



CENTAUR

educating horse and rider as partners

SEPTEMBER 2013

A Peek Inside

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Our Annual Celebration of Dressage

RMDS Championships September 18-22

By Beverly Swanson, RMDS Show Liaison

When this issue hits your mailbox, we will be only 18 days away from the first day of RMDS Championships – and this year, we are hosting the Great American/USDF Region 5 finals also. Top competitors will be strutting their stuff while some of the best judges in the country evaluate their performance. I'm sure that every RMDS member knows at least one person or horse showing during this five-day event. This year, it's our goal to include everyone as part of the festivities.

The theme this year is "How Dressage, and Horses, Have Shaped My Life." Embodying this theme is a very special young woman, Devon Wycoff.

I've had the personal satisfaction of observing Devon since her first year at Jr/YR Camp several years ago, and her perseverance of both her riding and her personal growth are inspirational to all of us. Devon has graciously

Cont'd on pg 7

Return Your Trophy

When you're packing your trailer for championships, remember that we will be collecting trophies at the show office, so it's easy to return them when you check in! Remember that all perpetual trophies need to be returned by Sept.30 to avoid late fees. If you cannot bring your trophy to championships, please contact Shannon Lemons at lemons_shannon@yahoo.com to make alternate arrangements.

News Flash!

pg
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NEW HOY Awards
for
Adult Amateurs

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

Correct Movement, Diet Among Several Components of a Healthy Hoof, Sound Horse

By Leslie Carrig

Leslie Carrig is a hoof care practitioner at High Desert Hoof Care in Longmont, CO.

This is the second in the series Dressage and the Barefoot Horse focusing on equine hoof health. First article appeared in August e-Centaur, rmds.org, Centaur, August 2013.

There is more to keeping a horse barefoot than pulling off the shoes. There are several factors that affect the health of a hoof and, therefore, the soundness of the horse. A healthy hoof requires a healthy lifestyle. This includes nutrition, environment, movement, regular hoof care and hoof protection when needed.

Genetics, of course, play a part in hoof health. We have lost natural selection in domestication and often breed for things other than hoof quality. You start with the genetic hoof your horse was born with, but there are many factors that determine its development and how much of its individual potential it will reach.

Cont'd on pg 6

President's Message

September marks the end of the show season and the chance to shine for all RMDS members. On Sept. 18, we are hosting the Rocky Mountain Sport Horse Breeding Championships. Sept. 19 to 22, we are hosting the Great American Insurance Group/ USDF Region 5 Dressage Championships and RMDS Championships and Open Show, all at the Colorado Horse Park, Parker. Here are so many opportunities for RMDS members to compete, volunteer, advertise their products and services, and have fun with other members.

Our new Vice President Aline Brandau and new Show Committee Chair Beverly Swanson have been hard at work finding sponsors for classes and evening events. I am jealous that they are planning so much fun and I will be in New York judging. I guess I will need to enjoy the entertainment on the East Coast. Contact them at championships@rmds.org for information on sponsorship opportunities, vendor

packet, show program advertising and volunteering.

As RMDS grows and looks forward to



Gwen Ka'awaloa earned her USDF Gold Medal in 2012 with her horse Safarie.

giving more to all its members, I hope that the membership will show their pride and be a part of the championship show, whether or not you come to ride, groom, cheer or just participate in the festivities.

Please keep an eye on the Calendar as we are planning several educational events. October starts with the USDF Instructors program and, this is just the beginning. The RMDS Board is looking at several educational programs. All members need to feel free to voice their suggestions as we start the 2014 calendar.

My thoughts will be with everyone at the show as we complete the season and move forward toward the Board of Governors meeting and Awards Banquet on Nov. 9. Enjoy the fall weather and the changing colors of the season.

Aloha,

– Gwen Ka'awaloa, President, RMDS

Vice President's Message

As the summer winds down, we are gearing up for a great RMDS Championships. Beverly Swanson and I have been working on the marketing aspect of the show and planning lots of fun events. We want to be gracious and include horse lovers from all disciplines, so we are working on getting some exciting new vendors, and some new sponsors to give our end-of-the-season party a kick.

Dressage is fun. There is nothing like shifting your weight, using your aids lightly and feeling that perfect step and angle click into place. It is like a hidden, difficult, magical language. Dressage creates symmetry, health and beauty in the horse. Their personalities shift, becoming more confident, poised and dependable. I have



Aline Brandau with her 8-year-old black Hanoverian "Aline's Sara" out of Simply Spruce Meadows bloodline.

seen it do the same for us, the riders.

Please get involved with our great sport and volunteer. We need everyone to pitch in and make this championship show series great for horses, riders, trainers, vendors, advertisers and all attendees. As the new Vice President of RMDS, I would like to foster a positive environment of graciousness. To be gracious is to be thankful, and to treat all people with respect.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you. Please call me with any cares and concerns. I am so excited to be working to further our great sport.

– Aline Brandau, Vice President, RMDS

Colorado Springs Dressage Association

In 1979, the first CSDA year-end award of the Ruth Chase Tyree Perpetual Trophy was presented to Kathy Thompson as the Training Level Champion. Kathy also won the High Point Champion Trophy.

Over the years, CSDA has continued to expand its chapter awards program and in 2012, we presented a total of 55 trophies, ribbons and plaques to our members. These awards honored riders from Training Level through FEI, horses in breed and in-hand categories, and non-riding awards to volunteers and individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the chapter and the sport of dressage.

This year, the Chapter Board has updated our awards program. Many of the qualification requirements for the year-end awards have been changed and the updated program is now posted on the CSDA website at www.csdressage.org/awards.php.

2012 CSDA Year-End Award winners need to return their trophies to CSDA on or before Oct. 1. Contact CSDA Awards Chair Joan Stang at 719-633-7549 or by email at stang204-joan@yahoo.com to make arrangements to return your award.

Do not leave CSDA Year-End trophies in the show office at RMDS Championships. CSDA representatives will not be picking trophies up from the show office at Championships at Colorado Horse Park. If you leave the trophy there, it may become lost and the winner will be charged for the cost of replacing it.

CSDA general membership meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month and all CSDA members and their guests are welcome to attend.

The agenda, meeting time, location and directions are posted on the website at www.csdressage.org.

– *Pat Leech, President*

Foothills Chapter

Members of the Foothills Chapter are geared up for our Last Chance Show on Sept. 8 at A Rising Star Equestrian Center in Arvada. Jan Danis has done a wonderful job as Show Manager and we hope that we can count on her in the future.

During our last chapter meeting held in August at The Golden Hotel in Golden, we had some new faces attend with some of the standby members. Thank you all.

One of the discussions we had was what to do in 2014? We came up with a great educational event to be held in the winter months of next year. Stay tuned to our Foothills Facebook page and website as we develop the event. It will start your 2014 horse season with education, inspiration and fellowship.

– *Lori Mitchell, President*

Northern Colorado

We all are busy with our horses and the months go by so fast it sure seems like we lose a few days of summer every year. Hard to believe fall is just around the corner!

A lot of our NCDCA members have been busy this summer showing their horses. After a long winter of training, going to clinics and schooling shows, it's time to test our skills in the arena. Many of our members participated in the USDF Region 5 Adult/Team Competition at Tamora Training Center, Greeley, in June.

The first NCDCA fall activity will be in October. We're working on a Cross Training Clinic, but haven't locked in a date yet. We're hoping to add a little spice to our horses' routine by learning how to properly use cavalletti and small gymnastic jumps to enhance their training. In late October our annual Halloween on Horseback is always a big favorite. The games are so much fun for horse and rider. Then we enjoy a potluck lunch and warm cider. We would love to have other chapters come join the fun. More details to follow in Centaur.

We're talking about a schooling show in early November, but it will depend on interest and available volunteers.

Happy Riding!

– *Renee Martig, President*

Pikes Peak Chapter

A planned June business meeting was cancelled at the last minute due to the outbreak of the Black Forest Fire, as many of our board members were directly impacted. It was a sobering reminder of the importance of having an evacuation plan, regardless of where you live.

We had a small but enjoyable pool party and potluck gathering on Friday, July 12, at the Fountain Valley School, in conjunction with the show being held there. Thanks to all who participated.

Our next regular business meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 7 p.m. at Paravicini's Italian Bistro in Colorado Springs.

For the most up-to-date information about chapter events, visit our website, pikespeakdressage.org.

– *Michelle Anderson, President*

High Plains Chapter's Suzie Hallé Wins Grant to Train at Spanish Riding School

The Dressage Foundation has announced that Colorado adult amateur dressage rider Suzie Hallé, a RMDS High Plains Chapter member, is a recipient of an inaugural grant from the new Heldenberg Training Center Fund in Memory of E.L. Dreitzler. Suzie and Jennifer Shepherd of North Carolina have each been awarded \$3,700 to attend the Spanish Riding School's Training Center in Heldenberg, Austria.

Ralph and Freddie Dreitzler established the Heldenberg Training Center Fund in Memory of E.L. Dreitzler in conjunction with the Dreitzler family and Andreas Hausberger, chief rider at the Spanish Riding School and direc-



Suzie Hallé with her 18-hand, 2000, chestnut gelding (Contango x Innsbruck x Roemer) Tennyson-ISF. She acquired him in 2007 as a Training Level horse. They are learning all the levels together and have earned the USDF Bronze and Silver and, after last year's show season, officially are halfway to their Gold Medal. Their high score for I-1 is 68.4% with a personal best of 74.8%.

tor of the Training Center in Heldenberg. The purpose of the fund is to provide financial assistance to North American, non-professional riders to participate in educational sessions and training in Heldenberg.

"Absorbing the school's approach to training and applying that knowledge to my day-to-day work will strengthen the infrastructure I am trying to build in my riding," Suzie said.

Both riders plan to attend a five-day Theoretical Course at Heldenberg, which will include instruction about the proper seat, correct aids, lunge work, training stages of the horse and rider, and the history of the Spanish Riding School.

For more information, visit the Heldenberg Training Center Fund page or call 402-434-8585.

2013 Omnibus Corrections

Page B-16 c. should read: The horse/rider combination must receive two (2) qualifying scores from RMDS recognized competitions at the level of the Championship Class that they wish to qualify to ride in the current RMDS show year; one of the tests must be the highest test at that level. The scores must be from two (2) different judges at two (2) different shows. The minimum qualifying score for each level for RMDS Championships ONLY shall be (not to exceed USDF requirements):

Page C-25 change contact: Grand Valley Shows Contact: Tammy Fagan 970-858-1604 www.gvds.org

Page D-25 Second Level Test 3 #12 should read: between G & H (not G & M)

Added Information:

Name of horse on Coggins test MUST be the same as the name on all horse membership cards
USEF Board Approved: 1/17/13 Effective Date: 4/1/2013
Protective headgear is required for all competitors at all levels of competition at dressage competitions.

Check Your Scores

It is easy to watch your progress at dressage shows this season. It is smart to check scores for accuracy early, before you file your score sheets away. Show secretaries report scores intermittently. Keep checking to see that your scores are recorded online at the main RMDS website rmds.org.

Go to rmds.org, click on Awards/Scores in the left column under the RMDS logo. Type in your RMDS membership number and last name. Check the box to see your ranking among other Adult Amateur, Open or Junion/Young Riders. Click Submit.

At season's end, this is the place to see if you qualify for year-end awards. For questions, contact the RMDS Central Office: 720-890-7825, rmds@rmds.org.

RMDS Membership Cards

You may download your membership card by going to the RMDS website, www.rmds.org. Click on Forms, then Membership Card.

Time to Apply for RMDS Board

By Sarah Barnes

Nominating Committee Chair

RMDS representatives at the annual Board of Governors meeting in November are electing new officers, including President (two-year term), Vice President (one-year term), Secretary (two-year term) and Treasurer (two-year term).

Do you know someone who would be willing and able to fill one of these officer positions? Descriptions of the jobs and their responsibilities can be found in the RMDS by-laws, available on line at <http://rmds.org/uploads/Organization/ConstitutionByLaws.pdf>. Self-nominations are welcome. Contact me at sarahvbarnes@yahoo.com to receive a nomination form.

Individuals nominated in advance will be profiled in the October issue of the Centaur. Nominations from the floor also will be accepted at the Board of Governors meeting. Board of Governors' delegates, selected by each of the RMDS chapters, are eligible to vote.

Members with questions about serving in any of these leadership roles, or the nomination process itself, can contact me at 303-817-2783.

Adequan® Production Resuming

In 2012, Luitpold Animal Health, a division of Luitpold Pharmaceuticals, Inc., manufacturers of Adequan® IM, Adequan® IA, and Adequan® Canine, renovated and upgraded its Shirley, N.Y., manufacturing facility. These renovations reduced Luitpold's ability to manufacture and release Adequan®, resulting in the current shortages.

Luitpold has been working closely with the Food and Drug Administration to assure that Adequan® is made available as soon as possible. As a result, product availability has been revised with anticipated release to the market beginning in late August, earlier than the original estimate of the first quarter 2014.

The company has established a dedicated webpage on www.adequan.com where concerned parties can register to receive future communications and updates. Individuals may also contact Customer Service at 1-800-458-0163.

Adequan® IM and IA are the only polysulfated glycosaminoglycan (PSGAG) approved by the FDA for the treatment of non-infectious degenerative and/or traumatic joint dysfunction and associated lameness in horses.

New Volunteer Prizes

Changes Coming to Awards Banquet

The RMDS Banquet Committee would like to pass along these updates for this year's Awards Banquet on Nov. 9.

Although the banquet will once again be at the Renaissance Denver Hotel, the menu selections are new. Diners have a choice between sirloin steak, stuffed chicken breast or butternut squash ravioli.

After a fun two years of live auctioning, there will be fewer auction items to make the evening shorter. Don't forget to help your chapters create a basket to vie for the RMDS prize for top-selling basket. During the event, attendees still can buy tickets for the raffle of free office and class fees for several 2014 dressage shows. All winners are chosen and announced during the evening.

There will be special volunteer prizes this year, too. Everyone who has submitted 2013 volunteer hours to the RMDS office will receive special recognition and be entered into drawings for prizes. RMDS would like to thank all who volunteered for RMDS-sponsored events and activities.

These program changes are being introduced to shorten the evening for the many out-of-area attendees and all drivers who can face winter-weather conditions in Denver in November. The goal is to encourage more attendees to enjoy staying the entire evening to support all award winners. Yes, the last award recipients like to hear cheers and applause, too.

The Banquet Committee would like to encourage everyone to dress up and celebrate their achievements and to come to support the achievements of friends and family at the 2013 RMDS Awards Banquet.

Don't forget, there are no seats available without a dinner reservation, so make plans now to save the date and be ready to make reservations. Reservation forms to come in upcoming Centaurs.

If you have any banquet-related questions, please contact Banquet Chair Laura Speer at 970-371-2934. The Awards Chair, Shannon Lemons, can be reached at 719-661-3189, if you have any questions about awards. 719-661-3189 if you have any questions about awards.

Reserve your seats early - Banquet Reservation Form is on website now.

Correct Movement

Cont'd from pg 1

Diet is very important. We love to feed our horses and buy them all the latest supplements and treats. But, do we really know why we are feeding them these? Forage should be the main food source for your horse. They were designed to be eating small amounts of forage throughout most of the day. Ideally they would have hay in front of them 24/7. This can be challenging to achieve, but with a little innovation and the use of "slow feeders" it is possible to get closer to this goal.

Nibble Net, for example, makes an easy-to-fill sturdy hay bag with small openings that the horse must work to pull hay through. For easy keepers, these types of feeders can really



Horses were designed to be eating small amounts of forage throughout most of the day.

make a difference. If you own a hard keeper, make sure he has enough hay in front of him to never run out before you reach for the sweet feed. Most horses in regular work can get what they need from hay and a good mineral mix to balance it. Because our horses eat the same thing day in and day out, balancing their mineral needs is important to overall health and, therefore, healthy feet. Testing your hay and taking a scientific approach to balancing it will save you money

and improve your horse's health. For horse owners interested in this approach, Dr. Eleanor Kellon www.drkellon.com teaches several online equine nutrition classes for owners and professionals, alike.

Pasture grazing works well for some horses, but many are sensitive to the sugars that can fluctuate greatly in these fields. Grazing must be done carefully with these horses and muzzles can be an effective way to get your horse out in the field safely.

Horses Love Pea Gravel Footing

Hooves adapt to the environment they live in. Obviously, keeping horses in a clean area where they are not standing in manure is important. A variety of footing is always nice. If the ground is too hard and flat the frog, sole and bars will lack stimulation. There should be some area of conforming footing that the horse can sink into a little and get that important stimulation and support beneath the foot. If the horse is in wet, soft ground all the time, the soles will become too soft and Thrush may be an issue. Pea gravel (3/8-inch) is a great way to stimulate the hoof and support the bony column. It is best put in a loafing shed or covered area at 4 to 6 inches deep, and kept clean by picking out manure daily. Horses love to stand in pea gravel as it relieves pressure on joints, ligaments and tendons, too.

Movement plays a big role in hoof health. Foals born in the wild hit the ground and keep up with the herd right away, if they are to survive. All this movement, which continues on into adulthood, shapes and develops the structures of the hoof. Our domestic horses don't have this advantage and development tends to fall behind from the start. The more movement you can provide for your

horse on a daily basis, the healthier he and his hooves will be. We don't all have big acreage and many of us

The more movement you can provide for your horse on a daily basis, the healthier he and his hooves will be.

board our horses, so we have to be creative and work with what we have to optimize the movement in our horses' lives. There are many out-of-the-box ideas on horse-keeping available these days. Google "Paddock Paradise" to see some of the clever setups people have created.

Protected Hoof Can Aid Correct Movement

Another important aspect of movement is correct movement. It is a myth that you will toughen up your horse's feet by putting him on rocky hard ground, if he is not able to move comfortably and correctly on it. Many domestic horses have not developed the inner structures in the back of their hoof or adequate sole thickness. When they are faced with a surface they are tender on, they will quit reaching out and landing heel first. This short striding does nothing to develop a healthy foot and, in fact, causes hoof and body issues. Protection is needed when your horse cannot land heel first on whatever surface it must move on. That may mean just under saddle or it may include protection during a transition period, from shoes to barefoot, in the environment in which he lives. There are several options for alternative protection, from hoof boots to casting to glue-ons. Each situation must be evaluated individually to form a plan for transitioning and developing a healthier hoof.

Cont'd on pg 7

Annual Celebration of Dressage

Cont'd from pg 1

agreed to be our dressage representative for publicity purposes, and will give a short presentation at the Friday evening party.

And speaking of parties, you can take your pick: Wednesday evening "Welcome Dinner," Thursday evening "Enter at 'A' Dinner" sponsored by Teller Park Veterinary Services and Colorado Equine Veterinary, Friday evening "Celebration of Dressage Dinner," Saturday evening "Salute at 'X' Dinner," sponsored by Horses Unlimited, or Sunday "Boots Off Mimosa & Mini-Brunch." If you haven't visited the Colorado Horse Park yet this year, you'll be pleasantly surprised with the many improvements in the facility, from fabulous new footing to a full bank of new showers, where you can sluice off the show grime and slip into something pretty.

We're working on bringing in some new fun vendors, where you can find a special gift to congratulate a friend for a good ride, or maybe a little something for yourself to show off at one of the get-togethers. There will be a booth with RMDS gear to stock up on, and we've extended a special invitation to the Western Dressage Association of Colorado (WDACO) to share information and educate those of us with a little cowgirl in our hearts about this super new addition to our sport. And of course, there is always FOOD!

Help Us Make This a Very Special Celebration Here's the Placing!

First – Come and make a day of it, bring your friends and barn buds, meet some new folks and greet some old ones.

Second – Sponsor a class. Get your barn together and support a friend, or ask a favorite store to contribute. Open classes are just \$50, and Championship classes \$100.

Third – Volunteer. We can always use help, and it's a great way to meet judges, competitors, show management, and just talk horse.

Fourth – Shop! Support our local vendors who do so much to make our shows fun, and who provide those emergency needs like braiding bands, gloves, stock ties, those things we somehow forgot to pack in the trailer.

Fifth – Share your ideas. RMDS Championships isn't just about those who compete. It's about all of us who work to perfect our riding and our relationship with our horses. Call us, email us, we're listed on the Officers page in this Centaur and on the website. We want to hear from you!

Sixth - Check out the Championships Update blog on the website. We'll be adding information about events, sponsors, vendors and other exciting news as it happens.

And keep checking out all the info on the website under the Championships tab. You'll find the day sheets as soon as they are ready, different ways to contribute to our success, and track all the wonderful sponsors who have already signed on.

Contacts:

Beverly Swanson, RMDS Show Liaison, at 720.401.0357, [ShowLiaisonRMDS@gmail.com](mailto>ShowLiaisonRMDS@gmail.com), or Aline Brandau, Vice President, 720-323-0578, alinebrandau@gmail.com

Correct Movement

Cont'd from pg 6

It can't be stressed enough that the importance of a consistent trimming schedule should be determined by the needs of that particular horse. The beauty of keeping your horse bare is you have the opportunity to follow whatever trimming cycle is needed to keep that horse in balance. Don't look for your farrier to come cut off a half inch of hoof wall at each trim. The idea is to keep things balanced

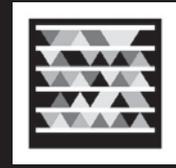
before issues start. Small consistent changes are what support the growth and development of a healthy hoof.

Leslie Carrig is a founding member and head of education for Pacific Hoof Care Practitioners and certified by the American Hoof Association. Contact her at <http://www.highdeserthoofcare.com/>.



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2532 Little Thompson Dr **\$1,675,000**

35 irrigated acres with a 7348 sq ft, 5-bed, 4-bath home and a 1000 sq ft guest house. River frontage, a private pond and access to a recreational lake. Acres of grazing space and numerous outbuildings.



753 Apple Valley Rd

\$575,000

A 5-bed, 3-bath house with incredible views on 2.18 acres within walking distance from Lyons. Enough space to build a loafing shed for your horse and only minutes from riding at Hall Ranch open space.



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5680 St Vrain Rd

\$1,395,000

The most beautiful architecturally designed barn in Boulder County that includes a indoor arena. 35 secluded, irrigated acres with fantastic unobstructed views. Already approved for a 10,000 sq ft home. Property has lovely rolling landscape.



18490 County Rd 1

\$1,475,000

4,000+ sq ft, 4-bed, home on 21 acres with incredible views. Turn-key horse facility with stables and paddocks, excellent pasture, an outdoor riding arena, as well as a small indoor arena. Currently also a successful dog boarding business with a complete kennel set-up.



5977 Nelson Rd

\$1,195,000

Neat, irrigated farm on 35 acres with a tidy 4-bed home that features energy-efficiency and custom-built attention to detail. Suited to a hay or crop farm, a horse property or a rural home with an easy commute to Boulder and Longmont.



1300 Wheatridge Ct

\$479,000

Six acres with a 4-stall barn and huge insulated workshop. House is 3,000 sq ft with 3 bedrooms and a walk-out basement. Expansive views and convenient location with riding trails nearby.



6703 E. County Line Rd

\$999,900

Exquisite 5-acre horse property with 3-stall barn, quaint residence and multiple outbuildings. Recently upgraded landscaping. Enjoys back range views and convenient commuting.



10000 65th St

\$1,475,000

Private 32-acre irrigated property with huge shop and 4-stall barn make this an ideal setting for horses. 4,900 sq ft home, private studio and swimming pool for fun family gatherings.



7873 St Vrain Rd

\$1,100,000

Horses, In-Laws and Teenagers! Charming 4-bed, 5-bath house has room for all! Idyllic 5-acre horse property with 4-stall barn, irrigated pastures and abundant mature trees. Perfect, convenient location near Hygiene and Longmont.



9998 Weld County Rd 1

\$899,000

Immaculate 4-acre, irrigated property tree farm with back range views. Beautiful 1,600 sq ft 3-bed, 2-bath home along with a 1,200 sq ft outbuilding. Possible second building site. Access to riding trails make this a perfect horse property.



7333 N 63rd

\$1,100,000

This 4,481 sq ft, 4-bed, 4-bath home boasts some of the most beautiful views in Boulder County. Situated on 5 acres it is a turn-key horse property with an outdoor riding arena, stables and a loafing shed, only minutes from Boulder and Longmont.

Please make sure to visit the many other amazing properties on our website

Shopping for Schoolmaster a Good Time to Be Thoughtful

By Susan DeSylvia, M.A.

Susan DeSylvia is a member of the High Plains Chapter.

This is Susan DeSylvia's second article in a series on The Benefits of Owning a Schoolmaster. Her first article was published in the April E-Centaur. Click on rmds@rmds.org, then Centaur, then April 2013. Here is more insight into successfully finding and choosing your schoolmaster, or a horse at another level of training.

In my first article, I described a dressage schoolmaster, why this horse is such an excellent riding teacher, and the reason I bought one: I was frustrated with the challenge of learning dressage while trying to teach dressage to my horse. I shared how my new horse, Bo, a FEI schoolmaster, took this former event rider and 4-foot jumper from barely understanding First Level dressage basics to earning my United States Dressage Federation Bronze and Silver medals in just three show seasons.

If you missed that article, I'll share it in a nutshell: A schoolmaster is a horse that is solid in his training, has much more experience than its rider and, most important for adult amateurs, has a disposition that forgives its learning rider's mistakes. A schoolmaster provides powerful feedback on a rider's errors, while the horse tries to do the movements its rider is seeking. For example, if I wasn't balanced in the canter, I would get flying changes, even though I didn't ask for them. As I was just learning the aids for a half pass, my schoolmaster guessed and started in the direction I was asking and, as my aids became clearer and improved, my bend and reach and quality in the half pass improved. Ultimately, I was able to correct my half passes mid-movement and even earned 8s with them in the show ring.

How Do You Find a Schoolmaster?

My master's degree in Industrial Organizational Psychology educated me in job analysis and personnel selection, organizational development, organizational theory, leadership and motivation, training, compensation, and occupational stress, health and safety. Surprisingly, much of this process in the corporate world is applicable to a methodical process I've used in a horse search. My previous horse-shopping has been quite successful: I stay focused on my criteria for my new partnership. Because buying a horse is an emotional purchase, I bring along a "bad cop" to help me stay objective.

I also have an advantage due to my business. For more than 12 years, I have videoed and edited horse sale

videos. I've heard a lot through the years: The good, the bad and the horror stories! I've tried to learn from them all, as well as share with others what has worked and what to avoid. Owning a horse is expensive. Owning the wrong horse is really expensive.

Here are the guidelines I've used to try to avoid owning the wrong horse for me:

→ Know Your Goals and Prioritize Them

There's no doubt that buying a horse is not like buying a car or motorcycle. Shoppers don't just decide on a color, year, make and model. There's so much more to finding the right equine partnership. There are some basic parameters that are worth thinking through before you start looking.

For example, I have my own barn, and my husband and son sometimes help feed and clean stalls, so having a horse who is a gentleman in the barn is a top priority. I own two geldings, so I didn't want to bring home a mare. As my friend, trainer, judge and RMDS President Gwen Ka'waloa taught me, before I even enter at A, the judge has an impression of how I look on my horse. At 5'4" tall, I can look out of proportion on a 17-hand horse, so I narrowed my search by size. I expected to buy a horse that is "older" and, while I know horses can have teachable years into their 20s, I wanted several years to show this horse, so I set my maximum age at 17. Since I train primarily by myself at home, I need a horse with a lower-key temperament. Additionally, I didn't have a heated wash rack at home, so I knew it wasn't a good idea to buy a white/gray horse because I couldn't bathe him in winter before riding in a clinic or show. And finally, I care more about my horse's personality and disposition than I do about his movement, and most sale videos show a horse's movement, so personality details I have to gather from his owner/agent.

Next, I typed a checklist that would be useful in an Internet horse search. Here was my short list:

- Gelding
- 15.3 – 16.2 H
- Temperament 2 – 5
- Any color but gray
- Trained Third Level to PSG
- Affectionate personality required
- Show record preferred
- Must have been previously ridden out of the ring and be comfortable hacking out

→ Prepare a List of Questions to Learn What is Important to You

This helps you to further refine your goals and expectations for your new horse. This information might be listed in the ad or it might not. Just think through what's important to you, and write it down, then ask about these characteristics for each horse you consider. The answers are not necessarily reasons not to buy a specific horse; you are just trying to understand the horse more and know more about this horse to help you decide if it makes sense to spend part of your budget on an airline ticket, hotel, car and "bad cop" to visit the horse in person.

After I say the type of rider I am and the type of horse I am looking for, I listen, listen, listen! If you are doing all the talking, you may miss clues that can tell you that this isn't the right horse.

Here is my list of questions:

- First, be sure to let the seller know why you are calling and ask, "Have I caught you at a good time?"
- How long have you known the sale horse?
- How long have you ridden him?
- Is he easy to sit? Is he light in the bridle or does he take a good contact?
- What are his strengths?
- What are his weaknesses?
- Does he go easier in a snaffle or a double bridle?
- What is his personality like?
- Has he ever reared? This one is a deal-breaker for me.
- How is he riding in the wind? We have a lot of it where I live and I mostly ride alone. I want to be able to ride on windy days.
- Are there special requirements for shoes, veterinary care or maintenance?
- Has he coliced or had colic surgery?
- Is he aggressive at feeding time or have a dominant personality with other horses?
- Why is he for sale?

→ Tell Friends, Tack Shop Owners, Vets and Trainers What You Are Looking For

Tell everyone because you never know when someone knows someone who knows someone who has your next horse for sale. This could save the expense of an out-of-town shopping trip. Don't be afraid to pick up the phone and leave a short message with your local horse sources about what you're looking for and how much you have to spend.

→ Search the Internet

Now, thanks to YouTube, you can preview thousands of horses before picking up the phone or buying an airline ticket. My favorite horse sale websites are: DressageStar.

com, DressageDaily.com, Warmbloods-for-Sale.com and HorseQuest.com. While I'm not a huge fan of Dreamhorse.com, Equine.com or EquineNow.com, those websites might be worth a look.

→ Investigate Show Record and Test Scores

Thanks to CenterlineScores.com you can research a show record on any rider and any horse for free. I look at a horse's show record before I even call the sale contact.

It's worth asking about any particularly low scores. And, if there is a 10-point spread between test scores at shows, it's a red flag to me, as are too many low scores. I would question if that horse is solid in that level of

training. Inconsistent or low scores prompt me to ask the owner or trainer about them.

→ Talk to Horse's Owners and Riders

Now that you have your list of what is important for you to know, I think phone calls work best. Try not to contact busy horse trainers in the mornings, as most of them are riding and have less time to talk. Evenings can be more successful. But, asking an exhaustive list of questions over the phone can turn off the seller. I have the horse ad in front of me and am ready to write the answers to my questions as I talk with the owner or agent. After I say the type of rider I am and the type of horse I am looking for, I listen, listen, listen! If you are doing all the talking, you may miss clues that can tell you that this isn't the right horse.

→ Engage the Help of a 'Bad Cop'

Notice I didn't just say, "Bring your trainer." Your "bad cop" can be your trainer, but it also can be a good horse friend who knows you well, knows your goals and can be objective. He or she should look at the ads and video after you have called on a horse. He or she can help keep you from letting your emotions overrule your brain. While it can be expensive to pay for a second airline ticket or day rate for your trainer, it is much less expensive than buying the wrong horse. For a horse-shopping trip to Florida, I visited horses two days on my own before flying my trainer out. This way, I used her focused time to help me evaluate only horses I was considering seriously.

→ Use Numerous Horse Sources

Because it costs a lot to go on a shopping trip to look at one horse, make a few phone calls to see if there are others for sale that may not be advertised yet, or may not be listed on the websites you have searched. Call trainers from that USDF Region to let them know you are coming; they may know of other horses for sale. For example, in

Cont'd on pg 13



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303-810-8375



Schoolmaster

Cont'd from pg 11

the dressage mecca of Florida in the winter, there will be numerous horses for sale. I had 12 horses lined up to try in my five-day shopping trip and three were not advertised. On another trip for an event horse in Virginia, I had almost 20 horses to see.

What Are You Watching For?

I cannot stress enough: Always watch someone else get on your "test" horse before you do. The chances are small that a horse advertised as a schoolmaster is a dangerous or problem horse. It's more likely a problem with a younger horse, but the consequences can be serious. If the seller or agent isn't prepared or willing to get on the horse first, walk away. Also, if you haven't been asked to sign a release that asks for an emergency contact, volunteer one. I said at all my test rides, "I'm giving you my husband's phone number, just so you won't need it for any emergencies."

My strategy was to first see the trainer or owner ride the horse, then I would ride him, then if I knew I was considering this horse for my own, I would ask the trainer or owner to get back on to take the horse on a hack outside the arena. (I now ask the owner to take the horse on a hack after experiencing a horse spook, rear and flip over on me!) In hindsight, I remember that as we left the property to go on a hack, the owner said something along the lines, "I haven't ridden him out for awhile, but he'll be fine." He wasn't. I wasn't either, until I rode a friend's horse on a mock test ride to get my confidence back. (Thank you, Stacey Susan Mikula.)

To-Do List for Assessing Horse Personality

My degree in Industrial Organizational Psychology also has helped me consider my horse partnership in terms of his personality. Since I will be doing most of the horse care, I created a checklist of what I wanted to see or do to learn



With Bo at the end of Susan DeSylvia's fourth score ride to earn her RMDS Silver Medal. Photo by Kathleen Bryan

about the horse's demeanor. I only do this after I think I am considering paying for a pre-purchase exam for this horse. A list will help you remember all the activities you do with your horse.

Here's my list of activities – I don't insist on the seller's time while I try all these activities:

- Un-tack him, brush him and pick his feet
- Walk him around the barn
- Have him stand with you somewhere around the farm for awhile
- Give him a shower or bath
- Throw a sheet on and off him
- All horses must know how to load into a trailer. Can you say, "Fire evacuation?" See for yourself how easily the horse loads into a horse trailer. Not loading well may not be a reason not to buy the horse, but I want to see what I will be getting into when it comes to trailering.
- Pick up a manure fork and clean his stall and see how his manners are
- Hang out at feeding time to see if this horse pins his ears and becomes aggressive to other horses, as well as if he is calm around people that care for him
- Trust your gut. Will you feel comfortable taking this horse to clinics and shows?

Before I Buy – Surprise!

This may sound crazy but, before I buy a horse, I want to see how he spooks because they all do. It's how he responds and recovers from spooky encounters that is most telling to me. With the owner's permission, and not with a rider on the horse, I bring out an object to catch the horse by surprise to see how he reacts, for example to an opened travel umbrella, the shaking of aluminum cans in a plastic grocery bag, a small tarp or the spinning of a child's shiny pinwheel.

I added this step to my checklist after I failed to do the spook test with my event horse. Let me tell you, Marty is crazy athletic and quick to spook on the ground. Like a cheap firecracker, he blows up quickly, but then is fine.

→ Value the Seller's Time

If at any point I know this isn't the horse I'm looking for, I politely let the buyer know and, if they'd like, I say why. I've heard too many stories of people who come out to test ride horses and, after taking hours of a trainer's, agent's or owner's time, will say that the horse was too small, too big or not the right color. That's rude.

Cont'd. on pg 14

K is for Kaiser, V is for Vassal

German Cavalry Likely Designed Dressage Arena, Letters

By Tim Holekamp

President of the American Trakehner Association, Newark, Ohio

Special thanks to Colorado Springs Chapter President Pat Leech for spotting and obtaining permission to print this information from Tim Holekamp.

And now for another puzzle solved, though admittedly not a related one: For years I have wondered how the dimensions and letters were set for the current dressage arena used worldwide. The word "dressage" is clearly French. The activity of training military horses in obedience on the flat goes back more than 2,000 years to Greece and Rome. "Classical" dressage is at least 500 years old; but still.... those are some pretty weird and non-sequential letter choices along the sides of the arena, and why exactly 20 meters by 60 meters?

Those of us with a German horse prejudice will be happy to know that both questions are answered in German history. The arena size matches precisely the highly regimented system of German cavalry barracks, whose stable blocks were almost always sited with spaces between them measuring 20 by 60 meters, thus creating the space for exercising horses on the flat. When dressage was formalized as an Olympic sport in 1912, the parameters were set by

military men, and the measurements became standardized.

The part about the letters is actually fun to research. Quite a few modern sources say things like "there are many theories, but no one knows for sure," but when one actually goes looking at all the "theories" they all go back to the same answer, maybe with some translational mistakes leading to confusion by non-Germans. The bottom line is that there really is only one explanation and it goes back to 19th century Prussian Berlin, where the Imperial Court stables had a "Hof" or exercise stable yard large enough to accommodate training of the several hundred horses that worked and lived there. It was also used to "stage" horses and riders for large parades and other ceremonies. To avoid confusion of place, specific tie-sites were identified where the mounts of various people were to be held waiting for their riders. Letters were painted on the walls of the adjoining stable buildings to identify those sites.

Here is the "key" to understanding each letter, and you may see how that "arena" was marked just the same as the large arena you work in today. Oh, to breed the horse qualified to be tied up at K or F!

Origination

K	Kaiser/King
F	Fürst/Prince
V	Vassal
P	Pferdeknecht/Ostler (Groom)
E	Edeling/Ehregast/Nonbleman/Guest of Honor
B	Bannerträger/Standard Bearer
S	Schatzkanzler/Chancellor of the Exchequer
R	Ritter/Knight
H	Hofmarschall/Lord Chancellor
M	Meier/Steward

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Schoolmaster *Cont'd from pg 13*

→ The Dreaded Vet Check

My trainer told me to expect some mild reactions to flexion tests on a dressage schoolmaster. This is when it's important to have a great relationship with your vet at home. Hopefully you will be able to talk to the vet who did the out-of-town pre-purchase exam about exam results, balancing the result with your goals with the horse and recommendations for horse maintenance in his athletic career. I have also asked the vet who did the pre-purchase exam to "talk shop" with my vet.

→ More Mind Than Movement

I care more about my horse's mind than his movement. While I want to be competitive in the show ring, what

good is buying an extravagant mover that I can't ride? My trainer is not riding and competing my horse; this is a horse for me to learn from. What good/fun would it be to only ride at home because he is too scary for me to take to a clinic? And what good is all my training if he loses his mind in the warm-up ring or spooks like crazy down centerline?

Contact Susan with your questions at Susan@ProHorseProductions.com. For an updated list of websites to search for horses for sale, click on the links on her website ProHorseProductions.com. Susan DeSylvia is based in Parker. For 12 years she has operated Pro Horse Productions video capture and editing services for same-day clinic DVDs, sale horse productions posted to You Tube, farm, stallion and product promotion, and unique video scrapbooks.

Two New HOY Awards Salute Adult Amateurs and Their Inspirational Equine Partners

By Ann E. Edelman, member of the RMDS High Plains Chapter.

RMDS never has had Horse of the Year awards at Adult Amateur Intermediate 2 and Grand Prix levels before, despite the fact that we have had members reach these levels. This year we have several adult amateurs competing at these levels, which is exciting for our region and indicative of the rising quality of training. While volunteering at Dressage for the Cure, I brought up the idea of estab-

lishing year-end awards for these levels to RMDS Secretary Heather Petersen, who had been thinking the same thing, so off we went. Heather presented the idea to the RMDS Board in May, and it was approved. We then began work in earnest to create these new awards so that they could be awarded in 2013. RMDS is grateful for the support of the sponsors who established them. Here they are:

Horse of the Year, Adult Amateur, Intermediate 2 Level The Munesicht's Compassion Memorial Trophy

The Munesicht's Compassion Memorial Trophy is established in memory of Camille Griffin's wonderful dressage pony, Munesicht's Compassion ("Moonlight"). Moonlight, a Welsh Cob gelding, and Camille were a familiar fixture at RMDS shows for many years, moving steadily up the levels. What always struck me about the pair was the partnership they demonstrated as they successfully took on the big horses year after year.

What makes this pair exemplary, in addition to the harmony between them, also is, in large part, due to Camille and her love of dressage. Camille always had a friendly and supportive word for her fellow competitors and tirelessly gave back to the sport, running shows and volunteering. Hit by the nation's financial crisis like so many of us, Camille made it work by sacrificing personally. Her determination to succeed, paired with her happy, willing pony, made them a force to be reckoned with.

Moonlight, too, made his own contribution to the sport by inspiring another rider. In recent years, Camille struggled financially to maintain Moonlight and even considered selling him. While a sale was pending that would take him out of state, he suddenly developed a vertigo-like balance

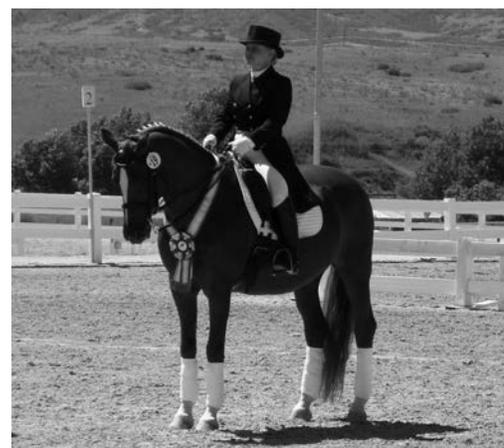
issue and became unsalable. Lisa Crispin, another adult amateur, generously and graciously offered to lease Moonlight, even though he was unrideable. Together, Lisa and Camille nursed Moonlight back to health, despite the vet's somber prognosis that he would never again be safe to ride. Lisa was able to enjoy many lovely rides on Moonlight and Camille had the joy of watching the two of them practice piaffe and passage, with Lisa beaming. In Camille's eyes, there will never be another Moonlight.

I saw Moonlight perform his first Intermediate 2 test at Dressage at the Peak several years ago with Simone Ahern. ("I loved that little guy!") When they stepped into the arena, he seemed to grow in size and really did enjoy performing. Unfortunately, Camille lost Moonlight this year before she was able to show him at the highest levels.

The Munesicht's Compassion Memorial Trophy is established by the friends of Moonlight and Camille: Pikes Peak Dressage Society; Sun Prairie Stables and its clients and friends; Lisa Crispin, Ann Edelman, Camille Griffin and Heather Petersen. The statue that the trophy is made from is called "Dressage Show Pony" and it conveys the happiness that Camille enjoyed with Moonlight.



The Munesicht's Compassion Memorial Trophy.



Camille Griffin and Moonlight.

New HOY Awards

Cont'd from pg 15

Horse of the Year, Adult Amateur, Grand Prix Level The Made in the Shade Challenge Trophy

I remember sitting next to MaryJo Hoepner at the RMDS Awards Banquet the year she won the Adult Amateur Horse of the Year Intermediate 2 Level and feeling bad for her that there was no perpetual trophy to go with it. MaryJo and Made in the Shade (“Shade”) were frequent competitors at our shows, and RMDS-sponsored clinics and demonstrations. But neither member of this pair is typical for a dressage team: MaryJo is “physically-challenged” and Shade is an Arabian/Percheron cross.

MaryJo’s best friend, Tracey Freeman-Meissel, often accompanied the team to horse shows to groom for them and help with heavy lifting. Tracey told me that what struck her the most about them is how often people would come up to her at shows and tell her how they inspired them to continue on. If MaryJo and Shade could do it, with the limitations that they had to work with, then we can, too. For this reason, we call it a “challenge” trophy – to challenge other adult amateurs to reach personal goals and levels of excellence despite any perceived limitations. MaryJo and Shade are ambassadors of this concept.

What also makes Shade an inspiration for the Horse of the

Year Award at the highest level is that he is a very special horse. MaryJo has shown him in hunters, ridden him in pair paces, shown him Western pleasure, sorted cattle with him and trail rides him frequently. (In fact, Shade was a babysitter for my own horse Boucheron, and helped to make her feel safe on the trails.) On top of all this, he was a steady and exuberant dressage partner for MaryJo, the kind of horse that can move up the levels with you. MaryJo and Shade moved all the way up Training Level to Grand Prix together. MaryJo also sets an example for us: She volunteers at shows and other events, and gives back to the sport at every turn.

The Made in the Shade Challenge Trophy is established by the Friends of MaryJo and Shade: Pikes Peak Dressage Society; Westmanton Stables (Grant and Sharon Schneidman and Nicole Glusenkamp), Jody Baumgartner, Lisa Crispin, Gwyn Davis, Ann Edelman, Tracey Freeman-Meissel, Camille Griffin, Brian and Sandy Grover, Anne League, Heather Petersen, Ruth K. Sims and Laura Wild. According to MaryJo, the trophy exemplifies how Shade makes her feel when riding him – he’s the kind of horse that gives you wings.



The Made in the Shade Challenge Trophy.



MaryJo Hoepner and Shade.

Horses are the closest to God in the animal world. Horses are karmic and they come to us in our lives karmically, when it is time for us truly to learn.

Dominique Barbier



USDF REGION FIVE

Arizona | Colorado | Eastern Montana | New Mexico | West Texas | Utah | Wyoming

This is the month RMDS members and show competitors plan for all year. Mark your calendars for our Region 5-sponsored events and plan to attend as a volunteer, spectator, rider or vendor. Sponsorships and advertising opportunities also are available to reach this large, targeted western-region equine audience. Click on championships@rmds.org for details.

- USDF/Great American Region 5 Championships – Sept. 19 to 22, Colorado Horse Park, Parker.

- USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshops

There are several educational options with hands-on participation for instructors at the USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshop this fall and spring in Colorado. A USDF workshop will

be held for instructors and trainers at Phantom Hill Farm in Fort Collins. Applications will be accepted on a first come first serve basis. Auditor space is unlimited. Auditors must register, as well as applicants (see pg 21).

- Oct.12-13, 2013 (Teaching - Training-1st)
- Oct. 14-15, 2013 (Longeing - Training-1st)
- March 15-16, 2014 (Riding - Training-2nd)
- May 3-4, 2014 (Refresher Training-4th)

See the RMDS website for details and registration materials at rmds.org.

- USDF Region 5 Jr/YR Clinic with George Williams – Oct. 26 to 27, Longmont, CO.

The Platinum Performance/USDF Region 5 Jr/YR Clinic featuring George

Williams will be held at Autumn Hill International Equestrian Center in Longmont, CO. USDF is currently seeking riders age 14 to 21 at all levels to participate in the clinic. Applications to ride are being accepted now through Sept. 13. Visit www.usdf.org/education/clinics/jryr/dates-locations.asp for more information or to apply to ride in the clinic. Auditors of all ages are welcome and pre-registration can be completed online. Contact the USDF office at youth@usdf.org for more information.

Contact your regional directors listed on the USDF website with any questions, program suggestions and more details on USDF activities in Region 5.

RMDS Online - www.rmds.org

New Forms Online:

- USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshop Application
- 2013 RMDS Awards Banquet Reservation
- Sponsor Opportunities 2013 RMDS Championships
- Vendor Packet 2013 RMDS Championships
- Championship Program Advertising

Updates

- USDF/Great American Region 5 and RMDS Championships Events Update

2013 RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Pikes Peak.....	Michelle Anderson	303-646-1375	michand@hotmail.com
Platte River Dressage.....	Peter Soos.....	303-956-5850	pssoos@mesanetworks.net
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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 | 719-683-8435 | slush@drwg.net || FEI JRYR 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

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RMDS CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE

Arkansas Valley: 2nd Thursday of the month at 6 p.m., location to be determined. Catherine Siemiet, catsbarn@aol.com

Boulder Valley: 2nd Monday, even months, location TBD, Sarah Barnes, 303-817-2783 sarahvbarnes@yahoo.com

Colorado Springs: 3rd Thursday, for location information, contact Pat Leech, 719-749-2860, pat.leech@skybeam.com, www.CSDressage.org

Foothills: quarterly meetings, location TBD, Lori Mitchell, 303-816-2375, bandwdressage@aol.com

Grand Valley: 3rd Thursday each month, location TBD, Tammy Fagan, 970-858-1604 tfagandressage@wyoming.com

High Plains: Bi-monthly meeting, location TBD, Wendy Cibis, 720-570-6413, wcibis@comcast.net, www.highplainsdressage.com

Northern Colorado: 3rd Tuesday, each month, location TBD, Renee Martig, 970-278-0500 silverpony@frii.com

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

Pikes Peak: 2nd Tuesday of each month, location TBD, Michelle Anderson, 303-646-1375 michand@hotmail.com

Platte River Dressage: Meeting time and location TBD, Peter Soos 303-956-5850 psssoos@mesanetworks.net

Wasatch Mountains: Location TBD, Sally Shaffer, 435-655-3323 sshaffer4@yahoo.com

Western Colorado: Barbara Graham Terry, 970-963-4649 bgterry1@comcast.net

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 2013 may be variable, please check the calendar or the website. Contact the RMDS Central Office for location.

Heading for a Rodeo or Horse Show?

Buying or Selling a Horse?

Brand Inspection Can Be Necessary

This time of year sends many Coloradans outside to enjoy our warm days and cool evenings; horseback riding is often a favorite activity and the Colorado Department of Agriculture reminds horse owners that state statutes require a "brand" inspection if they plan on buying, selling or transporting horses. Horse owners may purchase permanent horse travel permits for horses that are shipped frequently more than 75 miles within Colorado or across state lines. This can be a great financial savings since the permit is good for travel purposes for as long as the applicant owns the horse.

"The Department typically sees an increase in the number of horses being bought and sold this time of year," said CDA Brand Commissioner Chris Whitney. "There has also been an increase in the number of horses in urban communities and folks need to remember to contact us for a transfer of ownership inspection."

The Division of Brand Inspection's primary responsibility is to protect the livestock industry from loss by theft, illegal butchering or straying of livestock. The division is assigned five principal regulatory responsibilities:

- Record and administer livestock brands
- Inspect livestock and verify ownership before sale, transportation beyond 75 miles, transportation out of state, or slaughter.
- Inspect packing plants, livestock sale rings, and inspect all consignments before sale to verify ownership.
- License and inspect alternative livestock (elk and fallow deer) facilities.
- Prevent and return strayed or stolen livestock and investigate reports of lost or stolen livestock.

In fiscal year 2011/2012, division personnel traveled in excess of 1.2 million miles and inspected approximately 4.6 million head of livestock. In addition, they identified ownership of lost, stolen or strayed and questionably owned livestock valued at over \$60 million.

For more information on the Division of Brand Inspection, visit www.colorado.gov/ag/brands.

– Reprinted with permission from Colorado Horse Council June newsletter www.ColoradoHorseCouncil.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 7th of the month prior to the month of publication, i.e. January 7th 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@rmds.org

ADVERTISING

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

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@rmds.org, 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@rmds.org (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 averages 200 hits per month on the trainer page and RMDS receives 25-30 emails per month 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@rmds.org), 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 \$2.00. If emailed to you, they are free. Request a new one by mailing the Central Office at rmds@rmds.org.

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.



AUDITOR APPLICATION:

USDF Instructor/Trainer Program workshops

Location: Phantom Hill Farm - 7808 Lemay Avenue – Ft. Collins, CO 80525 970-225-1408

OPEN to everyone – this includes juniors, adult amateurs and anyone interested in learning!

Plan to attend:

___ October 12-13, 2013 Teaching Workshop – Training-1st Level

___ October 14-15, 2013 Lungeing Workshop – Training-1st Level

___ March 15-16, 2014 Riding Workshop – Training-2nd Level

___ May 3-4, 2014 Refresher – Training-4th Level

RMDS member per workshop: ___ per day (\$45.00) ___ both days (\$80.00) ___ \$55.00 per day at the door

RMDS non-member per workshop: ___ per day (\$50.00) ___ both days (\$90.00) ___ \$55.00 per day at the door

Checks payable to RMDS & mail to: RMDS Central Office – 2942 Park Lake Drive – Boulder, CO 80301

AUDITOR INFORMATION (please print)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

The fee includes **Box Lunch**: (sandwich, cookie, pickle, chips, and drink) if **reservation received** by the Wednesday prior to the start day. Indicate date you want a particular sandwich.

_____ Roast Beef _____ Turkey _____ Veggie _____ No lunch, bring my own

Directions to Phantom Hill: From Denver, take I-25 North to exit 262 (Carpenter Road/Windsor). Go left (west) to a 4-way stop - LeMay. Turn left (south) and go about ¼ mile. Phantom Hill is the 2nd drive on the left nestled into the hillside.

Hotels: Hampton Inn 970-229-5927

Host Hotel: Holiday Inn Express & Suites 970-225-2200

Shows and Events

All shows are RMDS recognized except schooling shows.

SEPTEMBER 2013

- 6 RMIHC Dressage Schooling Show**
Douglas County Fairgrounds-Castle Rock, CO
Contact Simone Windeler-719-287-2040
simonedressage@g.mail.com
- 8 Foothills Chapter Last Chance Show, A Rising Star, Arvada, CO**
Contact Lori Mitchell 303-816-2375
bandwdressage@gmail.com
- 12 RMDS Executive Meeting, Romano's Italian Restaurant, Highlands Ranch, CO**
Contact RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org
- 18 Rocky Mountain Sport Horse Championships, Colorado Horse Park, Parker, CO – USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net
- 19-22 USDF/Great American Region 5 Championship, Parker, CO – USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net
- 19-22 RMDS Championship & Open Show, Parker, CO – USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net
- 28 Whispering Winds Farm Schooling Show, Colorado Springs, CO**
Contact Mary Hallmark 719-488-0333
painthorse50@msn.com
- 28 Triple Creek Schooling Show, Triple Creek Ranch, Longmont, CO**
Contact Lynn McChesney 303-444-4291
www.triplecreek-ranch.com

OCTOBER 2013

- 3-5 Alfredo Hernandez Clinic, Windswept Farm, Colorado Springs, CO**
Contact Lanie Tolari windsweptfarmcolorado@gmail.com
- 5 AVDA Ride-A-Test, (Oct. 6 rain date) Palomino Gaits, Canon City, CO**
Contact Marcy Wadlington 719-315-2625
avda@earthlink.net
- 10 RMDS Executive Meeting, Romano's Italian Restaurant, Highlands Ranch, CO**
Contact RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org
- 10-13 Dressage Festival of Champions, Kentucky Horse Park, KY – USEF**
Contact USEF
- 12-13 GVDS Spring into Fun Schooling Show, Mesa County Fairgrounds, Grand Junction, CO**
Contact Tammy Fagan 970-858-1604 www.gvds.org
- 12-13 USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshop-Teaching Training-1st Level-OPEN to all - auditors welcome! Phantom Hill Farm-Ft Collins, CO**
Contact RMDS Central Office-720-890-7825
rmds@rmds.org
- 14-15 USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshop-Longeing Training-1st Level-OPEN to all - auditors welcome! Phantom Hill Farm-Ft Collins, CO**
Contact RMDS Central Office-720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org or
Jon Haugen 970-217-7820 defiancesport@q.com
- 19 Whispering Winds Farm Schooling Show, Colorado Springs, CO**
Contact Mary Hallmark 719-488-0333
painthorse50@msn.com

- 19 Triple Creek Schooling Show, Triple Creek Ranch, Longmont, CO**
Contact Lynn McChesney 303-444-4291
www.triplecreek-ranch.com
- 26-27 USDF Region 5 Jr/Young Rider Clinic with George Williams Autumn Hill, Longmont, CO**
Contact Julie Barringer-Richers - 720-341-5033

NOVEMBER 2013

- 2 Foxvillage Clinic with Heather Petersen-Comfort Suites-Castle Rock, CO**
Contact Jon Haugen 970-217-7820 defiancesport@q.com
- 9 RMDS Board of Governors Meeting-Renaissance Hotel-Denver, CO**
Contact Laura Speer or RMDS Central Office
- 9 RMDS Awards Banquet**

FEBRUARY 2014

- 2 Judges Continuing Education with Bill Solyntjes 'S'**
- 15 TD/Show Management Clinic-Comfort Suite-Castle Rock, CO**
Contact Jon Haugen 970-217-7820 defiancesport@q.com

MARCH 2014

- 15-16 USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshop-Riding-Training-2nd Level- OPEN to all - auditors welcome! Phantom Hill Farm-Ft Collins, CO**
Contact RMDS Central Office-720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org or
Jon Haugen 970-217-7820 defiancesport@q.com

APRIL 2014

- 25-27 Dressage for the Cure Warm-up & At the Peak-Colorado Horse Park-Parker, CO-USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net

MAY 2014

- 3-4 USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshop-Refresher-Training-4th Level-OPEN to all - auditors welcome! Phantom Hill Farm-Ft Collins, CO**
Contact RMDS Central Office-720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org or
Jon Haugen 970-217-7820 defiancesport@q.com
- 23-25 Paragon I, II, III & CDI 3*-Stanley Park Fairgrounds-Estes Park, CO-USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net

AUGUST 2014

- 15-17 Estes Park I, II, III & CDI 2*-Stanley Park Fairgrounds-Estes Park, CO-USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net

NOVEMBER 2014

- 15 RMDS Board of Governors Meeting-Renaissance Hotel-Denver, CO**
Contact Laura Speer or RMDS Central Office
- 15 RMDS Awards Banquet**

For updates to the calendar, go to www.rmds.org

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS
Open to all – 2nd Thursday of the odd
months, 6:30 pm.
Contact RMDS Central Office for location

Bids Due Sept. 30 for Jr/YR Camp Director

RMDS is accepting bids for a director for the 2014
Jr/YR Camp Director.

The program aims to be a fun experience that ex-
pands riders' dressage education. The director is re-
sponsible for camp planning, supervision and liaison
with campers' parents and other participants.

Visit the RMDS website at rmds.org for
Camp Director guidelines.

Bids are due to the RMDS Central Office by Sept. 30.
Questions?
Contact the Central Office: rmds@rmds.org.

RMDS-SPONSORED EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

All events are open to everyone to audit or participate unless otherwise stated. A great opportunity to continue your learning!

2013	Sept 18	Rocky Mountain Sport Horse Championships, Colorado Horse Park, Parker, CO
	Sept 19-22	RMDS Championships & USDF/Great American Region 5 Championships, Colorado Horse Park, Parker, CO
	Oct 12-13	USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshop-Teaching-Annie Morris-Ft Collins, CO
	Oct 14-15	USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshop-Longeing-Annie Morris-Ft Collins, CO
	Nov 2	Foxvillage Clinic with Heather Petersen-Comfort Suites-Castle Rock, CO
	Nov 9	RMDS Board of Governors' Meeting & RMDS Awards Banquet, Renaissance Hotel, Quebec Street, Denver, CO
2014	Feb 2	Judges Continuing Education-Bill Solyntjes-location TBA
	Feb 15	TD/Show Management Workshop-Comfort Suites- Castle Rock, CO
	Mar 15-16	USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshop-Riding-Vicki Hammers-O'Neil-Ft Collins, CO
	May 3-4	USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshop-Refresher-Debbie Bowman-Ft Collins, CO

For details on these and other RMDS events:

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

STUCK TRUCK

Or Why It's Good to Have Good Friends, Good Samaritans and a Good Roadside Assistance Plan

By Michelle Anderson

Michelle Anderson is president of the Pikes Peak Chapter.

Sometimes, no matter how much or how well you plan ahead, the horse manure manages to hit the oscillating blades of a portable cooling device anyway.

And so it was on Friday July 5 of this year when my trainer (RMDS President) Gwen Ka'awaloa, her other student Christy Shires and I set out from our home barn in Elizabeth on the 4th of July weekend headed for Rocky Mountain Dressage III and IV shows at Somerset Farm in Longmont. We were making great time, with Christy and I planning on arrival to settle the horses in while Gwen tacked up for her lesson and then schooled us afterwards. All of that came to a screeching halt at the intersection of Highway 119 and Emery Street in Longmont when suddenly Gwen couldn't access first gear (or any other) and the clutch went to the floor with no resistance.

Various expletives later, Gwen called show secretary Heather Petersen while I called AAA. In the midst of all this, a kind gentleman (known only as Lance in the gray Ford F-350 truck) stopped in front of us and hooked up and towed the stuck truck out of traffic, hauling it, trailer, horses and riders into the safety of a nearby parking lot. Within 20 minutes, Tina Wright from Somerset was on her way to the rescue on her white steed (well OK, in the white Somerset farms truck) to hitch up to our horse trailer to take us to the show, and AAA arrived to ferry Gwen's broken truck on a flat bed trailer back to our hometown mechanic in Elizabeth. Gwen's student Angie Cover from Cheyenne was sharing our hotel room so we used

her truck to get around.

After the show, Gwen's son Chad drove up Sunday with one of his trucks to haul horses, trailer and us home.

We were lucky to have good friends and Samaritans to help us in a moment of dire need. Unfortunately, a

Author's Note – The author wishes to express once again a huge thank you to Heather Petersen, Kim Lampert and Tina Wright of Somerset Farm, Angie Cover (for all the in-town driving during the show), Chad Toney (for coming north to ferry us home) and the kind stranger Lance, and his wife and daughter in the big gray F-350 truck.



The Rogue Rig

truck or trailer breakdown can happen to anyone, at any time, but a little planning ahead can turn a potential disaster into just an inconvenience. I'd like to share some things I've learned on the subject from this experience.

Obviously you should keep your trailer and towing vehicle in good repair and regular maintenance. This can prevent many, but not all, potential breakdowns. (Gwen's had several repairs and regular maintenance over the last two years, but a hole in the sleeve of a hydraulic fluid line was missed.)

When bad things do happen to good trucks, there are a few options for assistance.

- **Have Contact Numbers** – if you are fairly close to your destination when a breakdown occurs, having the show office or secretary's telephone number could be critical to getting help quickly, as it was for us. If you are hauling a very long distance, it's a good idea to have travel boarding contacts along the way, even if that town is not where you plan to stop for the night. Check breed or discipline breeder and trainer directories to ensure you have a network of potential new friends all along your route. You might also look at www.horsetrip.com, a State-by-State Directory of Stables, Horse Motels, Equine Friendly Camping and Bed & Breakfasts that will stable your horse after a long day on the road.
- **Prepare for Travel in Inclement Weather** – While we would all prefer to avoid it, sometimes horse hauling requires traveling in bad weather conditions. Most states have websites showing current road conditions. Bookmark those you might need on your Blackberry or Smartphone before setting out. For Colorado it is <http://www.cotrip.org/home.html>.
- **AAA Advantages** – Covers the primary vehicle whether the AAA member is the driver or a passenger but will not cover the trailer or provide vehicles or towing to move the trailer, just the hauling vehicle. AAA Plus membership covers towing up to 100 miles and is only \$20 or \$25 more/year, so it can be a good investment out here in the West where we often travel through long uninhabited stretches of country. We were fortunate that I carry Plus membership as Gwen does not. AAA membership also provides lower hotel rates for most large chains, a big help when showing away from home. You can join or obtain more information at www.colorado.aaa.com.
- **USRider Equestrian Motor Plan Adds Benefits** – Covers the primary and towed vehicles and a variety of other unexpected expenses that may occur, such as overnight stabling. This plan is, however, not available for commercial haulers or trainers who haul for hire. It will cover private individuals hauling their own or a friend's horse, as long as they do not do so in connection with a business. More information is available at <http://www.usrider.org/index2.html>.

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WindsweptFarmsColorado@gmail.com
www.WindsweptFarms.net

2013 Clinics

October 3-4-5, 2013

October 18-19-20, 2013

Fall- TBA, 2013

Alfredo Hernandez Dressage Clinic

Anne Howard Dressage Clinic

Jessica Jo Tate Dressage Clinic

2014 Shows

We will be listing the shows for 2014 within the next few weeks. We look forward to seeing everyone who showed this year and welcoming new riders in 2014.

Please visit the website for additional information on upcoming shows and events.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN DRESSAGE SOCIETY
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BOULDER, COLORADO 80301-5139

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