



In This Issue

October 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

VP MESSAGE

JR/YR PIZZA PARTY

TRAINING FOR WINTER: HEAD FOR CALIFORNIA OR FLORIDA

CHAMPS PHOTOSNAPS

ADVERTISE HERE

The RMDS e-Centaur offers color click-through ads for your company, product, service or item for sale. Rates are \$50 per issue and additional specifications can be found here.

SCORE CHECK! SCORE CHECK! SCORE CHECK!

The Central Office has been working frantically getting all the year-end scores tallied, and Beth is finding a few issues, like similar horse names, a horse being sold, name changed, etc.

It is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT for you to check your scores NOW! Go to <http://rmds.org/Awards/Home>

NEW APPAREL!

Did you miss the chance to pick up some new RMDS clothing at Championships? Many cool items still available, including the new sleeveless polo, sport-tek shirt, jacket (perfect for cool fall days), and commemorative and volunteer t-shirts.

Click [here](#) for pics-and order from the Central Office.

Happening This Month

- 3-4 Christoph Hess Symposium-professionals-closed
- 5 Christoph Hess Symposium-open Auditors welcome at the door
- 10-11 GVDS Schooling Show III
- 10 Arkansas Valley Chapter: Schooling Show
- 10 Dressage/Jumping Schooling Show - Crossroads Equestrian
- 16-18 2015 USDF/Great American Region 5 Championships
- 18 NCDA Hearts & Horses Benefit Schooling Show
- 25 Dressage Schooling Show-tentative, Plane View Farms
- 31-1 USDF L Program - Final

Go to [Calendar](#) to see complete list of upcoming USEF/RMDS Show Schedule, clinics, schooling shows and events.

Chapters

RMDS has 12 chapters in the Rocky Mountain Region. Check for changed days/times/places of meetings! If you would like to change your chapter affiliation you must personally notify the central office in [writing](#).

[Click for Chapters](#)

USDF Region 5

Click [HERE](#) for latest report from Heather Petersen, USDF Region 5 Director.

For the latest updates and current Region 5 news. [Click for Region 5](#)

Marketplace

Our Marketplace advertisers support RMDS while promoting their businesses.

[Click for our advertisers](#)

Classified Ads

Clearing out your tack room? List your items in our classifieds, or see what is for sale.

[Click for Classifieds](#)

Advertise with us

RMDS has many print, show season, championship and online advertising opportunities to reach your targeted equine market.

[Click for Ad info](#)

Facebook

RMDS and many of our chapters are on Facebook, like our page to keep up with us.

[Like us here](#)

CHAMPIONSHIPS AT ESTES PARK

Dressage Ducky Takes All!



While Big Boss Checks Grounds

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here it is October and as I fall in love again with the autumn colors I am also reflecting and remembering the wonderful days in Estes Park at Championships. Thank you to the volunteers for covering all the positions. If one had to call off there was always someone to step up. What a super group of people we have in RMDS!

Mornings were cool and one misty but the sun came out every day. The winds were a bit much and the judges hunkered down in coats and blankets. Scribes held on tightly to tests and the grounds crew chased all debris that flew by. Unlike a few years ago the awards ceremonies were mounted as the winds turned down a bit for those.

I tried very hard to thank every volunteer but I know I missed several people so please accept my apologies for not getting to you personally. I arrived on Wednesday night and stayed in a group room. What a fun time as I was lucky enough to stay with friends that I rarely get to see. Late nights talking about RMDS and how it has grown from the early 1980's. Remembering horses from our past and friends who have moved away or over the rainbow. I am smiling now thinking about those wonderful evenings and morning talks over coffee.

Each year I am awed by how the Two White Feet Management Team and the RMDS Board Members get together and make this show happen. With the support of our membership filling in, all those vital positions the management team keep things rolling. From the very basics of the grounds management to adjustments in ride times and schedules each day seemed to be completed with very few hiccups. Awards ceremonies were flawless in execution. It was an entire village to pull this show off every year and we seem to be working more like a family. I am proud to be the President of a wonderful organization that is representative of outstanding people.

I had the privilege to spend time with the judges as well. Every one of them were so happy to be in Estes and although the wind was a challenge they enjoyed the hospitality of Estes and our membership. The overall impression is that we have a great group of riders and horses. So the classes were so tight in scoring because the quality was so outstanding. Two of the judges commented on the smiles they saw every day and the obvious camaraderie of our riders.

Once again **Thank You** to all who were in Estes and to those who supported the effort either through sponsorship, a phone call, volunteering or as a spectator. Thank you to the competitors who worked so hard to get to Estes and competed with such grace and beauty.

The experience was so great for me this year and I sincerely hope that other folks had the same heartfelt joy. *Mahalo nui loa*

Aloha, Gwen Ka'awaloa

Are You a Creative or Crafty Type?

The November issue will be featuring RMDS members who create art and other creative gift items, just in time for the Holiday Gift season. Send a pic or two and a description of what you do, and how to contact you to: CentaurPublisher@gmail.com

RMDS MEMBERS ONLY!

MESSAGE FROM THE VP

After a wonderful show season, I always feel so satisfied, like after a good ride. We are privileged to have Estes Park to hold Championships this year. Estes is a stunning venue, a wonderful town, with great people. What a fabulous and fun show! Thank you to all the volunteers, and to RMDS for an amazing effort to always make Championships great.

This year RMDS has gone above and beyond, providing great dressage education, shows, and support to our members. There are clinics, symposiums, recognized and schooling shows every weekend. We are making judge training more available, and providing freestyle forums to increase participation in the sport of dressage. Our young rider program is blossoming, and we are incorporating fun activities to celebrate our dressage prodigies.

My themes for this next year are gratitude and respect. It is so important that each of us demonstrate these characteristics in dressage. Since dressage is learned through a mentorship program, the themes of gratitude and respect are always present and important for the sport to grow. Enjoy our wonderful sport, get involved, and most of all, share your love of horses with others. Whether I see you at a show, or an educational event, know that I care about your opinion, and I want to see you succeed in dressage, and in your relationship with your horse.

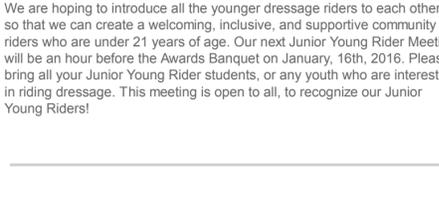
When we give our horses gratitude and respect, anything is possible.

kindest Regards,
Aline Brandau, JD
VP RMDS

Jr/YR Pizza Party at Champs

from Aline Brandau, VP

RMDS sponsored a pizza party for the Junior Young Riders up in Estes Park, at the dressage Championships, September 17-20th, 2015. It was a fun evening for the young riders to hang out and socialize on Saturday night.



We are hoping to introduce all the younger dressage riders to each other, so that we can create a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive community for riders who are under 21 years of age. Our next Junior Young Rider Meeting will be an hour before the Awards Banquet on January, 16th, 2016. Please bring all your Junior Young Rider students, or any youth who are interested in riding dressage. This meeting is open to all, to recognize our Junior Young Riders!

Cabin Fever in the Rockies: Where to Go In the Winter With Your Equine Partner

California

by Shannon Dahmer

Hi, my name is Shannon Dahmer. I was asked to write about what I do in the winter/spring months with my horses. Well, here is a little bit about me first. I have earned my USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals.



I have also earned my USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold Freestyle Bars. I am also a HUGE Denver Broncos fan. I love to take my girls, Lexi (Golden) and Chloe (yellow lab) with me whenever I can.

Currently, I train at Castlewood Equestrian Center in Franktown, CO. It is a great facility with trails and rolling hills. I like to do hill work with the horses as long as weather permits. When the weather gets cold and nasty and it's even too cold to ski, I head to Southern California. I have been traveling to California every winter since 1998. I worked with Hilda Gurney from 98-2009 and now I have been working with Kathleen Raine since 2010. She is based at her own Adventure Farms in Murreleta, CA. It is nice to get out of the cold weather for a month or two. My horses also seem to enjoy it.

I go there to show and train with Kathleen Raine and David Wightman. It is so nice to have daily instruction with all the horses. I base either at Adventure Farms or at Johann Hinnermann's just down the street if Kathleen's is too full. It is a great learning experience all the way around. You get to have your lesson and then watch lessons being taught. You are completely immersed in "horse heaven"! I also go to zumba a few times per week. I have to "get my dance on" while I'm away from my gym in CO.

My clients and I rent a house nearby for 4-6 weeks. We find the house by VRBO or by word of mouth. We have rented the same property every year now for the last 3 yrs. It is close by and we can bring our dogs. Most of the horse shows are within a one hour drive. So, we usually just drive back and forth. If it's further, we get a hotel.

As far as the shows go, I try to hit the Festival of the Horse and then San Juan Capistrano Show. There is also a smaller nicely run show in Temecula. I finish the trip with The Del Mar Horse Show. There are shows every weekend that one could go to that aren't the huge shows, but are recognized. California Dreaming Productions is putting on 4 CDI's this winter/spring. L.A. Winter CDI- Jan 28-31, Mid-Winter CDI- Feb 25-28, Dressage Affaire CDI- Mar 10-13, and Festival of the Horse-Mar 30-31 April 1-2. For more information on these shows go to www.californiadreamingproductions.com Also, info on Del Mar Horse Show is at www.delmarinternational.com If you want info on smaller recognized shows go to www.california-dressage.org

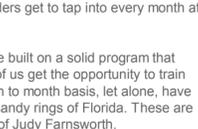
I hope this helps anyone that gets "cabin fever" in the winter months. If you have any questions, I would be happy to help. Contact me at bergeist411@hotmail.com

Horse Transport that we use back and forth to California is www.firstclassequinettransport.com - Call Annick 970-846-6392

Florida

by Sabrina Bablitz

It all started, when Susan DeSilvia asked me to continue to host her clinician, Judy Farnsworth, whom she met in Florida - Susan was becoming crazy busy with the development of her business Pro Horse Productions. Never would I have thought that, 3 years later, we would not only have such a consistent program with committed riders but to see so many of these riders hit the Florida circuit.



Residing in Annapolis Maryland for most of the year, Judy hits the sun and sand of Florida from January through April. Judy has shown the Florida circuit for 27 years - achieving her gold, silver and bronze medals. Judy has developed an enormous depth of knowledge that only time and experience can give a person. This knowledge moves beyond the saddle to the oh so important care and management of a true working show horse. This level of expertise is what we Colorado dressage riders get to tap into every month at Barry's Equestrian.

The development of the horse and rider are built on a solid program that remains positive and consistent. Very few of us get the opportunity to train with an active Grand Prix coach on a month to month basis, let alone, have the opportunity to take that training to the sandy rings of Florida. These are the opportunities available to the students of Judy Farnsworth.



Judy Farnsworth under the Florida palms.

Knowledge in the saddle and stable are what Grand Prix riders have, however, Judy Farnsworth's super talent is her ability to teach. Like no other coach, Judy has the incredible ability to give each rider the confidence to believe in both their abilities as well as their horses. It does not matter whether you are on a talented young horse, showing FEI or riding your quarter horse for pleasure; Judy believes in each horse and every rider! Her explanations throughout her lessons just make sense. The tools that are given in lessons aim to increase suppleness and develop thoroughness and connection to the outside rein. With every horse fitness and age are taken into consideration and lessons are geared around what the horse and rider can do. Positivity rings clear and never will you hear a harsh word - as Judy herself quotes, "I teach how I want to be taught". These aspects are why many of us have committed ourselves to her program and why several have the confidence to venture down to Florida.

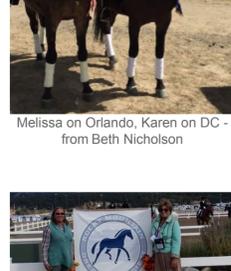
Clinics with Judy Farnsworth are held once a month at Barry's Equestrian - auditing is always free and open to the public, please join us this October 14/15/16, and November 5/6/7! Lessons are \$145 per ride and we host it over 3 days with a \$10 trailer in fee per day. Stabling is available at \$30 per night. Boarding also available at \$650 per month. For more information or to get put on our email list please contact:

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Photo Snaps of Championships 2015



Shannon Dahmer with Lakota and Comanche



Melissa and Karen on Orlando, DC - from Beth Nicholson



RMDS President Gwen Ka'awaloa and TD Joyce Hardesty



Courtney Brock on Warrior Maximus sporting the new RMDS Jacket!



Elizabeth Petersen riding Orrwood Madison Bay and her trainer Jennifer Gage leading Simply Amazing to an awards ceremony.