



CENTAUR

educating horse and rider as partners

NOVEMBER 2020

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UPCOMING:

Changes! This year has been full of them. Here is a big one: This is the last issue of the RMDS Centaur in print form. Big improvements to RMDS Communications and printed materials are in the works! Check out page 16 for additional information.

November 21 Board of Governors Meeting Via Zoom, as one does.

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

An RMDS Publication

Anatomy of an Request For Proposal (RFP)

By MaryJo Hoepner, Education Chair

Or how the RFP process worked for the RMDS website and database design project

RMDS Board of Directors recognized that the website and database had to be reengineered and that effort needed to begin before the current product could no longer be maintained. RMDS decided to go ahead with writing a Request For Proposal (RFP).

The RFP included the requirements --

1. Database design, hardware, and software platform
2. User interface
3. Required elements of the website i.e., viewable from desktop, hand held device, membership records, horse records, scores, year end award calculations, show information, officials information and requirements, clinic information, place to access Centaur, ads, etc.

Cont'd on pg 17

RMDS Scholarship Program

Summer Mayo, Scholarship Recipient

As a RMDS scholarship recipient, I am very grateful to have received an award. Undeniably, 2020 was an unprecedented year for everyone. My goals were high after last season and I imagined myself making big strides this year.

However, in January, I discovered an injury I incurred and had to take three months off of riding. Initially, I was devastated at the realization I wasn't able to ride and was humbled by having to keep my two feet on the ground and not a top my beloved mare ZZ.

During this time, one of the biggest things I learned was to slow down. While I have only been riding for three years, I recognized my ambition was clouding my development of the foundation that takes so much time to learn. It was when I slowed down that I flourished both mentally and physically and was able to grow in my riding. Working on myself and getting physically fit out of the saddle was one of the best things I've ever done for my career.

Cont'd on pg 9

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING!

RMDS scholarship application deadline is November 30

See Page 4 for more information



Summer Mayo and her mare Drizelle "ZZ"



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

It's November and that means we will be holding the Board of Governors Meeting. However this year it will be on Zoom as in person meetings of 30+ people are not recommended. We are looking forward to seeing new faces. Please join us and learn more about the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society and your Executive Board.

We will be electing a few people to positions that are now vacant or renewing our association with members who continue to give of their time and energy. Please find the list of nominees in this issue and take

the time to discuss with other members so your delegates can hear your voice.

We are almost complete with the upgrade on our Database/Website. Please read the article by MaryJo Hoepner that points out how Code Geek was chosen and how hard they have worked to produce a system that will last RMDS for many years to come. From the little I have seen it looks impressive and will perform as requested.

I have spent 7 years as President of RMDS and I am not running again. I have truly enjoyed my time helping to develop new programs and watching the members achieve new goals. I am running as Vice President in order to help Dorothy Kapaun to achieve her goals for RMDS. As a member I have enjoyed the opportunity to show, clinic and the time spent with fellow horse enthusiasts. As President I had many

opportunities to meet new people and to be part of USDF as a participant in the Adult Programs Committee. I was proud to represent RMDS at the USDF Convention. I will always be proud of this organization and the people who we have served.

Enjoy the Holidays with family and friends, stay safe and healthy.

Aloha,
-Gwen Ka'awaloa, President, RMDS



**"We usually have two options with horses:
We can either give them time to think, or wish we had."**

- Mark Rashid

Arkansas Valley Dressage Association

AVDA has been enjoying the outside and how the weather has enabled us to still get together safely. We have met the last 3 months at a member's home in her lovely outside area. We have been able to sponsor clinics each month. Our members have also hosted clinics so we have had lots of opportunity to ride together and enjoy being with our horse friends. We have 2 clinics scheduled in October that are being hosted by our members. We are all looking forward to our annual year end awards party that we have scheduled early this year on Halloween. We are hoping that we can enjoy the party outdoors with a barn to go in if the weather turns bad. We will give out year end awards and have a costume contest. That way we can wear our masks in a fun way. Our last clinic for this year is scheduled for November 7. We have not signed our clinician yet, but have lots of interest to continue our clinics into the fall. Several of our members have done some beautiful trail rides, really enjoying the beauty of Colorado. We hope that all of you have been able to enjoy your horses during this trying time for our country. Sometimes our four legged friends are what gets us through times like this.

Please stay safe and keep riding!

Nancy Leonard, President AVDA

Boulder Valley Dressage Association

BVD show plans 2021

After having all our 2020 shows and clinics cancelled due to COVID-19, Boulder Valley Dressage has secured dates for two USEF/USDF recognized shows in 2021, July 31-August 1, at the Boulder County Fairgrounds. The club discussed other possibilities for clinics, ride-a-test and educational opportunities at our October 12, 2020, meeting. The decisions about this year's shows were made for us by

the Fairgrounds, which canceled all activities through August, and perhaps even into the Fall. COVID has hit hard, and we want everyone to stay safe and avoid the disease.

More details of the proposed show season for 2021 will be available in later editions of The Centaur, on the new RMDS web site which launches in November, and in the new RMDS Magazine which will be launched next year. We're all looking forward to a better year in 2021. Please stay safe, and enjoy your horses!

Stan Adamson, President,
Boulder Valley Dressage

Grand Valley Dressage Society

We chose to delay our October schooling show due to a national championship BMX race taking place at the Mesa County Fairgrounds facility on our originally scheduled weekend – we didn't want to be mixing with thousands of others from around the country. Our schooling show is to be held October 17 & 18. We have a nearly full day for Saturday, and Sunday is a little more than half full. We are hoping the gorgeous fall weather continues for the show.

Next year our recognized show will be in June so that our participants can qualify for RMDS and Regional championships.

Our elections for this year will take place on November 9th, through zoom. We have a slate of officers that volunteered to serve and nominations are still open for members that would like to be an officer, or nominate someone.

Arlene Rhodes, GVDS President

Northern Colorado Dressage Association

October and the mountains are bursting with color! As I look – peer through the smoky haze – out my window, my imagination fills in the palette!

Silver is another color for the year. That is, the silver lining to all things 2020. One of the silver threads is how NCDA is expanding its collective Geek-Tech knowledge! The board has used Virtual meetings (using several different platforms) this year. Now that our General Meetings have started back up, NCDA has its own Zoom package. After a somewhat shaky start, September's meeting went well.

Our October meeting will formally announce candidates for the open positions on our Board. We will also be updating information for our 2021 events, and preparing ahead for a Nationally recognized instructor clinic in 2022 or 2023.

The NCDA webpage is sporting an updated look, check it out! Thank you to Katie McGivney for doing a lot on the pages herself plus working with other members, and help from other chapter members!

Feel free to join us anytime! General Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month; September through May. Good company and interesting topics. Touch base with us for the Zoom link for the meetings.

Follow us on Facebook at:

facebook.com/myNCDA

Or visit our webpage: noco-dressage.org

Didi DeKrey, NCDA President

DATABASE AND NEW WEBSITE DESIGN

Coming soon! The reveal of 1000s of hours of cumulative deliberation and work... the new and improved website and database. For a sneak peak check out the second section of the Anatomy of an RFP article on page 17.

To be one of the many folks who have helped with this mountainous project you may think you would need to learn to code...but no! You can play an integral part by simply giving to our Build-a-byte-barn fund. Track our progress on page 13.

TAKE THE TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The RMDS board knows this has been a weird and hard time for many. We are committed to continuing to bring you our best in the upcoming year. To that end, we are not raising our membership rates this year. Please help us build momentum for good things to come by taking the time to renew your membership before the end of the year. You can use the membership form and envelope in this issue, or renew online. We have many great things to share in 2021, please join us once again!

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING!

RMDS scholarship application deadline is November 30

Are you looking for ways to fund your dressage educational opportunities? RMDS members are eligible for annual scholarships in four categories: Adult Amateur, Junior/Young Rider, Professional, and Intro/Training/First Level.

For more information, please see rmds.org/Organization/Scholarship or contact:

RMDS Scholarship Chair
Natalie Mendik at 412.558.0249
or scholarship@rmds.org.



Proposed Changes to the Standing Rules

Proposed by RMDS Member, Julie Barringer-Richers

These changes proposed at the September Board meeting will be discussed and voted up or down during the annual Board of Governors (BOG) meeting. This year's BOG meeting will be held virtually through Zoom. Only board members and delegates are eligible to vote. If you would like to attend via zoom, or to be a delegate, please contact Beth Geier at the Central Office at: 720-890-7825 or rmds@rmds.org (**Changes in bold type**)

Section V. Awards - Year-End

C. The median must be 55% or higher to qualify for an award. This method of computation will be used for all levels, including FEI and Freestyle.

Change to:

The median score must be **57%** or higher to qualify for an award. This method of computation will be used for all levels, including FEI and Freestyle.

E. Perpetual Trophies

4. Horse of the Year Perpetual Trophies will be awarded at the RMDS annual banquet to horse/ rider combinations based on the median scores from at least three (3) shows, four (4) judges and five (5) rides. Two (2) of the scores must be at least 55% at the most difficult test of the level and at least two (2) of the shows must be recognized by US Equestrian Federation. The median must be 55% or higher to qualify for an award. FEI levels will be based on four (4) shows, four (4) judges and four (4) rides. The median must be at least 55% or higher to qualify for an award.

Change to:

Horse of the Year Perpetual Trophies will be awarded at the RMDS annual banquet to horse/ rider combinations based on the median scores from at least three (3) shows, four (4) judges and five (5) rides. Two (2) of the scores must be at least **57%** at the most difficult test of the level and at least two (2) of the shows must be recognized by US Equestrian Federation. The median must be **57%** or higher to qualify for an award. FEI levels will be based on four (4) shows, four (4) judges and four (4) rides. The median must be at least **57%** or higher to qualify for an award.



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7097 Jay Rd
\$1,495,000

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10650 N 75th St
\$1,050,000

19 acres with sweeping back range views. 3-bedroom home, large trees, pond, outbuildings and water rights.



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Call For Price

43-acre estate. Unparalleled views of the mountains, plains and city. Minutes from town, yet private and quiet.



11715 Vermillion Rd
\$1,050,000

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Why I Chose Western Dressage

By Silja Knoll

We all know that Dressage training is good for EVERY horse, every breed, and for just about every age of equine.

I wanted my Norwegian Fjord mare to also benefit from this training. As she got older and developed Cushings in her mid teens, I was shocked to see her muscle tone deteriorate, especially her top line. Some noticeable arthritic changes in her fetlocks made me feel that her competitive trail seasons might be behind her. I decided she didn't need to pound the (beautiful!) hard, rocky trails for 20 miles at a time anymore. It was time to reevaluate our next chapter. Growing up riding 3 Day Eventing introduced me to Dressage in my early teens. I loved it,

and I learned to appreciate its benefits ever since. So off to dressage lessons we went in her best fitting saddle, which happened to be a western saddle made for her. Lessons evolved to preparing us to attend local schooling shows. I was the only one in a western saddle, on a 14 hh pony, yet I felt welcomed everywhere we went, and to my surprise many shows offered Western Dressage (WD) classes! I truly was sitting in my western saddle on a neon blonde beacon in the sea of bay warmbloods dressed in English tack. We were lucky because we had a solid foundation. Schooling show judges encouraged me to go to recognized shows so off to the Colorado Horse Park we went! A bucket



Holloway's Misty aka 'Ruby'



Improving the Shoulder-in at a Dolly Hannon Clinic this summer.
Photo credit:Katie McGivney



2020 was the year to debut Level 3 at Circle Star Arena



Competing at Triple Creek Ranch schooling show in 2018

list experience for me! I couldn't believe I had the amazing opportunity to ride my Fjord at the CHP...where we won High Point! This experience encouraged me to head off to Oklahoma to the World Western Dressage Championships two years in a row...

Western Dressage integrates the historically validated principles of dressage with the best of western stock horse traditions. All breeds are welcomed, including gaited horses who are evaluated based on their natural gaits.

Currently there are 6 levels in WD:

Introductory, Basic, Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4 with four different tests in each level.

The WD Partnership should exhibit:

1. Impulsion, originating from deeply engaged hindquarters transmitted without resistance through a supple topline to a light, soft contact with the riders' hands.
2. Willingness to work off the hindquarters, allowing the horse to move freely forward, laterally, and to the rear which enables the western horse to be a useful working partner.

Harmony between horse and rider is also emphasized in the scoring of the tests.

This article is not intended to be about my show success on my pony, it's intended to share the belief that there are so many horses that may not fall into the 'Dressage Horse mold' but would still benefit from this type of training. If you like to train your horse in a discipline that takes certain conformational issues into consideration, and judges each horse against the best version of itself, then WD might be a good fit for you. And if you are like me, having opportunities to compete keeps you motivated, so a big THANK YOU to all the organizations and show managers out there that include WD classes at their shows!

For more information try WDACO.org
(Western Dressage Association of Colorado)

Happy Trails...in and out of the arena!



Aim Higher and Achieve More with ANDRIA ALLEN

"As a first time single female home owner, newly divorced and facing the challenges of buying during COVID, having an honest and supportive realtor is key. Andria gave caring guidance and support all the way through the process. She was in-tune with changing requirements due to COVID and helped me negotiate an acceptable offer in a very competitive market. Her support all the way through inspections and her recommendations for remodeling contractors have been invaluable. I will be calling her again when I'm ready to purchase a horse property in the future!" — Susan



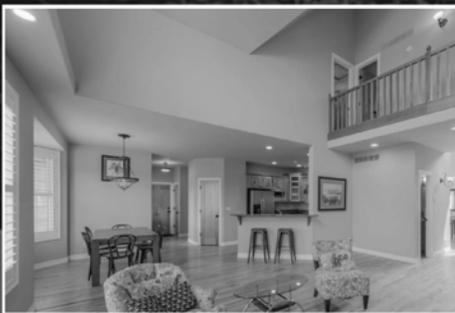
ANDRIA ALLEN

Aim Higher and Achieve More



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RMDS Scholarship Program

Summer Mayo, Scholarship Recipient

Cont'd from pg 1



Summer Mayo and her mare Drizelle "ZZ"

Nevertheless, I came back to riding slowly and it taught me patience. Bless my trainers for this time period as my mind was ready to gallop when my body needed to walk. It's funny how we don't want to give ourselves what we need like we do our horses. In the end, I built myself up properly and reached the fitness goals to support the level of riding I wanted to achieve.

At this point in the year I felt confident and I decided to focus on clinics to further my education. I utilized my scholarship funds to ride with two exceptional clinicians, Janet Foy and Susan Martin. Both experiences were very informative and helpful in expanding my dressage education. I gained a great insight and confidence in both myself and my horse.

Janet Foy was such an incredible resource for her particular eye coming from a judges perspective. I learned to check in with my body and the balance of my horse every quarter circle. I discovered my left wrist lacked flexibility and by the end of the clinic my homework was to go home and peel potatoes. And yes...it really worked. I also really enjoyed when Janet tested my honesty by having me perform a task and execute it two or three times. "That way you know your not just lucky" I thought that was really brilliant of her and it lined up with my appreciation of getting down to the hard stuff.

Janet also helped me realize how important accuracy is and that you can have great quality, but a lack of accuracy can diminish it. You have to have both to be successful overall but especially in the show ring.

The Susan Martin clinic was one of the best rides of my life. As riders, we strive for that amazing feeling in those special moments that are why we do what we do. Every minute of this clinic was just that. I learned how to execute tasks while being mindful and emphasizing a release. We found I would ask my horse to do something once or twice and when I didn't get a response, I would ask in a different way. I wasn't being clear and while I was trying very hard I gave mixed signals from time to time. By adjusting this method we had some really great breakthroughs. Everything you do and everything you ask must mean something.

Both clinics helped me realize how present I had to be at all times to achieve seamless riding and I felt a paradigm shift.

Even with all the cancellations due to the pandemic, ZZ and I managed to get out and show at some schooling shows. They were all great experiences for us and it was nice to move to first level with not a lot of pressure. I felt very lucky to be able to take my horse and go somewhere and be among horse enthusiasts. ZZ and I receive our first adult amateur high point award together which was a great honor. For me it solidified the obstacles we overcame and it meant a lot for that to be recognized. Our hard work was paying off.

Thus, a mentor recently told me "You're going to lose your balance a lot in order to find it." This resonated with me deeply and is what I'm working on in my current training. As dressage riders we strive for perfection. But in those few glorious moments people see, are a hundred tough days. It doesn't always go right and we're ultimately performing an extraordinary act of athleticism with our equine partners. The moral of this year was to slow down and be kind to myself. To let go of my urgency for success and enjoy the ride.

I leave you with this thought on your own journey.

"It's not what is done when the lights are on and the crowd is watching. It's when no one is looking, when no one is counting, in solitude. It's in the shadows, the unglorious, resilient days that one rises. Like a flame that refuses to go out. It flares up from the faintest ember to illuminate, to burn in spite of overwhelming odds."

Thank you once again RMDS for my scholarship.

EOTRH WUT?!!

By Nicole Bizzarro, Communications Chair

Equine Odontoclastic Tooth Resorption and Hypercementosis, it's a mouthful

My Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horse, Tonka has been one of the most challenging and most rewarding horses of my life. I say this having ridden 50 plus horses over a span of 44 years now. When I met him, he was a backyard horse with a bit of a weight problem. I was riding his owners' other fancy Holsteiner/Andalusian dressage horse at a training/boarding facility and when she asked if I would be interested in giving her backyard horse some much needed exercise. I answered the same as I usually do: "I have almost never met a horse I didn't want to ride".

We spend the first summer just doing trails, but his pasture land was next door to the Joder Ranch property and they gave us permission to work in the arenas. He was so brave and totally game on the trails, and when he was fitter, I started introducing him to dressage work. He could barely canter both directions. I really thought my inside foot might touch the ground, he leaned so badly on a circle. But, he had this thing, this thing that just spoke to me. He had "Try". I have never met another horse that was so generous with his Try! It more than made up for his absolute lack of skill and total lack of natural genetic ability. I was smitten. At the end of the year his owner, generously placed him at the training barn so I could continue to work with him. He progressed very slowly, sometimes very non-linearly, but always with the best attitude of Try you could imagine. But one thing plagued us the most, and that was connection to the bit.

I figured that starting out in the western discipline was part of his connection issue. I affectionately referred to him as an "English as a second language learner" and since I never rode western myself the transition to more contact was probably really foreign to him.

After seven years together, Tonka's owner gifted him to me. I was overjoyed. I have such a special love of this horse, I can not even begin to put it into words. He's been mine now for four years, so we have had over a decade together. And that darn connection issue was still the top of the list. Even as he learned lateral work, really questionable flying changes, piaffe, how to drag a tarp at the canter, how to carry a parade flag on a windy day, liberty work, long-lining, in-hand work and his absolute favorite, Spanish walk. We continued with dressage, played with working equitation, and continued to ride trails. Through it all he chomped, he nashed, he pulled, he evaded, he was the least quiet horse in the mouth even with the steadiest of hands. I tried every bit know to the English world. I found he preferred a solid bit like a pelham or a mullen mouth. We tried the happy mouth, tried them thin, tried them thick, tried a tongue-relief port and found that was the best bit so far.

I thought this connection issue had really reached a plateau, and that I had seen all the improvement I was going to see. But then we had a visit with Dr. Kari Sanderson, a horse dentist. She told me something very interesting: Tonka had the biggest and fattest tongue she had ever laid hands on! Tonka is a Lakota-Souix word that translates roughly as "great big" I always thought it described his try and his heart, but go figure, it described his tongue too!

No wonder the tongue relief bits were the least objectionable to him, but still objectionable. What she discovered next horrified me, blew my mind and ended up being the best thing that has happened to our riding life in years. She found a dead tooth. She could see the root and he did not react to a needle exploring the hole. She asked if I wanted to do x-rays. I thought "Oh, that's a spot we've never imaged, why not?"

The x-ray showed that Tonka had EOTRH, or Equine Odontoclastic Tooth Resorption and Hypercementosis. Yes, it's quite a mouthful. It's also pretty horrible. EOTRH is a syndrome that results in resorptive lesions of the incisors and occasionally the canine teeth. It does not seem to affect the molars. X-rays are the best way to diagnose the presence of EOTRH. It is believed to be a relatively slow progressing syndrome, so by the time it shows up in images, it has probably been going on for quite some time. It is not known why this condition occurs. The best treatment option is to remove the affected teeth. As the disease progresses the tooth roots resorb or dissolve. It is not known why (perhaps the body's response to the not loose tooth movement), the tooth then develops hypercementosis. Hypercementosis is a condition in which the tooth creates an excessive build up of calcified tissue. It can make a large ball of this new material on the root, under the gum line and out of sight. This ball of new material displaces jaw bone, cracks and weakens surrounding teeth and can cause a very significant amount of pain.



Tonka's radiograph showing signs of EOTRH and the hypercementosis evident on the far right incisor.



Tonka's tooth, note the thickened extra calcification on the root.



Teeth in Dr. Sanderson's collection: Tooth on the far left is a healthy normal specimen. Second tooth shows resorptive lesions. Third tooth is Tonka's. Teeth on the far right show just how much calcification can occur, and how much bone would be displaced in that case.
Shudder.

Some horses are too stoic for their own good. Some horses will lose weight, or show signs of changes to the gums as the condition worsens underneath. Some horses exhibit "behavioral" issues. In my humble opinion, there are only issues and frequently things we may call "behavior issues" are just a horse trying to let us know that there is an actual issue. Usually and heart wrenchingly, it is pain.

I knew Tonka needed to have the most affected tooth removed and we set a date a month out. During that time I decided to stop using a bit. I had a Dr. Cook bitless bridle and I modified it so that instead of having the double cheek straps that connect to both the rein and the noseband, and tighten when more connection is applied to the rein, I gave it a regular cheek strap and connected the reins directly to the noseband. The second ride in his new set up, Tonka felt me pick up the reins, and instead of bracing, he met my connection and dropped his head into the (not bit, into the noseband? It's weird to use dressage language to describe what is going on now!) ...okay, let me try again, you know that amazing feeling when you pick up a connection and the horse drops into it and meets your connection? Well, I experienced that for the first time with Tonka.

Ride after ride only improved. A month later he had the tooth out and the healing process had him out of work a couple weeks. I continued in the modified bitless. He was round, he turned off that horrible muscle on the underside of his neck, he would bend, he relaxed, he was giving me some of the very best dressage work we had ever had! I wanted to cry that he had this bothering him for so long, and that it had been the cause of the issue that had been so impossible to solve. But I am so grateful it was found, it was removed and his suffering is alleviated. I am indebted to Dr. Kari Sanderson. Getting this tooth out has been the single best thing to ever happen to our riding! Well after everything was good and healed, I tried a few times to go back to a regular dressage bridle with the tongue relief bit. Tonka could not be more clear on the subject,

and now especially that he knows how good he can feel, the bit makes him nash, gag, head toss, and generally act like he is dying. I did not have to be told a third time. Bitless from now on for us.

I will keep up with radiographs a couple times a year to monitor the progression of other teeth that are showing early signs of the syndrome. I'll admit its been nice not having to wipe down a bit after riding since March. But seeing Tonka happy in his work is the best gift ever!

Check out midwestvetdental.com/eotr for additional information. Feel free to drop me an email or give me a call if you have more questions about this stupid new affliction we have to add to all the horrible things that can happen to horses. And treat your horse to a view of his teeth, every once in a while, and especially if you are having issues. If you do find your horse in Tonka's position, do not give up hope, it may end up being the key to a better ride.



A happy and comfortable Tonka in his modified bitless bridle, and a happy rider!

"If the horse does not enjoy his work, his rider will have no joy."

– H.H. Isenbart

YOUR EQUESTRIAN PROPERTY OR HOME NEAR THE BARN ARE WHERE MEMORIES ARE CREATED AND LIFE IS LIVED!

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ADVERTISE IN THE NEW RMDS MAGAZINE

RMDS Magazine | Omnibus Edition publication size: 8.5" x 11"

All ads are full color

Back Cover	7.5" x 10"	\$500
Inside front Cover	7.5" x 10"	\$400
Inside back Cover	7.5" x 10"	\$400
Full Page	7.5" x 10"	\$300
Half Page	7.5" x 4.75"	\$150
Quarter page vertical	3.5" x 4.75"	\$75
Eighth page horizontal	3.5" x 2"	\$35
Directory of Services / Resource Guide	\$30 (Text Only) 2 lines/name + 10 words	

Please contact the RMDS Central Office:
720-890-7825 - rmds@rmds.org

Open date for reserving placement/payment: November 20, 2020
Close date or deadline for ad submission: January 1, 2021

Build a Byte Barn Grows to \$16,794+

Help Build RMDS New Website and Database!

RMDS is having a new database built and website designed. Our current database is over 30 years old and needs to be revamped in order for our organization to move forward.

Make your tax-deductible donation to help us upgrade our long-neglected database.

These technological improvements DIRECTLY impact how you are able to retrieve and see your scores, check on information, provide internet security, and streamline all the information needed to keep members informed.

Many thanks to our current Build a Byte Barn Sponsors!

Build a Byte Barn Donation Levels

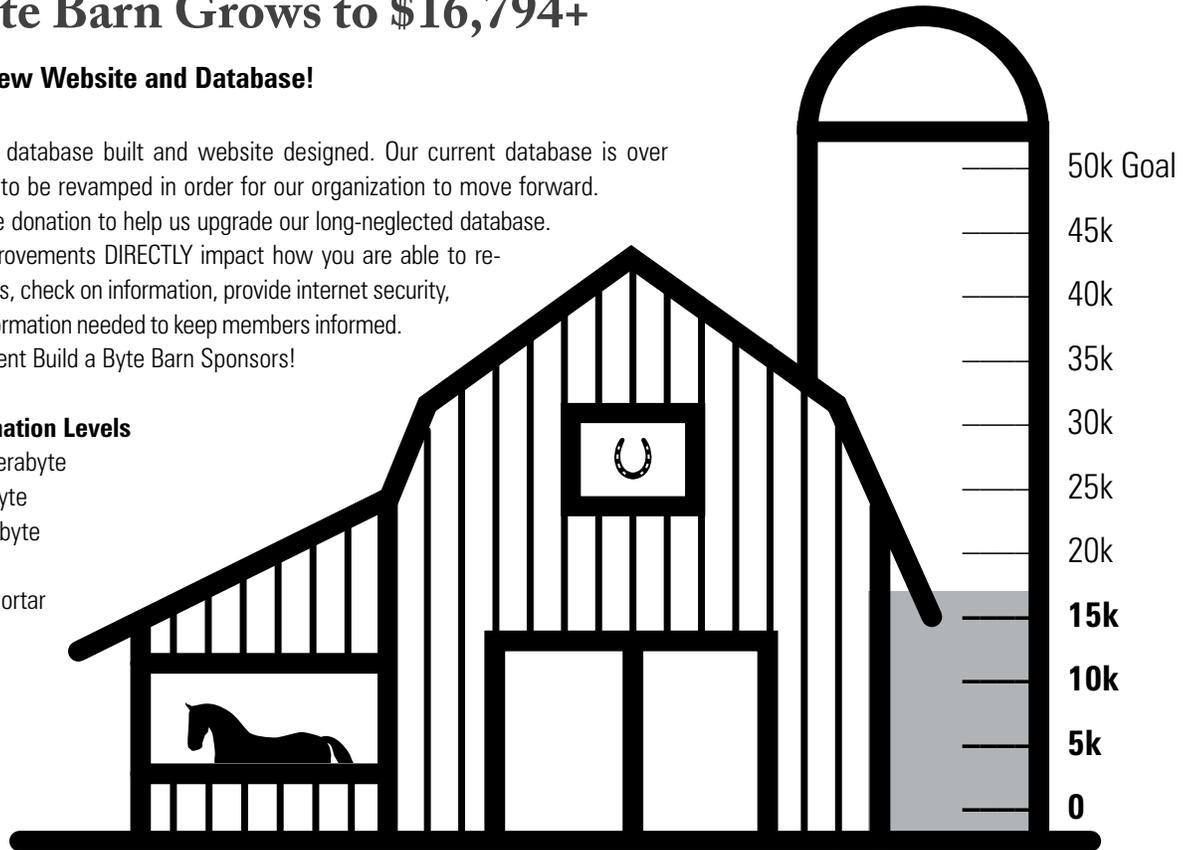
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Kellee James
Kirsten Johnstone
Yvette Karriker
Carol Kennedy
Cici Lee
Kristina Lee
Anne Lowatchie
Susan Martin
Ester McMann
Mary Lynne Munn
Nancy Reilly
Nancy Ross
Joie Williams

2020 RMDS Executive Board

President.....	Gwen Ka'awaloa	303-917-3679	Kaimana_co@hotmail.com
Past President.....	Simone Windeler	719-540-2000	simonedressage@gmail.com
Vice President	Dorothy Kapaun.....	970-310-5229	dorothykapaun@yahoo.com
Secretary	Heather Petersen	719-338-0854	slush@drwg.net
Treasurer.....	Sharon Soos.....	303-904-7534	sksoos@mesanetworks.net

Permanent Committees

Adult Amateur Co-Chairs.....	Anclaire Spaulding.....	303-903-7878.....	anclaire.spaulding@gmail.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@rmlds.org
Communications	Nicole Bizzarro	303-939-0110.....	nicbiz@indra.com
Centaur Editors	Frances Carbonnel Leanne Fesenmeyer Eleanor Harrison		
Print Centaur Production ..	Nicole Bizzarro	303-939-0110.....	nicbiz@indra.com
E-Centaur Production.....	Una Schade.....	720-862-4444.....	centaur@rmlds.org
Advertising.....	Central Office.....	720-890-7825	rmlds@rmlds.org
Omnibus Production	Nicole Bizzarro	303-939-0110	nicbiz@indra.com
Website	Central Office.....	720-890-7825	rmlds@rmlds.org
Education Co-Chairs	MaryJo Hoepner.....	719-495-3648	education@rmlds.org
	Pam Phillips.....	719-649-7497	education@rmlds.org
Junior/Young Riders.....	Cassandra DiPentino	303-641-9162	dipentinodressage@gmail.com
Marketing.....	Open		
Professionals Co-Chairs	Kathy Simard	720-981-4448.....	katsimard@msn.com
	Joan Clay.....	970-420-0887.....	jncly@comcast.net
RMDS Show Liaison	Anclaire Spaulding.....	303-903-7878.....	anclaire.spaulding@gmail.com
Scholarship	Natalie Defee-Mendik	720-287-1952	scholarship@rmlds.org

Appointed Committees

Banquet	Beth Geier	720-890-7825	rmlds@rmlds.org
BOG.....	Heather Petersen.....	719.338.0854	slush@drwg.net
Historical	Open		
Nominating.....	RMDS Central Office	720-890-7825	rmlds@rmlds.org
Central Office Manager	Beth Geier	720-890-7825	rmlds@rmlds.org
Western Dressage Liaison.....	Simone Windeler.....	719-540-2000	simonedressage@gmail.com

RMDS Central Office

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

Chapter Presidents

Arkansas Valley Dressage.....	Nancy Leonard	660-525-0084.....	fancyleonard@gmail.com
Boulder Valley Dressage	Stan Adamson.....	303-818-1876	adamsons100@msn.com
Foothills Dressage	Cassandra DiPentino	303-641-9162	dipentinodressage@gmail.com
Grand Valley Dressage	Arlene Rhodes	970-201-1779	arlene@skypony.org
High Plains Dressage	Stephanie Figgins.....	720-480-7044	stephanieefiggins@gmail.com
New Mexico Dressage.....	Maureen Mestas	505-310-1050.....	pferdfrau@gmail.com
Northern Colorado Dressage ...	Didi DeKrey.....	970-222-3104	denisedekrey@gmail.com
On the Bit Dressage.....	Ginka Kubelka.....	307-399-8763	gbuchner@uwyo.edu
Pikes Peak Dressage.....	Shannon Lemons.....	719-686-0064	lemons_shannon@yahoo.com
Western Colorado Dressage	Lesley Hill	970-925-9238.....	ljs@rof.net

Governing Bodies

United States Dressage Federation (USDF).....	4051 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511	859-971-227	www.usdf.org
USDF Region 5			
Director	Heather Petersen.....	719.338.0854	slush@drwg.net
FEI Jr/YR Coordinator	Joan Clay.....	970-420-0887	jncly@comcast.net
Website			www.usdfregion5.org
US Equestrian Federation, Inc (USEF)	4047 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511	859-258-2472	www.usef.org

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

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RMDS Central Office, 2942 Park Lake Dr., Boulder, CO 80301; phone: 720.890.7825; email: rmlds@rmlds.org.

RMDS Meeting Schedule

Due to COVID-19 we are holding meetings on such online platforms as Zoom. This makes it possible for folks who may not normally be able to travel to a specific location to join in and participate. Contact your local group for times and for more information.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

All RMDS Executive Board meetings are open to all and occur on the second Thursday of every odd-numbered month. Current schedule of Executive Board Meetings: January 9, March 12, May 14, July 7, September 8, October 8 (budget) Meeting time is 6:30 p.m. Meeting dates in 2020 may be variable, please check the calendar or the website. Contact the RMDS Central Office for location.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Arkansas Valley Dressage Association

Our monthly meetings are now being held by zoom. The board will meet at 5:30 and the general meeting will start at 6pm. The meeting ID is 644 624 6343. The password is 5yAsyu. Hope you can join us.
Nancy Leonard, avdaddressage2019@gmail.com
avdaddressage.org

Boulder Valley Dressage

2nd Monday, even months
Stan Adamson, adamsons100@msn.com
bouldervalleydressage.org

Foothills Chapter

Every other month/even months.
Cassandra DiPentino cofoothillsdressage.org/

Grand Valley Dressage Society

GVDS now meets through Zoom meetings, the third Monday of the month at 6:30 pm, Feb – Nov. Contact arlene@skypony.org for meeting logins.
Arlene Rhodes | gvds.org

High Plains Dressage

2nd Tuesday of every month – 5:30
6796 Ponderosa Drive, Parker, CO
Stephanie Figgins, stephaniefiggins@gmail.com
highplainsdressage.org

New Mexico Dressage

Location TBD
Maureen Maestas, pferdfrau@gmail.com
nmd-rmds.com

Northern Colorado Dressage Association (NCDA)

Our monthly meetings are at Mimi's Cafe, 1450 Fall River Drive, Loveland, CO, on the second Wednesday of the month from September through April.
Didi DeKrey, denisedekrey@gmail.com
noco-dressage.org



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**"No hour of life is wasted
that is spent in the saddle."**

- Winston Churchill

On the Bit Dressage (OTB)

1st Thursday every month. Location TBD.
Jessica Ford, 307-797-2478, aprilscomet97@yahoo.com
onthebitdressage.com

Pikes Peak Dressage

2nd Tuesday of the month. Due to Covid-19 we have currently postponed our in-person meetings. When things settle down, we will let everyone know when our next meeting is scheduled. Shannon Lemons, lemons_shannon@yahoo.com pikespeakdressage.org

Western Colorado Dressage: Location TBD.

Leslie Hill, ljs@rof.net

Communicating About Communications

By Nicole Bizzarro, Communications Chair

It's been a year for resetting, for renewing, for improvement. It has also been a hard year with hard choices.

In October at the RMDS budget meeting, facing the hardship of the database and website costs, and the double whammy of COVID-19 cancelling our events and fund raisers, our board members came to the unanimous decision that we could not continue to lose money on the Centaur. This will be the last print issue of the Centaur.

There I ripped the band aid off, that was the bad news, now let me give you the good news.

We will still get monthly news in the form of the eCentaur email newsletter. We are also increasing the size of our online ads, but not increasing the price. More for less is our motto for the upcoming year.

In addition the Omnibus is getting an over haul. The old half-page, three ring binder has seen its last days as well. In the place of both of these we are creating a better product that keeps the best qualities of both.

Introducing the RMDS Magazine. Our first issue, dubbed the Omnibus edition, will premier in early 2021. It will be a full-color and full-size, 8.5x11 inch perfect bound magazine that includes all the features you are accustomed to seeing in the Omnibus. The awards, the tests, the standing rules and by laws, etc., plus educational and editorial content generated by Scholarship Chair, Natalie DeFee Mendik. Mendik is a professional writer whose work has been featured in many national equestrian publications, including Horse Illustrated and the USDF Connection. We will continue to showcase personal narratives and stories submitted by our members. We value what you share, your experiences, your wisdom and your insights.

And here is the really good part. We are offering our members and our advertisers and sponsors more for less. The quality of printing will be better, The ad sizes will be bigger. Everyone will get color. And we are dropping the prices. We all know we like winning, and this will be a win, win, win. Better quality, better content and better pricing. (Check out the bigger ad sizes and smaller ad prices on page 12.) This will help everyone, and not least it will help RMDS, and that will help RMDS continue to help you on your dressage journey. It's what we are all about, it is in our mission and our tag line, but we can not do it without staying funded ourselves.

It's like dressage, better quality communication is key. More for less. But here is the thing we do need more of: we need you to renew your membership before next year, and we would love if you would consider placing an ad in one, or all of our publications. Advertise your service, your business, product, barn, horse, or thank or congratulate someone who deserves it. Your participation is so appreciated and so crucial. After all, that is what makes our individual efforts into our glorious sport.

RMDS Sponsored & Educational Events

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

Go to the RMDS website for signing up: www.rmds.org

FEBRUARY 2021

28-Mar 1 Rocky Mountain Horse Expo
To volunteer contact Sharon Soos 303-807-8742

APRIL 2021

17-18 Adult Amateur Clinic with George Williams
Location TBA

24-25 Professionals clinic with Lilo Fore
Tomora Training Center, Greeley, CO

SEPTEMBER 2021

TBA Rocky Mountain Sport Horse Championships – USEF
Location TBA

16-19 RMDS Championships & Region 5 Championships – USEF
HIPICO Santa Fe, Polo Drive, Santa Fe, NM

NOVEMBER 2021

TBA Board of Governors
Renaissance Hotel, Quebec St., Denver, CO

Executive Board Meetings:

Jan 14, March 11, May 13, July 8, Sept 9, Oct 14 (budget)

For details on these and other RMDS events:

- Contact the Education Chairman: education@rmds.org
- Read the Centaur
- Go on the website to the calendar - www.rmds.org
- Contact the RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org

"The essential joy of being with horses is that it brings us in contact with the rare elements of grace, beauty, spirit and freedom."

– Sharon Ralls Lemon

Anatomy of an Request For Proposal (RFP)

By MaryJo Hoepner, Education Chair

Cont'd from pg 1

The RFP was widely advertised. We had 25 inquiries from 4 countries including the US. A great deal of time and effort and technical expertise was allocated to responding to inquiries, answering questions, setting expectations, reviewing the current website with the potential bidders.

Ultimately we received 13 responses to the RFP. Again, significant time was spent reviewing the proposals. The proposals were forwarded to the RMDS board members and discussed at the May 2019 BOD meeting. After review and discussion we reduced the number to 2 proposals for additional consideration.

The final decision to work with CodeGeek was made at the July 2019 meeting after more discussion with the potential companies to clarify roles, costs, expectations.

We engaged an attorney to review the RMDS website and database contract and Statement of Work (SOA) with CodeGeek. Contract was signed.

Work began September 2019.

So, who IS CodeGeek? We are fortunate the company who worked the hardest to understand our requirements and who extremely accurately outlined their responses to each RFP element is a 'local' company with 15+ years experience developing websites and associated applications. The locale has allowed face to face interaction as well as remote interaction to define and test the product.

The new product has an elegant and useful appearance. Also the coding in the background will help the RMDS Central Office to perform all required activities more easily with less manual intervention.

(Note: The term USEFUL to someone like me is very high praise.)



A sneak-peek at the header of the new RMDS website still in the development stage. It's going to be beautiful, and it's going to function beautifully!



"Good attitude is most important. Good talent is second."

- George Morris



RMDS MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Individual Membership - \$65.00 (\$75 after January 10-late fee) Additional family members (same address) - \$50

Business Memberships - \$110.00 Education (non-competing) - \$50.00 Life Membership - \$825.00

Life Business Membership \$1,100.00 - 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):

Arkansas Valley

Grand Valley (Grand Junction area)

On the Bit (Wyoming)

Boulder Valley

High Plains (Parker, Littleton, Aurora)

Pikes Peak (Colo. Spgs. area)

Foothills (Golden, Evergreen)

N. Colorado (Ft. Collins, Loveland)

Western Colorado (Aspen, Vail etc.)

New Mexico Dressage

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State/ZIP _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (E-Mail) _____

USDF No. _____ Occupation _____

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

I pledge \$ _____ to go towards RMDS education

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) _____

Name of previous owner (if changing ownership) _____

All shows are RMDS recognized except schooling shows.

NOVEMBER 2020

- 7 **Triple Creek Schooling Show**
Triple Creek Ranch, Longmont, CO
Contact Lynn McChesney 303-444-4291
lynntriplecreek@gmail.com
- 7 **NMD-RMDS Schooling Show – Enchanted Fall!**
HIPICO Santa Fe, NM
Contact Maureen Mestas 505-310-1050
pferdfrau@gmail.com
- 21 **RMDS Board of Governors**
via Zoom
Contact RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825
rmds@mds.org
Delegates only vote-open to all

APRIL 2021

- 17-18 **Adult Amateur Clinic with George Williams**
Location TBA, Contact Anclaire Spaulding 303-903-7878
anclaire.spaulding@gmail.com
- 17-18 **NCDA: Ride-A-Test with Julie Haugen**
Contact Didi DeKrey denisedekrey@gmail.com
- 24-25 **Professionals clinic with Lilo Fore**
Tomora Training Center, Greeley, CO
RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org

MAY 2021

- 7-9 **Dressage for the Cure Warm-up & @ The Peak – USEF**
Colorado Horse Park, Parker, CO
Contact Heather Petersen 719-338-0854
slush@drwgw.net
- 15 **NCDA: Schooling Show with Sharron Sarchet**
Tomora Training Center, Greeley, CO
Contact Didi DeKrey denisedekrey@gmail.com
- 16 **NCDA: Clinic with Sharron Sarchet**
Phantom Hill Farm, Ft Collins, CO
Contact Didi DeKrey denisedekrey@gmail.com
- 29-30 **Nighthawk Dressage II & III – USEF**
Longmont, CO
Contact Heather Petersen 719-338-0854 slush@drwgw.net

JUNE 2021

- 5-6 **Grand Valley Dressage Show – USEF**
Mesa County Fairgrounds, Grand Junction, CO
Contact Karen Harkin 303-489-9487 ksharkin@gmail.com
- 18-19 **Sage Creek I & II – USEF**
Sage Creek Equestrian, Heber City, UT
Contact Simone Windeler 719-287-2040
simonedressage@gmail.com

- 19-20 **Rocky Mountain I & II – USEF**
Nighthawk Equestrian, Longmont, CO
Contact Heather Petersen 719-338-0854 slush@drwgw.net
- 26 **NCDA: Schooling Show with Simone Windeler**
Tomora Training Center, Greeley, CO
Contact Didi DeKrey denisedekrey@gmail.com
- 27 **NCDA: Clinic with Simone Windeler**
Nunn, CO Contact Didi DeKrey denisedekrey@gmail.com

JULY 2021

- 10-11 **Millbrook Farms Dressage Festival – USEF**
Fairfield, UT
Contact Jan Lawrence 801-631-2516
millbrk@xmission.com
- 17-18 **Rocky Mountain III & IV – USEF**
Nighthawk Equestrian, Longmont, CO
Contact Heather Petersen 719-338-0854 slush@drwgw.net
- 23-24 **Sage Creek III & IV – USEF**
Sage Creek Equestrian, Heber City, UT
Contact Simone Windeler 719-287-2040
simonedressage@gmail.com
- 31-Aug 1 **Boulder Valley Dressage at the Fairgrounds I & II – USEF**
Boulder County Fairgrounds, Longmont, CO
Contact Heather Petersen 719.338.0854 slush@drwgw.net
2whitefeet.com

AUGUST 2021

- 14-15 **Millbrook Farms Dressage Show – USEF**
Fairfield, UT
Contact Jan Lawrence 801-631-2516
millbrk@xmission.com
- 20-22 **Estes Park Dressage I & I – USEF**
Estes Park, CO
Contact Heather Petersen 719-338-0854 slush@drwgw.net

SEPTEMBER 2021

- 16-19 **Great American Insurance Group / USDF Region 5 Dressage – USEF**
HIPICO Santa Fe, NM
Contact Heather Petersen 719-338-0854
slush@drwgw.net www.2whitefeet.com

For updates to the calendar, go to the website: 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 at 6:30 pm

"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day-in and day-out."

– Robert Collier



USDF REGION FIVE

Arizona | Colorado | E. Montana | New Mexico | W. Texas | Utah | Wyoming

Message from Region 5 Director

Our first virtual convention! It's been an odd year, but we persevered and I hope many of the folks from Region 5 are able to join us for this convention when they might not normally be able to get away. It's a unique opportunity and I hope to see you on Zoom.

2020 has been a very hard year for our Region. The competition season started well in Arizona, but come March, almost all of the shows and educational events were cancelled. Colorado was able to have 2 shows in August, as was Arizona, but sadly most of our other states were not as fortunate.

We had to make the decision to cancel the USDF Region 5 Championships due to the lockdown of New Mexico and quarantine requirements. Several folks were able to change regions and compete in other Regionals. I hope everyone had successful ventures!

The 2020 US Dressage Finals were also cancelled but will hopefully be stronger next year with the 2020 Regional Championship top horses and riders being allowed to compete at the 2021 US Dressage Finals if they should so choose. 2021 will also see the addition of divisions for Junior/Young Riders at the US Dressage Finals. It will be an exciting year.

Next year the Regional Championships will be at HIPICO Santa Fe in Santa Fe, New Mexico, hosted by the New Mexico Dressage Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society. It will be held September 16-19, 2021.

The bid process for the 2022 USDF Region 5 Championships opens very soon. I very much hope we're able to keep as many parts of our Region in the process and hope that the championships will continue with a rotation to another great facility and GMO. Diversity is important and since our region is so large, it's very important to host the Regionals in various areas. Here's hoping we can keep the Regional Championships moving throughout our Region to better serve the membership. If you know of a facility we should consider, please let me know.

The North American Youth Championships were sadly cancelled for this year, but they will be held in Traverse City, Michigan for 2021. They will be held August 9-15 and hopefully more fundraising can be done to help support sending both a Junior and a Young Rider team.

We had a few combinations attend the USEF Festival of Champions at Lamplight in Illinois and represented Region 5 very well! Congratulations to everyone who participated and thank you for your hard work.

The USDF Junior / Young Rider clinic was held October 10-11 at Reverie Farms in Longmont, Colorado with George Williams. We had 13 applications and 8 riders were chosen to ride. Many thanks to Reverie Farms and Nancy Davis for donating the facilities for this clinic. Congratulations to the following riders that rode with George – Gaylen Davis, Charlotte Dunn, Megan Kelleghan, Naomi Kumar, Emma Lavin, Nadine Lurz, Rosie Nowlin, and Elizabeth Petersen. There were no auditors due to Covid, but the kids rode very well and learned a lot.

This year Region 5 was allocated 5 Participating Member delegates to the USDF Board of Governors meeting. Eva Maria Adolphi, our Nominating Committee member, rounded up a nice diverse roster of 5 individuals to fill those spots. Your delegates are Joan Clay, Cecilia Cox, Sarah Lindsten, Kay Lorenzen and Sarah Martin. These 5 members are a nice representation of the different states/areas in Region 5. Our Nominating Committee folks also worked hard to get representation for all our eligible GMOs in the Region or proxies to cover their votes. If you are interested in being a PM delegate for 2021, please don't hesitate to contact our new Nominating Committee member, Dorothy Kapaun. We will hopefully be back "in person".

And lastly, a few of updates from some of our organizations and GMOs and what they've been up to this year.

Taka Chi Dressage (Sarah and Clayton Martin) every summer invites 6-8 professional dressage trainers from around the country to come for a week of training and theory. They offer this week as support to hard working pro's who deserve to have their education supported/continued. They donate the 5 days of lessons, they just pay stall board and do self-care.

They always bring in a trainer from Pilates/Yoga/other so they are learning and doing on their own bodies as well as their horses.

The format of riding, speaking and instructing with a group of their peers helps them get comfortable for "L" programs and instructor workshops. This year they focused on long lining every day as a warm up for riding,

and for them to see and feel how introducing half steps at any stage of a horse's development really helps both horse and handler understand how collection develops at different training stages. This year they had every level spanning training to Grand Prix, so participants could see the different degrees of expectation and duration according to the stage of development. If any other groups or GMOs are interested in the way Sarah and Clayton have set up their "camp", they are happy to share and encourage others in our community to donate with their actions if they are unable to support the sport monetarily.

The Central Arizona Riding Academy will be doing the first USDF L Program Part 2 since the Covid issue.

The dates are as follows:

October 31-Nov 1, 2020 USDF D1 Scottsdale

January 22-24 USDF D2 Queen Creek

April 17-18 Final testing.

Also their horse show has now grown to 2 shows: Champagne I and II. These shows will be January 22 and Jan 23-24 at Horseshoe Park in Queen Creek, Arizona.

The Rocky Mountain Dressage Society has had a busy and frustrating 2020 year. We started out with clinics for Judges Continuing Education moderated by Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez in January followed by a Technical Delegates/Show Managers Clinic moderated by Heather Petersen. Both were well attended.

Then the year started to fall apart and our clinic for adult amateurs, professionals and the Youth/AA Team competition all had to be cancelled due to Covid. Most all the shows were cancelled with the exception of 1 weekend having 2 USEF/USDF recognized shows in Estes Park and a very limited few RMDS only recognized shows were held.

For 2021 we hope to have all the clinics and many more shows. Our calendar is filling up fast so go to <http://rmds.org/Calendar/Home> to keep up to date.

Our big project for 2020-2021 is getting the database/website brought up to the 21st century technology. A huge project taking many hours of programming. If you wish to donate to RMDS, it would be greatly appreciated so we may continue with the excellent educational programs that are offered. <http://www.rmds.org/Main/Payment>

Have a wonderful 2021 year.

In spite of a dearth of area shows because of Covid-19 restrictions, the Santa Fe Dressage Association had a great year.

In late 2019, the recently-increased Board of Directors changed leadership. The membership thanks Dianne Delayo, founding member and president, for her service. Founding member Heather Miles is now serving as co-president with long-time member Cathy Soller. They've had a "trial by fire" in this difficult year but have led the SFDA to a series of successes. In 2020, the SFDA inaugurated an improved website at Santafedressa-

geassociation.com. Bonnie Schwartz of Santa Fe, webmaster, and board member Julia Boaz-Cooper set up a compartmentalized site including photos, a calendar, and a recording of an educational webinar.

The SFDA's missions are to produce top-rated Level 3 USEF dressage shows and to provide educational events for the growth and development of members. In 2020, the annual show which drew more than 100 horses last year was cancelled because of Covid-19 restrictions.

However, SFDA was able to mount three seminars: Ann Hale, equine research veterinarian, spoke in person in early March about the latest in regenerative medicine. On the same day, Dominic Lombardo delivered an enlightening presentation on the latest in technical innovations to improve horsemanship, from shoeing to showing. In May Dr. Jason Turner, extension horse specialist and equine professor at New Mexico State University, delivered a welcome webinar entitled Nutrition for the Performance Horse to followers in front of their computers.

The Board of Directors is now planning its annual meeting for November 2020. This will be a virtual meeting with a pre-recorded speaker on a topic of interest for members, to be announced.

On Memorial Day weekend, 2021, SFDA will host a two-day mounted seminar in Santa Fe with 5* Judge Janet Foy, clinician. The focus will be on the technical aspects of freestyle riding as well as other topics enabling re-certification of judges. The Level 3 recognized show for July 2021 is being planned. Look for it!

SFDA asks members to send photos sharing what they've been doing to webmaster Bonnie Schwartz at bss9878@gmail.com.

SFDA urges all in its region and everywhere to stay safe and be patient. Continue loving and training the horses and get ready for future competitions.

-Heather Petersen, Region 5 Director



**"There is much we can learn from a friend
who happens to be a horse."**

- Aleksandra Layland

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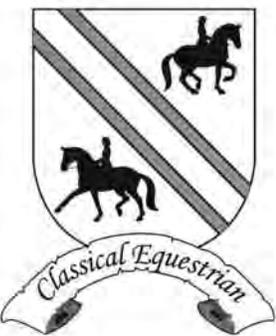
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**"A true horseman does not
look at a horse with his eyes,
he looks at his horse
with his heart."**

– Unknown

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