horse Park (CHP), while VIP Admission packages include daily catered breakfast and lunch, clinician meet and greet

opportunities, sponsor presentations, gift bag, and VIP Parking Pass. Tourism and adventure packages are also available for booking through CHP's Concierge Service and can be reserved by contacting concierge@coloradohorsepark.com.

For more information on the Dressage Symposium in the Rockies click [here](#). To learn more about The Colorado Horse Park (CHP) please visit www.coloradohorsepark.com.

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Show Season Ready:

How Complementary Therapies Can Give Your Horse an Edge

By Dr. Aden Hardison, DVM

With show season rapidly approaching, many horse owners are deciding how best to prepare for the upcoming months. Having their equine athlete in top form is of greatest concern when looking for a successful season of shows, clinics and schooling. Complementary therapies such as chiropractic and acupuncture are tremendous tools to ensure your horse is feeling their best and performing at an optimal level. These less traditional, holistic therapies are becoming more common in both the human and animal health world, but many people do not know the principles behind these methods of treatment. Additionally, many are not aware of the countless benefits they provide for you or your athlete.

Our bodies, as well as our animal's bodies, have an incredible innate ability to heal and repair themselves often without any medical intervention. The main objective of both chiropractic and acupuncture therapies is to aid in the body's natural ability to fix itself. The overall health and wellness of an animal depends on a healthy and functioning nervous system. Maintaining proper spinal health and alignment is essential to a properly functioning nervous system. Routine wear and tear of a horse's daily activity, as well as rigorous competition, can cause biomechanical stress on their joints and muscles, which can lead to "subluxations." Subluxation is the term used to describe a joint that has lost some of its normal range of motion; therefore causing the nervous system to function improperly in that area. This can result in many different symptoms such as lack of normal range of motion, pain, muscle spasms, muscle atrophy and weakness, and an overall decreased performance. A subluxation is corrected with a chiropractic adjustment, which is a very fast, but low force thrust on the affected joint, using only the doctor's hands. The adjustment restores proper alignment and motion back to the joint, which allows the nervous system to regain its proper function, allowing the body's natural ability to maintain proper health and balance within the animal. Chiropractic treatment works to eliminate the cause of the problem and not just treat the symptoms. When the nervous system functions properly, it allows all other systems in the body, such as internal organs and the immune system, to also operate at their best.

Acupuncture, one of the oldest and most common forms of therapy in the world, is also tremendous benefit to the horse's nervous system. The theory behind acupuncture

has to do with the life force, or energy, in the body known as "chi" in traditional Chinese medicine. "Chi" travels through the body in specific channels called "meridians." These meridians relate to the musculoskeletal system and internal organs. When "chi" in the body becomes blocked or stagnated, its normal function is disrupted, which leads to pain and disease. Acupuncture involves the stimulation of specific points on these channels to reopen the blocked or stagnated "chi" and restore normal energy flow and function. It can also be a great diagnostic tool, as certain "trigger points" or patterns found during an exam, can be indicative of an otherwise unknown problem in a specific joint or body system.

Acupuncture has been shown to help the body's ability to heal itself by creating physiological changes such as nerve stimulation, increased circulation, relieve muscle spasms and the release of hormones. Both chiropractic and acupuncture therapies can be of great benefit to the equine athlete and tend to work synergistically with one another. Minor sports injuries, sore backs, chronic pain, and subtle performance issues are often addressed with these therapies. They can also help speed up healing time and aid in rehabilitation from more serious injuries. In addition, acupuncture can be used to support treatment of other medical issues such as colic, allergies, respiratory problems and reproductive problems.

These modalities are considered "complementary" therapies because they are intended to complement traditional veterinary medicine, not replace regular veterinary care. These treatments and traditional veterinary medicine work together with the goal of taking a more holistic approach to caring for our equine athletes and ensuring optimal health and wellness for these amazing animals.

Dr. Aden Hardison is a veterinarian with VetweRx Equine South. She is originally from Mississippi, received a B.S. in Animal Science in Technology from LSU. She attended Ross University for Veterinary school and finished her clinical rotations at Oklahoma State University's School of Veterinary Medicine. She practiced in central Texas for 5 years before moving to the beautiful state of Colorado. Her focus is on the performance horse and related lameness and sports medicine issues. Contact her at 720.439.7789 or www.vetwerxequine.com.



I know a lot of us in Colorado would sure appreciate some moisture soon (at least at this point in mid-February!), and it would be nice if the wind would settle some, but at least the weather is warm and we are getting lots of riding in!

Fundraising efforts are once again under way for the USDF Region 5 Juniors and Young Riders as they try to qualify and travel to the 2017 FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships. The Championships will be held July 18-23, 2017 at Hits-On-The-Hudson in Saugerties, New York. It is going to require a tremendous amount of funding to send our teams as most likely we will have to fly the horses in order to avoid 3 days of driving on either side of the competition. If we drive them, this will very much mean we will have to arrive to the competition quite early in order to give them enough rest before they show. We hope we will be able to send eight riders with their horses, grooms and Chef d'Equipes. In addition to the transportation to the show, there are the expenses of hotel, team uniforms, chef expenses, feed, bedding and oh so much more that they need help with. If you would like to contribute or help with their fundraising efforts, please contact Joan Clay, our Region 5 Jr/YR FEI coordinator at jnclay@comcast.net or 970-420-0877 or our Fundraising Chair, Kathy Gillespie at kjpagillespie@msn.com or 303-921-5253. If you are still interested in participating in the FEI Junior and Young Rider program for 2017, the last intention deadline is May 16th but the less expensive deadline is May 2nd, so be sure to get in your intentions soon.

Regional Championship bids for 2018 have been received and we should know soon where the competition will be held. USDF will announce the locations of the 2018 Regionals in May. I hope everyone is planning on attending the Regionals in 2017 in Parker, Colorado at the Colorado Horse Park. It's a beautiful venue with lots of fun things to do. Many improvements have been made in the last couple of years. It should be a great show hosted by the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society!

If you are interested in being a delegate to the Board of Governors meeting, please contact our Nominating Council representative and have your name added to the ballot for Participating Delegate. Please contact Eva Maria Adophi at adolphi@redrock.net and let her know your interest and she can provide you with more details on the potential responsibilities. PM Delegate nominations are due in to the USDF office no later than April 15th.

If you have made plans to travel to Omaha at the end of March, enjoy a great World Cup! It should be a great roster of riders and a fantastic competition. Omaha is a fun city with many great restaurants and some fun things to do. Mark your calendars because the World Cup will be back in the United States in 2020 in Las Vegas at the MGM Grand.

Till next month!

Heather Petersen, Region 5 Director

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RMDS MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

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

Business Memberships - \$100.00 Education (non-competing) - \$45.00 Life Membership - \$750.00

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

All business memberships include one individual membership.

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

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

Indicate Local Chapter (only one):

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

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

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

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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. **Please list horse's previous owner, if doing a change of ownership.**

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

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

Horse Name _____ Sex _____ Breed (if known) _____

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

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

Address of Owner _____

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

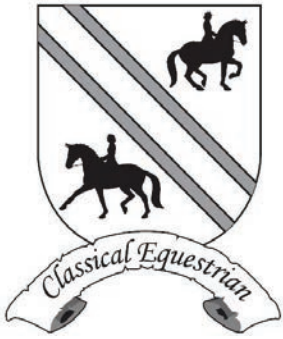
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