



THE CENTAUR

Educating Horse & Rider as Partners

MAY 2017

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**SIGN UP NOW FOR
LARS PETERSEN!**

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**DRESSAGE FOR
THE CURE
SILENT AUCTION
DONATIONS STILL
ACCEPTED!
CONTACT SHANNON
LEMONS**

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

Is Your Mare Cranky - Or Could It Be Reproductive Issues?

Read how Katherine Simard followed her instincts and relieved a major medical issue with her girl, Millie...pg 6

World Cup Report

Martha Brown takes us to the Omaha celebration...pg 20

Pro Tips from Jeanne McDonald

Sarah Dodge reports on her clinic with the FEI "T" and USEF "S" dressage judge in "Tips From the Pros" ...pg 18

and...

- Scribing Clinic A Success...pg 5**
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HAPPENING THIS MONTH

DRESSAGE FOR THE CURE May 5

LARS PETERSEN Professional and Open Clinic May 18-21

DRESSAGE SYMPOSIUM May 20-24

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

President's Message

April Showers Bring May Flowers

We have had snow, rain and some sunshine so it's time to bring on the green grass and flowers!

The first fully recognized show of the season is here - Dressage for the Cure. This show always brings with it fun with special events. I hope everyone is planning on spending some time at the show even if you do not have your equine partner with you.

Next up is the Dressage Symposium in the Rockies. With a star-studded schedule of trainers and judges we are in for a fantastic educational experience. I hope you are all planning to attend all or part of this incredible opportunity.

Schooling shows, RMDS shows and clinics have been going on since Janu-



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

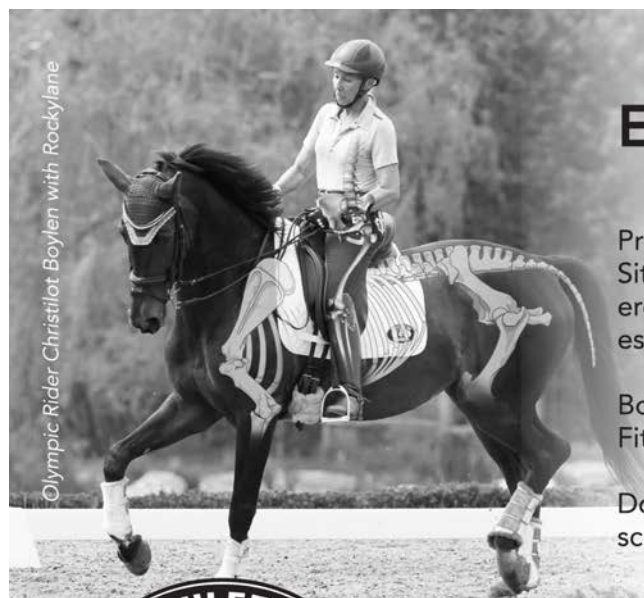
ary. I hope to soon see more reports and articles on the success of these events. Remember that members are invited to write a Centaur article about any dressage event that you may have participated in, along with a picture, and receive credit for volunteer hours.

With the show season starting and only a few months to prepare for Championships I know we will all be

very busy, but please try to take the time to volunteer at any show. We can't have these great events without your help and support!

Enjoy the warmer temperatures and the sunshine.

*Aloha,
Gwen Ka'awaloa*



Olympic Rider Christilot Boylen with Rockylane

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Foothills Chapter



Congratulations to Meril Shane for winning the 2016 Foothills Chapter Western Dressage Award riding Sly Impression.

Members can carpool and attend the Dressage Symposium in the Rockies together in May at the Colorado Horse Park (CHP). Choose your days

from the five-day event May 20-24, then visit the CHP website or email dressage@coloradohorsepark.com to register. Contact chapter president Kris Cooper for carpool details.

After this inspiration, riders can prepare for the show season at the chapter's 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. Visit the chapter website at cofoothillsdressage.org for details.

Our first show is Spring Into Summer on Sunday, June 11, with USEF 'S' Judge and Foothills member Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez also at Table Mountain Ranch, Golden. The Last Chance Show is on Saturday, Aug. 26, with Judge Julie Haugen 'r' at Table Mountain Ranch. Check the RMDS Omnibus and Foothills website for the prize list for dressage and Western dressage classes and entry information.

Riders at both shows can earn points for WDACO and Foothills high-point awards. Also, members are hoping to offer their Foothills Flea for attendees to sell and shop gently used equine and rider gear.

The names of our valuable show volunteers are entered to win a gift certificate. They also can apply for our new educational grant program, which offers an annual reimbursement of up to \$100 per member per year for helping at chapter programs. The grant helps defray a member's cost of attending an equine educational event. See our website for details.

Scholarship Chair Marilou Metcalf is creating an information packet to send to our members to solicit advertisers for the RMDS Championships, scheduled at the CHP in September. Secretary Nicole Riffe prepared a survey to learn members' preferences for programs and participation, also to be sent by email.

Please join us Monday, May 8, for our meeting at Tuscany Tavern, Evergreen. Share a meal, beverage, support and friendship.

For questions, contact Kris Cooper at 303-838-5086, kris@anchoragefarm.com. Like us on Facebook.

Kris Cooper, Foothills President

On The Bit

On The Bit is currently finalizing planning and preparations for the first big event this year: we are hosting a Kentucky Derby Party as a fundraiser for our club on May 6th. It will be an afternoon of fun, excitement, hats, and mint juleps!

In order to get us into the right mindset for the upcoming show season, we will have an "On the Levels" movie night on May 18, where we will watch the tests that we are planning to ride this season, and maybe get inspired by some that could be considered future goals.

On July 22 we will have our On The Bit Summer Schooling Show at Spur Ridge Equestrian Center. Our judge will be Julie Haugen, who will also hold a clinic the following day. This will be a great weekend of learning and improvement, and we are hoping to get to see some of our Colorado friends up here in Laramie. It usually doesn't snow here in July!

As another educational event, we are planning to have a presentation on colic, its symptoms, treatment, and everything a horse person needs to know about it (date and location to be determined).

It would be great to see some new faces at our monthly meetings or at any of our events! Please check out our website www.onthebitdressage.com for more information, or visit our facebook page!

Stephanie Gies, On The Bit Communications Chair

Pikes Peak Chapter

The February meeting, which was the chapter's annual awards with many chapter medals handed out to the following members: Heather Petersen, Elizabeth Petersen, Shannon Lemons, Lisa Berg and Amber Clark! Congratulations to all!

PPDS held their annual show on April 15 at Latigo Trails. We had 70 rides! Thank you to all of our volunteers who made this

cont. on pg 4

show such fun. We also held a Scribing Clinic, managed by 'L' graduate Michelle Anderson. See the recap on page 5.

The next educational meeting will be hosted on May 16, Olive Garden at the citadel crossing, and will include a talk on fire evacuation safety. You won't want to miss this wonderful educational opportunity in May!

For the most current information on our chapter activities visit our website at pikespeakdressage.org and follow the Facebook page!

Have a great month! Show Season is here!

Tiffany Busch, PPDS President

High Plains

High Plains Youth Clinic was such a success Kathy Simard and Julie Burt are doing it all again! This time for the Adult Amateurs! The clinic is May 13 at Julie's farm in Parker, CO. Please contact AnClaire Spaulding for more information. We are also looking forward to all of the events at the Colorado Horse Park! We hope to see everyone showing, volunteering, riding and auditing!

As always everyone is welcome at our monthly meetings and we are still looking for suggestions from the membership as to how we can better serve their needs!

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 writing 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, GVDS President

NCDA

NCDA 2016 Board: President – Didi DeKrey, Vice President – Rose Balfour, Treasurer - Karla Lauritsen, Secretary – Jacki Rosellen

April is a busy month for us! We have our Spring Schooling show early in the month. Held at Tomora Training Center in Greeley, we look forward to a good turnout – horse hair and blossoming plants will be in the air! Since the show is WDACO-qualified, we have a strong Western Dressage contingent competing.

The April meeting featured Instructor Joan Clay presenting *The Dressage Rules and Tests Aren't Just for Showing!* (WHO KNEW?) - How to utilize the USEF dressage tests and rulebook to inform and guide your training and riding.

- What information is provided on the USEF dressage tests?
- How do the dressage tests relate to the dressage training scale?
- How can I use the information in the dressage tests and rules to guide my training and riding?
- What is the value of practicing the tests if I'm not interested in showing?

Our May meeting is traditionally the last one before "Summer Break" and is a time for us to gather socially. A quick business meeting and discussion of our upcoming Fall Riding Clinic series is on the agenda.

We start back up meetings in September – see you then!

Didi DeKrey, President

Local First-Timer at the 2017 Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event

The USEF's Eventing Emerging Athlete Program is an age-restricted program that identifies and cultivates talented young riders ages 18 and under and 25 and under with the potential to evolve into future United States team candidates. They're coached by USEF Eventing Emerging Athlete Coach Leslie Law.

Madeline Backus



Horse: P.S. Arianna. "She's a joy to be around and has so much personality. She's so loving in the barn. She loves treats, and if you scratch her, she'll groom you back. She licks you after treats. She's super-sweet, but as soon as we need to get serious, she puts on her game face and takes on anything in front of her."

Recent success together: 4th at 2017 Red Hills International CIC3*

Hometown: Larkspur, CO

On Rolex: "I was a spectator when I was seven, and it's always been a dream of mine. I'm definitely looking forward to cross-country. It will be challenging, but I can't wait to gallop up to Weldon's Wall."

On the Emerging Athlete Program: "It's been really helpful not only to train with Leslie Law but to get to know the great riders that made the list. Being from Colorado, I hadn't met the East Coast riders, so it's great to spend training sessions with them."

GAIG/USDF Regionals

If you are hoping to participate in the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Regional Championships, please be sure to check out the Regional Championship Competitors Page. This page provides helpful links and information regarding championship dates, qualifying periods, program rules, score checks, and changes of region.

GAIG/USDF Rule Update

Effective December 1, 2016: Horse/rider combinations

rmds.org | facebook.com/rockymountaindressage

may enter more than one qualifying test, and qualifying freestyle, at each level per day as Great American/USDF qualifying. (USEF DR 127.4) The 2017 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Regional Championship rules may be found here.

Applying for a USDF Rider Award is Easy

Once all award requirements are met, go to USDF.org, click on the Rider Performance Awards Application, enter your USDF number, select your award, enter payment information, and you are done. Applications must be received by September 30, 2017 for the rider award to be awarded in the 2017 competition year.

RMDS Scribing Clinic

On April 15, RMDS held a scribing clinic at the Pikes Peak Dressage Society annual show. Michelle Anderson, 'L' graduate, acted as judge



and coached nine attendees in the art of scribing in a real-time situation. Here are some comments:

"Michelle Anderson put on a great scribing clinic. I learned a lot about not only scribing but what the judges want. It is impressive to have an idea of the training judges go through before they are allowed to sit at C. Thanks so much to Michele for putting this together."--Debi Stevens

"The scribing clinic provided a neutral environment that allowed for learning and mistakes to be made without feeling the pressure of being in a show with a judge for the first time. It was great practice and created an opportunity for confidence to build for the real thing! Michelle was a fabulous teacher, who provided insight on how it felt when she was a scribe, as well as what she looks for when she is a judge. This opened up possibilities of how I can strive to be a good scribe and hopefully one day have judges fighting over me to sit with them."--Jamie Smith

"This clinic was a perfect refresher for someone who hadn't scribed in over a decade. I appreciated the low cost and the laid-back approach. Kudos to Michelle Anderson and RMDS for putting together a solid scribing clinic."--Kristina Lee

Contact your chapter president if you would like to hold a clinic in your area.

Back Pain? Poor Attitude? Or Something Else?

By Katherine Simard

Katherine is High Plains Chapter President, a USDF Instructor Certification Junior Faculty, a USDF Certified Instructor through Fourth Level, USDF "L" Graduate with Distinction, and a USDF Bronze and Silver medalist.

Last year I realized that as each month passed my mare Springfield, aka Millie, was becoming increasingly grumpy with me and her equine friends. She had always been sweet and had a very confident yet carefree attitude. She had her red mare moments. But last year the chestnut mare stereotype moments seemed to be the norm and the sweet, pretty, willing to try girl was gone. By fall, I could hear her squealing at everything and anything in her range as I rode and taught during the day. She was also becoming very reactive under saddle and Millie is a mare who does not spook at much if anything! Her heat cycles had gone from barely noticeable to very obvious.

The beginning of November found me standing in the lobby of Littleton Equine Medical Center asking who could help and where should I start. Dr. Jessica Dunbar overheard me and came out to offer her suggestions. Following her suggestion, I booked an appointment with Dr. Jackie Christakos for November 18. On the day of the appointment Millie was in a very strong transitional heat and upon examination quite sore behind. This of course lead us to further examine her back and SI area. Millie wanted no part of the examination process once we went beyond her shoulders. Even though she was reactive to back palpation, I did not believe it was just her back bothering her. We decided to free lunge her a bit to see if she relaxed, which she did. Dr. Christakos was still not sure we would get a true indication of her back pain because she was still very wary of the exam process. I went and started scratching her favorite places and she noticeably relaxed. Dr. Christakos was still pretty convinced it was something in her back. I was less convinced as I know this horse very well and the symptoms seemed cyclical to me. We decided to treat her with muscle relaxants and bute and re-evaluate in a couple of weeks. Dr. Christakos mentioned a blood test to see if the ovaries were a factor as I kept saying I had a feeling it was some-

thing reproductive and not her back. I agreed to have the blood drawn for an anti-Mullerian hormone test. This blood test is sent to UC Davis and is the same test human women have done if there is a suspicion of ovarian cancer. The cost was \$150.

As time passed with Millie on the bute and muscle relaxant not much seemed to change. In some ways, Millie was

worse and she seemed out of sorts on the medications. November 30, I received a call from Dr. Christakos with the blood results. The high end of normal for a mare is 3.8. Millie's anti-Mullerian results came back a 6.2!!! There was a reproductive issue. The lab said we could wait and retest in two months. I decided not to wait as I had been feeling this was the issue all along! We decided not to go further with the bute and muscle relaxant combination but to go ahead and give her the bute for a few more days. Millie was off all medications by December 3. By December 5th, she seemed more herself mentally but still unwilling under saddle. Cantering seemed to be the biggest issue and canter is

her favorite gait! I noticed she no longer wanted to lift her back when being ridden and could be very reactive when being groomed around her flanks.

As LEMC's reproductive specialist, Dr. Rebecca Dietz was called in on my and Dr. Christakos' request. December 12 Dr. Dietz palpated and did an ultrasound examination on Millie. Millie was more cooperative during the examination, but we did give her a mild tranquilizer to do a thorough exam. While there was nothing Dr. Dietz could say was 100 percent abnormal, many of her findings were not necessarily normal for it being the middle of December. The ovaries were quite large with many follicles inside. The ovaries seemed to have thickened walls or fluid build-up in the linings. Combined with the change in attitude and the results of the blood test, Dr. Dietz recommended an ovariectomy for Millie. I decided to wait until after the holidays to schedule Millie's surgery. I had been keeping a journal since Millie's appointment with Dr. Christakos and continued to do so through the surgery. My entries are filled with Millie's good and bad days fluctuating like a rollercoaster. Good days were usually centered around her be-

(the vet)..still seemed pretty convinced it was something in her back. I was less convinced as I know this horse very well and the symptoms seemed cyclical to me.

I had been keeping a journal since Millie's appointment with Dr. Christakos and continued to do so through the surgery. My entries are filled with Millie's good and bad days fluctuating like a rollercoaster.

cont. on pg 7

Back Pain? *cont. from pg 6*



Unhappy Millie...

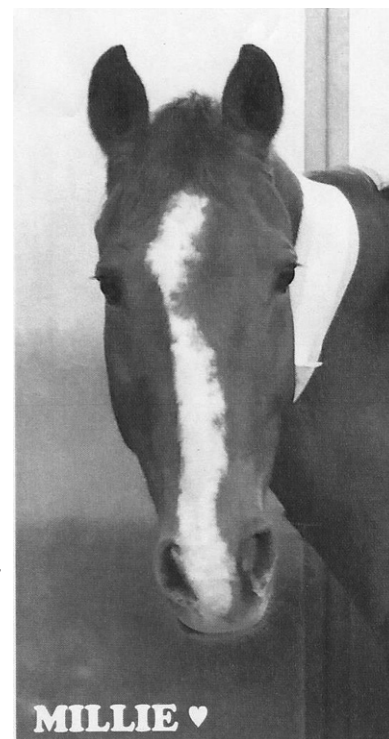
ing more social and interactive, but not wanting to canter under saddle. Bad days included nervous pooping in the crossties and being generally unrideable under saddle. Definitely not my mare! I didn't think surgery could come fast enough for either one of us!

January 11, I brought Millie to the clinic for surgery. January 12, she had the surgery done by Drs. Peter Rakestraw and Dustin Devine. It was done standing in the stocks. Two incisions were made on each side of her flanks. One for the laparoscopic device and a larger one to remove the ovary through. One thing to note is that because this surgery is not performed under general anesthesia, my surgical insurance policy did not cover it! Total cost when all was said and done was \$2000.

I saw the removed ovaries at the clinic post-surgery. They were huge and quite firm. When I picked her up Millie was the talk of the clinic. "Did you hear what they found inside?" Apparently, there were several quarter sized cysts/follicles in each and she was getting ready to release another large follicle. Remember it is the beginning of January! Poor girl had to be uncomfortable. Tissue was sent to histology at CSU.

Millie's recovery was rough for the first twenty-four hours back at the barn. She seemed interested in eating the hay she was gradually being fed. However, she was not drinking and there was no manure passing. At about 1:00 a.m. the following morning she finally passed some "raisins". But still wasn't drinking. By morning there was more manure in her stall but she still was not drinking and had begun shivering. She was wearing a blanket and the stall door to her run was closed. She appeared bright and alert. Was it pain or colic? I called Dr. David Lori and he recommended changing her pain medication. Millie had been sent home with bute. He suggested switching to banamine and begin soaking her hay. That did the trick!

Within another 12 hours Millie was eating, drinking, pooping and peeing! All music to a horse person's ears! Note for internal surgeries...ask for banamine to control pain. Not bute. Millie was also sent home with SMZs and we went through all of the usual ways to get it in her. Surprisingly, even though she was getting both banamine and SMZs via an oral syringe, she never once argued with me about getting either one. Was she just a really good patient or was my sweet cooperative mare returning?



Happy Millie!

Over the next two weeks, Millie steadily improved. Happy to have the window of her stall opened. Happy to get her run back. Happy to go on walks. No squealing!

January 23 Dr. Rakestraw called with the histology results. Granulosa tissues in both ovaries. In lay terms, equine ovarian cancer that causes reproductive dysfunction and the mares with it tend to be aggressive. He said in his experience it was the first time he had the results be abnormal in both ovaries. He was glad I had chosen surgery and glad they had removed both ovaries.

As I write this near the end of February, Millie is still recovering. I hope to ride her for the first time at the end of this week. Her behavior has improved immensely! Everyone who works with and around her has seen the change. She is more at peace with herself and her sweet expression is back when she sees me in the barn. I wonder how long "female issues" had been causing her pain. I wonder how many mares are misdiagnosed with back pain. As one vet said, if I did not know her so well I could have ended up paying for back injections which may have treated symptoms but not the cause. Wondering if your mare has an issue with her ovaries? For \$150 you can have your vet draw blood for a test that will help you at least be on the right path to help your mare be her best. It may be that easy.

2017

DRESSAGE IN THE ROCKIES



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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)





BOULDER'S INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE BROKER



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Snapshots from George Williams Clinic

By Beverly Swanson.

Beverly is a member of Pikes Peak chapter and Communications Chair for RMDS.

I had the opportunity to drop by Heather and Michael Petersen's stable on Sunday, April 16, to audit a few rides with popular clinician George Williams. George is currently active as the president of USDF, a member of the United States Equestrian Federation Dressage Committee, a member of the USEF High Performance Eligible Athlete Committee, a member of the USEF Board of Directors, and is chair of the USEF High Performance Dressage Committee.

I have never seen George teach before, so was looking forward to observing. There was a great line-up of local riders, including Elizabeth Petersen, Shannon Lemons, Heather Petersen, Amber Clark, Kelly O'Leary, Elaine Marion, Eileen Claffy, Raissa Chunko, Simone Ahern, and Gwen Ka'awaloa.

I only had time to watch a few rides on day one, but my overall impression was how George worked with horse and rider to immediately improve suppleness (laterally and longitudinally) of the horse, which in turn set the horse up to relax and be prepared to listen and respond.

One exercise (with variations) that was used several times to accomplish this was:

Shoulder-in (or travers) down the long side. Half circle at C-line and half pass back to wall. Use a 180° walk pirouette to change rein and make the horse think about her hind legs. After half-pass, go to renvers through the corners and the short side.

Amber Clark on Carlos

Carlos is going Fourth-PSG, but had a recent setback due to a minor medical issue. As Amber said, "It's all gone downhill for the last few weeks!" She wanted to get his changes back on track, as he had become wiggly and crooked.

George had Amber ask for more forward, and not to get defensive with the inside rein. "Set yourself up to do this! Don't think, 'He's not ready, he's not ready' just do it. You have the ability to do this right, and you have the ability to do this wrong." With some coaching from George, the two got back into their groove and performed several straight changes across the long diagonal.

Kelly Boyd and Callalily

Kelly's mare was a bit on the hot side, so George suggested slowing things down enough for her to understand the aids without becoming scattered. Kelly wanted to work on her canter and counter-canter, so George had them come down the long side, doing a 10m circle at each of the middle letters (e.g. at S, E, and V). Come down the C-line in half-pass and counter canter through the short side to the diagonal. "When something doesn't work, come back to the walk and slow things down."

Giving the mare time to think was key to success!

Elaine Marion and Calliope

Calliope developed PSSM (Equine Polysaccharide Storage Myopathy) and Elaine has been working on managing this condition so she and Calliope can continue to compete at PSG.

George had Elaine start by stretching Calliope more longitudinally, getting her relaxed in her poll and reaching more for the contact. Key to working with this mare was a lot of transitions, including the exercise mentioned previously. Lots of renvers/travers while also slowing the trot WAY down, then resuming a medium trot.

Once she was relaxed and moving well, they worked on their changes and tempis. Elaine has told me that "Riding changes on Calliope is sometimes like riding a short stick of dynamite." George stated that Calliope did her changes well, and what Elaine really needed was to help her find her balance, stay organized, and slow it all down.

Elizabeth Petersen and Missy

Elizabeth is venturing into Third Level at her next show, so she wants to work on perfecting her changes. Although I did not get to observe, Elizabeth reported that they also worked on the suppling exercises. Again, George advised slowing things down, both for balance and for the horse's ability to understand the aids. Good luck to you in Third Level, Elizabeth!

Conclusions

It's easy to see why so many riders enjoy working with George. He is very positive and encouraging in his style, and he is consistent with asking for suppleness and relaxation before attempting more difficult movements. Highly recommended!



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Shows and Events

All shows are RMDS recognized except schooling shows.

RMDS CALENDAR

2017

MAY 2017

- 5-7 **Dressage for the Cure-Colorado Horse Park-Parker, CO USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen, 303-648-3164 slush@drgw.net
- 6 **Mariah Farms Schooling Show-Franktown, CO**
Contact Lisa Lamke 303-660-2456 LLamke@msn.com
- 6 **Triple Creek Ranch Schooling Show-Longmont, CO**
Contact Lynn McChesney 303-444-4291 lynntriplecreek@gmail.com
- 8-9 **Joseph Newcomb Clinic-Loveland, CO**
Contact Sharron Sarchet 720-320-4461 scsarchet@alum.mit.edu
- 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
- 13 **High Plains Dressage Adult Clinic-Parker,, CO**
Contact Kathy Simard - highplainsdressagermds@yahoo.com
- 13-14 **Freestyle Clinic with Cynthia Collins of Luna Tunes-
Rabbit Mtn. Equestrian Center-Longmont, CO**
Contact Megan Pifer 513-222-4597 megan.pifer@gmail.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@drgw.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
- 2-4 **GVDS Dressage Foundation Symposium -
Clinic with Beth Baumert-Delta, CO**
Contact Arlene Rhodes 970-201-1779 Arlene@skypony.org
- 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 **Triple Creek Ranch Schooling Show-Longmont, CO**
Contact Lynn McChesney 303-444-4291 lynntriplecreek@gmail.com

- 17-18 **Fountain Valley Dressage-Colorado Springs, CO USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen 303-648-3164 slush@drgw.net
- 24-25 **Autumn Hill Dressage I, II-CSU -Ft Collins, CO USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen, 303-648-3164 slush@drgw.net
- 24-25 **Magic City Dressage I & II-Billings, MT-USEF**
Contact Emily Brewster 406-698-9646 e_luoma@hotmail.com

JULY 2017

- 5-7 **JR/YR Summer Intensive-Table Mountain Ranch**
Contact Cassandra DiPentino dipentinodressage@gmail.com
- 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
- 15 **Western Dressage Schooling Show-6771 Hwy 79-Bennett, CO**
Contact Ann Judge 303-907-4782 annjudgewegener@netecin.net www.wdaco.org
- 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 **On the Bit Schooling Show-Spur Ridge Equestrian-Laramie, WY**
Contact Jessica Ford 307-460-3459 info@onthebitdressage.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@drgw.net
- 31 **Gary Rockwell Clinic-Loveland or Longmont, CO**
Contact Sharron Sarchet 720-320-4461 scsarchet@alum.mit.edu

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 **Triple Creek Ranch Schooling Show-Longmont, CO**
Contact Lynn McChesney 303-444-4291 lynntriplecreek@gmail.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@drgw.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 bvdressage@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.theeleganttrider.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
- 12 **X Halt Salute RMDS Show- Colorado Horse Park -Parker, CO**
Contact Heather Petersen 303-648-3164 slush@drgw.net
- 13 **GAIG/USDF Breeders' Championships & RMDS Sport Horse Championships-USEF- Colorado Horse Park -Parker, CO**
Contact Heather Petersen, 303-648-3164 slush@drgw.net
- 14-17 **USDF Region 5 Regionals & RMDS Championships- USEF- Colorado Horse Park -Parker, CO**
Contact Heather Petersen, 303-648-3164 slush@drgw.net
- 23 **Triple Creek Ranch Schooling Show-Longmont, CO**
Contact Lynn McChesney 303-444-4291 lynntriplecreek@gmail.com

OCTOBER 2017

- 7 **Shiloh Ranch Schooling Show 1 -Shiloh Ranch, Black Forest**
Simone Windeler 719-287-2040 www.theeleganttrider.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
- 28 **Triple Creek Ranch Schooling Show-Longmont, CO**
Contact Lynn McChesney 303-444-4291 lynntriplecreek@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 **Triple Creek Ranch Schooling Show-Longmont, CO**
Contact Lynn McChesney 303-444-4291 lynntriplecreek@gmail.com
- 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-9 The Tack Room-should be: Connie Woodruff
- Page A-12 Janet Foy FEI 5* change from FEI 4*
- Page A-14 Technical Delegates/USEF: change Heather Petersen to "R"
- Page C-3 Add:
- Mar 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@drgw.net
- April 30 Lookout Ridge - 8750 Lookout Road,
- 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	rmids@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	rmids@rmids.org
Omnibus Production	Nicole Bizarro.....	303-939-0110	nicbiz@indra.com
Webmaster	Michael Petersen.....	719-683-8435	webmaster@rmids.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@rmids.org

APPOINTED COMMITTEES

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

RMDS CENTRAL OFFICE

Constitution, By-laws.....	Central Office.....	720-890-7825	rmids@indra.com
Insurance, Show Standards	Central Office.....	720-890-7825	rmids@indra.com
Registration Officials and Show Standards	Central Office.....	720-890-7825	rmids@indra.com
Scheduling	Central Office	720-890-7825	rmids@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 |
| July 5-7 | JR/YR Summer Intensive-Table Mountain Ranch |
| July 8 | Adult/Youth Team Competition – Table Mountain Ranch |
| Sep. 12 | 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 5*

Janet Foy^{^*} 719-260-1566

FEI 4*

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.

On March 25 - 26, Faith Farms in Castle Rock, CO and Sarah Dodge Dressage hosted a clinic with Jeanne McDonald. Jeanne is an FEI "I" and USEF "S" dressage judge, a USDF/USEF Dressage Sport Horse Judge and a USDF Bronze, Silver, and Gold medalist. She is also an active competitor, breeder and clinician. Her teaching was full of fabulous little gems that she repeated often to drive home her point. Here are just a few examples:

"Look!"

There were two instances in particular where Jeanne really wanted the rider to look around. First was with a reluctant horse who was struggling with moving confidently forward around a new arena. Jeanne made up different meanings for all of the letters around the arena and encouraged the rider to look to the letters and say little things like, "We are riding to F, F stands for fancy filly or let's go to B, B is for brave horses." Simply focusing the rider's energy and intention helped this pair get moving more confidently.



Sarah Dodge on Rufus

With my own horse Rufus, Jeanne encouraged me to look around as we schooled canter pirouettes. She asked me to envision the pirouette as a pie and I was to look ahead at the next slice of pie with every jump.

As I was riding she was calling out "Look to M, look to the corner, look to C, look to the door, look to H" and so on. This was very hard for me to do as I have always been trained to look through the horse's ears. At the break I asked her to elaborate on the idea. She said that most of the time looking through the ears is ideal. But in situations where you can help guide your horse better by looking you should do it. Looking around to where you want to go helps give the young or nervous horse more confidence. And it was amazing how easily my horse turned for the canter pirouette when I simply looked ahead at every jump.

"Exhale!"

The audible exhale was another gem that Jeanne repeated often. She encouraged riders to exhale deeply, loudly and often to help both horse and rider relax. I asked the riders to tell me what some of their biggest takeaways were and all of them commented on how effective this audible exhale was. Here are some more impressions from the riders:



Madeline Birch on Matisse

"My biggest takeaway from the Jeanne McDonald clinic is incredibly simple and equally as effective. Jeanne had us do audible exhales frequently through our lesson. Doing this ensured that I was not holding my breath, and also served to re-

lax both me and my horse. I was amazed. My horse visibly relaxed with each audible exhale. Amazing."

Melita Faith- Owner of Faith Farms

During our warm up, Jeanne would remind me to take deep exhales which seemed to instantly relax him. This was such a helpful piece and I hadn't realized how much tension I was holding within myself while trying to get him to relax into a connection.

"I rode in the Jeanne McDonald

clinic after only 7 months riding following surgeries (both my horse and I) from a bad accident in late 2015. While we were back working all the Grand Prix movements, I needed help regaining the feel for the right basics: the right amount of forward, enough bend or straightness, the right connection, the right aids, the right amount of engagement, etc. Jeanne, both an FEI judge and a Grand Prix rider, was the right person for the job.

The most important takeaways that I received from my work with Jeanne was affirmation for my seat in the movements and coaching to help me get my horse more forward/ in front of the leg so that I can tap into my horse's power and the work that follows will be easier and more correct. I need to wrap my lower legs around my horse a bit more to improve bend. It is also important to breathe out deep breaths to relax the horse and deepen your seat. Jeanne was adamant that most riding problems are improved by fixing the rider (not just their position but also their approach and feel) and we all got to witness that over

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and over again during this two-day clinic.” Ann Edelman- Amateur Grand Prix competitor

“Right from the start, Jeanne was relatable when I explained that I am naturally still very much a hunter rider and tend to have a more forward, relaxed seat. She was very understanding explaining she rode in the hunter ring prior to her dressage career as well. I brought one of my horses to the clinic that can either be fabulous or unmanageable; it completely depends on the day! During our warm up, she would remind me to take deep exhales which seemed to instantly relax him. This was such a helpful piece and I hadn’t realized how much tension I was holding within myself while trying to get him to relax into a connection. We worked slowly, but effectively, through the trot and

I need to wrap my lower legs around my horse a bit more to improve bend. It is also important to breathe out deep breaths to relax the horse and deepen your seat.

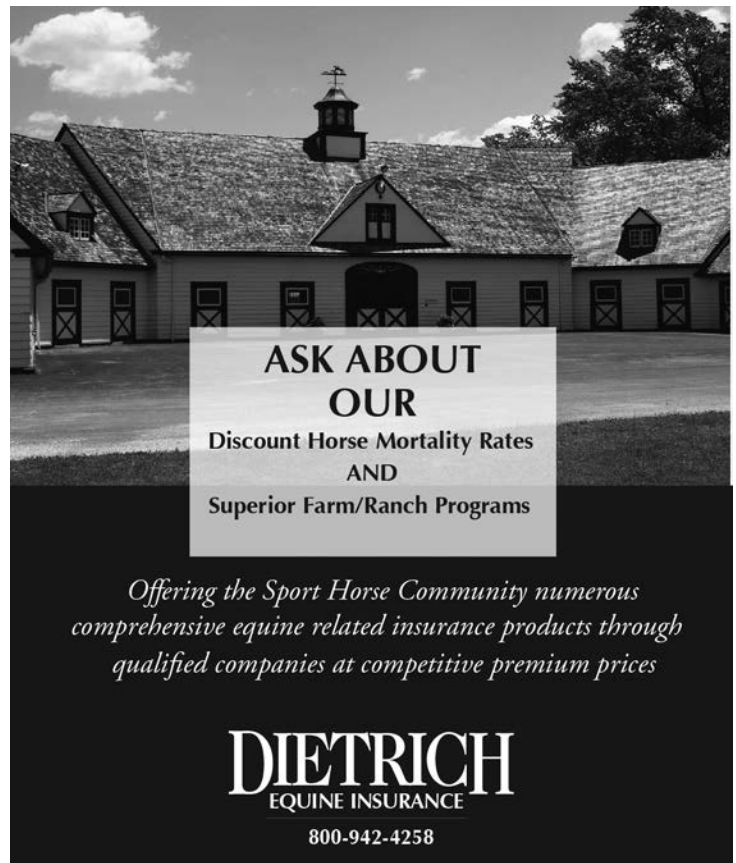
into canter work. She pointed out that my position seemed to get tipped forward in the canter, and explained that I would be safer on a horse like this in a more secure seat. To try to accomplish this, we worked on getting my shoulders back and staying more firmly in the saddle, while also keeping my contact with him through steady elasticity in my elbows. Without perching and sending my weight forward, my horse gained a more consistent canter and seemed to ease into a steady rhythm.

I left the clinic feeling very encouraged and motivated about my first dressage clinic away from home. If you have any fear issues or are new to the sport, I would highly encourage you to spend an hour riding with Jeanne. She was clear in her explanations and was able to give me quite a few new tools to work with a high-strung horse. I look forward to her next clinic.” Andrea Valenzuela - Amateur rider, new to dressage

“One of the things I really liked was how Jeanne critiqued my position, and she gave me great analogies that helped me to understand her point. One of the things she talked to me about was following more with my hands. This allowed my horse to accept the bit more. She told me why my posi-

tion was important, and it has helped me to actively think about the way I sit on my horse. Another thing she talked to me about was breathing more as I ride. This has helped me greatly over the past weeks. I feel more relaxed as my breathing improves and my horse is also more relaxed. Jeanne helped me to understand that the smallest aids mentally and physically can make a huge difference in me and my horse’s position. I really liked Jeanne’s teaching and critiquing style-she wasn’t afraid to tell me what to do and I really liked that. I am pretty sure that I smiled the whole time because I had fun! From a young rider’s perspective, Jeanne understood how I learn and how I ride. Overall, the clinic was great and I would recommend it for anyone looking for tons of helpful tips and a fun ride!” Berlin Barnett- Junior rider, First/Second Level competitor

Jeanne had so many fun analogies that both riders and auditors left with several easy things to do to improve their rides. Jeanne will be returning to Colorado this summer. If you have the opportunity to audit or ride I promise you won’t leave without several small but effective tools for your next ride!



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OMAHA! - Not Just for Broncos

Report from the 2017 World Cup in Omaha, NE

By Martha Brown

Martha is a member of NCD. She competes on her 2003 KWPN gelding Winston, aka "Toby," and hopes to earn her bronze medal this year.

"Omaha!" For Broncos fans, that's had a certain connotation to it. Now that Omaha has hosted its first FEI World Cup Jumping and Dressage Finals it's gone global—and for good reason. Folks all over the world experienced mid-American hospitality at its best. And they're hoping they'll be back. I agree.

My travel companion and I flew in on Tuesday for our first experience with World Cup. We weren't disappointed. Upon arrival I spotted Lilo Fore in the baggage claim area and went over to say "hello". Ever gracious with an enviable memory, she greeted me and we shared a shuttle ride to the hotel.

Upon arrival at that hotel I discovered that we were not at the right hotel. Oops. Good to get an easily fixable mistake over and done with.

After settling in to the correct hotel we quickly made our way over to the venue and started poking around. Vendors were setting up their booths and the production teams were getting all the audio visual equipment set up in the stadium. There was a calm sense of purpose prevailing. My first (and most expensive) purchase was for a set of brushes for Toby in "black/dark bay" from a British vendor, Marta. Mine was her first sale at this venue, but not the last. I got my picture taken with Alan Davies on Saturday!

Early Wednesday morning I had the chance to have a chat with the Russian dressage coach. Yes, I, too, now have a Russian connection. With no witnesses. He told me that despite his decades of experience at these types of events, he's always a bit nervous. He was optimistic that Inessa and Mister X were ready and able to rise to the challenges and take home The Cup. He was enjoying the venue and said it was very well put together—especially in regards to having the stabling attached to the warmup arena and the stadium.

Soon I was engrossed in watching the dressage riders acclimating their horses to the stadium environment. It was interesting to watch the more experienced riders make such good use of the arena, deftly dodging other riders and Making Good Use of The Corners (note to self to



mimic). Some were schooling pieces of the Grand Prix test while others were more focused on inducing relaxation from their mounts in lower frames. Isabel's mare, in particular, seemed a little over-eager and was offering one-tempis on the diagonal. Her fix was to ask for 3's. It was fascinating to watch these top riders school their horses and quickly find solutions. And of course

we found ourselves again meandering among the plentiful booths of vendors.

Thursday provided us with educational opportunities, ogling the riders and horses in the warmup arena, and more eye candy at the vendors' booths. The Dressage Finals started in the afternoon with a lineup of 16 rider/horse pairs. Axel Steiner provided commentary available via phone app. The 5-second delay was a tad annoying, but we got used to it. I can't say I had any favorite. Each pair earned their way into this competition, and each had a chance to bring home The Cup. You probably know who won and what the scores were. I have very limited experience watching Grand Prix tests in the first place, so I was probably a little wide-eyed about the whole thing. I promise to become more judgmental in the future.

Para-Dressage exhibitions, a dressage comedy routine, Western dressage, and an Isabel clinic were on the schedule for Friday. My goodness, but those horses for the para-dressage are wonderful! And Tristan Tucker's horse was such a good sport carting his bobbing body around the arena during his comedy routine. Lynne Palm provided the audience with some great tips on Western dressage that were very well received.

And Isabel. Geez oh Pete. She had three horse/rider clinic combinations for the Dressage Showcase—one pair after the other. First came the 5-year-old stallion, a Totalis son. Then a 7-year-old gelding with extravagant movement. Finally an 8-year-old mare in the early GP stage. What a treat that was! This horse was too quick; that horse needs more flexion. Make quicker and smaller steps. Ask him or her to wait. Each pair was visibly improved by the end of their sessions. Oh, if only I were 40 years younger and had the means to

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DRESSAGE SYMPOSIUM IN THE ROCKIES



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work with her. Instead I have a lovely horse who is suited to my lifestyle. That is my reality, and I'm grateful for it.

Saturday morning I watched Tristan's Dressage Natural Horsemanship Clinic. I was hesitant about going but wanted to remain open to learning as much as I could during this trip. I wasn't disappointed. It was different from a lot of the natural horsemanship that I've seen in the past. And a lot of it made sense to me as a dressage rider. More window shopping and lunch were accomplished before we settled in for the Grand Prix Freestyle competition.

No disappointments there for me. Each ride was lovely in its own right. I avoided Axel's commentary, wanting to have my very own experience without others' influence. The stadium was very well populated, and all of us enjoyed watching the best in the world performing for us. As you know, Isabel won this one, too. Her champagne shower on the podium will be forever in my mind.

I'm glad we decided to stay for the jumping Finals. I know nothing about jumping, but I now understand that time and faults are what count. I, like everyone else, was on the edge of my seat during the whole afternoon. And the fact that a U.S. combination won with zero faults was amazing!

From all of the people I talked to and from what I've seen in print or on the internet I understand that Omaha will likely host another FEI World Cup. And I won't hesitate to attend.



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Show Season Has Started

Are all your memberships & your horse's memberships current? Owner, rider & horse must be current prior to the time of ride for scores to count towards year-end awards or qualifying for Championships and Regionals.

Must include with entries:

- Coggins Test: Be sure you have this done now. Takes at least a week to get drawn and results returned so it can be sent in with your entry
- Spring Shots Record: Must be done within 6 months of show and need documentation to be sent in with your entry. Form may be found at: <http://rmds.org/uploads/Publications/equine-vaccination-record.pdf>
- Membership Cards: USEF/USDF & RMDS membership cards must be included with your entry. If you are signing up online, be sure you email the RMDS membership card to the show secretary!!

Adult Amateurs: Do you have your 2017 USEF AA card? Have you sent it in to the RMDS Central Office? Necessary to do if you want to be considered for the adult amateur year-end awards

Ponies: Want to be part of the year-end pony awards? Your pony measurement card **MUST** be on file with the RMDS Central Office to be considered. Need to get a measurement? Contact the show manager well ahead of time to arrange for this to occur.

Breed Awards: Many shows are offering breed awards so be sure to include a copy of the breed papers with your entry.



It's almost time for the USDF Spring Executive Board meeting, being held in Lexington, Kentucky this year. We have quite a few things on our plate for the upcoming meeting and it's always an interesting time getting together with dedicated volunteers from across our country to help work on the future of our sport. We will be discussing the USDS Strategic Plan, approving the 2018 Regional Championship bids, reviewing lots of our educational programs and oh so much more. It's a very informative and productive.

There are many educational events around our Region so if you're not spending a weekend with family or showing, consider supporting one of our well-organized and great educational opportunities sponsored by the local GMOs (Group Member Organizations) such as Arizona Dressage Association, Tucson Dressage Club, Utah Dressage Society, Rocky Mountain Dressage and so forth. The upcoming Dressage Symposium in the Rockies May 20-24th with 7 different national and internationally known clinicians will be a special treat for our Region. Mark your calendars as it will return in 2018 with a lineup you will not want to miss. Dressage in the Desert has Charles de Kunffy May 13-14, 2017 and Tucson Dressage club has Debbie MacDonald October 14-15, 2017.

As of May 16th, our potential candidates for the 2017 FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships will be finalized. As I write this in mid April, we have 6 declared Juniors and 2 declared Young Riders. I hope we have enough folks to field two full teams but it is a large endeavor and expense to take our teams to New York, so it might be a smaller year. We will at least have a great team of Juniors! It's the experience of a lifetime for our

Youth and 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 Kathy Gillespie, our fundraising coordinator, at kjpagillespie@msn.com or 303-921-5253. These young adults work very hard, as do their parents, trainers and friends and every little bit of support is greatly appreciated. **DON'T FORGET TO TURN IN YOUR DECLARATIONS IF YOU ARE INTENDING TO TRY FOR OUR TEAMS!**

If you are looking at entering a CDI in the near future, remember that effective January 1, 2017, you must have a national passport in place before you can get an FEI passport, so make sure you allow additional time in order to get your FEI passport in place. Passports are not required for your "normal" FEI classes in a USDF/USEF recognized competition, only for a CDI.

Also, make sure you have the appropriate vaccination information with you when you travel to a horse show that is USEF recognized. Some shows are asking for the proof with your entry information, so this may help you to have it a bit more organized. If you don't vaccinate, there are requirements you must follow in order to be on the show grounds.

If you have news you'd like to share, please let me know, we're happy to get it out and about for you.

Happy Spring! Till next month!

Heather Petersen, Region 5 Director

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

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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.

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

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

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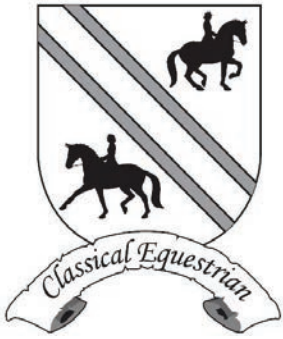
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