



# e-Centaur

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DRESSAGE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2016 E-CENTAUR

**SAVE THE DATES**  
**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
NOV 5, 2016  
**ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET**  
JAN 16, 2017

**CONNELLY STEINER CLINIC WALK-INS AT THE DOOR OK**  
**Non-USDF member-**  
\$70/day \$125/both  
**USDF member -**  
\$50/day or \$90/both  
[CLICK HERE](#) for details

**IN THIS ISSUE**  
PRESIDENT MSG  
SNAPSHOTS OF CHAMPIONSHIPS

**CLICK THRU ADS AVAILABLE HERE!**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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**MARKETPLACE**

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**Send Your Articles, Pictures and Comments**

**Share What You Learn, Earn Volunteer Hours**

*Attend an event, write an article and share the knowledge.*

*Members who write an article for Centaur earn credit for two volunteer hours. A phone photo is great, also. Deadlines are the 5th of every month. For details, contact Communications Chair [Linda Gaber](#).*

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## President's Message

Fall is here and the colors in Colorado are so beautiful. Our horses are beginning to grow their winter coats as the air becomes cooler each day.

September was the end of the 2016 show season but so much happened at our RMDS and Region 5 Championships. Wind was the daily theme for our weather and it played havoc with tents and decorations.

The grounds crew managed to put the rings back together every day. The awards ceremonies were changed for safety reasons on Sunday but the smiles and cheers were still beautiful. Horses and riders demonstrated the variety we so cherish in our sport: different breeds, nationalities and ages of horse and rider.

RMDS sponsors provided dinner every evening. Pizza Wednesday, Fried Chicken Thursday, Barbeque Friday and Qdoba Saturday. If you were present on Friday then you were part of the Trivia contest and dance contests. Fun and camaraderie were the theme each evening.

Volunteers came from everywhere.....

### ***The show came together because of outstanding volunteers, sponsors and wonderful competitors.***

Next up is the USDF Adult Clinic in Longmont. If you did not preregister you can still get in at a slightly higher cost, but well worth it. A great opportunity to learn from some of the most exceptional clinicians.

The Board of Governors Meeting is on November 5th and I hope more members will attend to watch the process in action as we plan for 2017. If you cannot attend make sure your Chapter representatives know your thoughts and hopes for RMDS.

Enjoy the fall colors and temperatures, spend time with your families and friends. Ride when you can and make plans for winter and spring.

Aloha, Gwen Ka'awaloa

## Snapshots From Championships



*From Una Schade, RMDS Marketing Chair and volunteer:* The 2016 RMDS & USDF Region 5 Championships were a success for all that competed. We had rides ranging from Training Level all the way through Grand Prix, including Freestyles. Although Colorado tried her best to sweep us away (it was WINDY!) it was still a fun show with lots of ribbons and awards given out. There were tons of fun events including the Friday Night Dance and Dinner hosted by many of our generous Professionals. We are so thankful to have a venue as beautiful as the Estes Park Events Complex to host our Championship show in. We couldn't have

made this show happen without the over 200 volunteers that helped over the course of the show. We hope to see you at RMDS events & Championships next year!

*Photo credit: Kathleen Bryan*



*>From Sarah Dodge, Professionals Committee Chair:* The RMDS Professionals Sponsored Dinner was a success! We had a fantastic turnout for this evening of food, drinks, prizes and dancing. The evening was sponsored by PW Dressage, AMC Training and Sales, Sarah Dodge Dressage, The Hillside Center, Lauren Smith Dressage, Gwen Ka'awaloa, Gigi Brittain Dressage, Joan Clay-Dressage Elements, Westmanton Stables, Taka Chi Dressage Stables, Simone Ahern, and DiPentino Dressage. We had great BBQ from Smokin Dave's and some challenging trivia questions. There were great prizes for the trivia and dance contests. Thank you to the sponsors and the attendees for making this a memorable evening! Be sure not to miss this event next year!

*From Martha Brown, competitor:* This is the second year in a row that Winston, aka "Toby", and I qualified to compete at RMDS Championships. We were both happy to see some familiar faces and meet some new folks. Our strolls up and down Vendor Lane provided treats for both of us as well as plenty of opportunities to socialize. We enjoyed the luxury of watching riders beyond our level of competition warming up and competing. We were grateful for some pretty nice weather during the days and not-too-cold temps at night. Our coach, RaeAnn Cook, and I attended the evening events held near the show office. I'd like to extend my thanks to all of those who made them possible. It was great to have some time to meander among the fellow competitors at day's end and chat it up a little with folks. RMDS and its affiliates not only put on a great show, but also provided for great camaraderie at days' ends.



*From Nicole Glusenkamp, competitor:* RMDS did, as expected, an outstanding job with this years RMDS/USDF championships!! 2 White Feet ( Heather Peterson, John Haugen and crew ) went above and beyond to make this show run smoothly, even when Mother Nature had other plans ( high winds ) ! I thought that the parties where a great addition for this year's championships, it was a great opportunity to get to know your fellow competitors better and just be around friends. I'm looking forward to hopefully competing at next year's championship.

*From Suzie Hallé, competitor:* Tennyson (Tenny) competed 4 back-to-back Grand Prix's in as many days. The aspect of this Championships I am most proud of, given it was the most rigorous schedule we have done to date, is being able to successfully achieve my goal of having Tenny feel more fresh and more energetic in his last test over his first. A lot of thought and planning went into the two weeks of training preparation for Championships with this in mind, and careful management of his warm ups and nutrition at the show paid off in achieving a horse with energy to spare after our 5:30 pm Sunday freestyle, the very last class of the show. That made me most happy. A wonderful highlight was our fun barn group - Stephanie Figgins, Judy Farnsworth, Alli Dechant, Lisa Hainsfield, Rachel Dodd, Roy Toppings, Martha Brown, RaeAnn Cook, Mary Sherman, Olga Hendrickson, Kathleen Bryan and across the aisle Jenny Baldwin, Lauren Smith and their crews as well as Kathy Simard Lori Kelt and their group. The kindness of friendship and kindness exuded by these people truly made this show a delight. We all helped one another, from loaning step stools, bridle cleaning racks, hoof polish, spurs and cold lasers, to sharing freshly picked apples, Mike's Lemonade, wine, cashews and Chinese herbal liniments. There were teaching and comparing of the latest sewn in braiding and polo wrapping techniques. We had a communal white board with our ride times so we were able to show up and cheer for and provide feedback to one another. Triumphs and shortcomings were met with laughter and hugs of support. To share you couldn't have asked for a more fun positive group to truly Championships with. Fostering that kind of spirit was a true gift you simply can't plan for. It just comes together. So, thank you to these fun folks for making 2016 Championships memorable and fun. Now, Tenny and I have 5 weeks ahead in which we plan to focus on US Dressage Finals where we will ride our Grand Prix Freestyle and the Grand Prix representing Region 5. Wishing best of luck to my friends Heather Brady and her trainer Allan Swafford from NM who will also be competing the Grand Prix representing Region 5.



**Suzie Halle & Tennyson with Heather Brady & Don head to US Dressage Finals Grand Prix to represent Region 5**



**Professionals (?) party: Mary, Stephanie, Julie, Suzie, Olga enjoying Pro Committee Chair Sarah Dodge's fabulously organized Trainers' Party**



**The Barn U crowd**

*From Lisa Battan, competitor and sponsor:* Thank you to everyone for this well organized event. Everything ran very smoothly and the coordination of the army of people that it takes to make an event of the size run well is truly impressive! I am very proud of Jenny Baldwin and the work she had done this year with my young horse Baltic 6.



**Lisa Battan & Baltic 6**



**The ribbon line-up**

*From Beverly Swanson, RMDS Championships Liaison:* A huge thank you to everyone who made this possible, from the volunteers to the sponsors to the competitors to the judges to the management. While Estes is always a challenge, it is also a gorgeous setting for such a wonderful group of people and their courageous horses. The atmosphere of camaraderie and support that surrounds this final show of the season can be felt everywhere. Congratulations to all!

***PS- Complete results will be published in the November Centaur.***

**USDF CONVENTION**  
Nov. 30 - Dec. 3, 2016  
[more info](#)

Our mailing address is:  
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Boulder, CO 80301

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