



THE CENTAUR

Educating Horse & Rider as Partners

SEPTEMBER 2018

What's Inside

Features

Three Weeks at CHP6
 USDF Workshop.....8
 JR/YR Intensive..... 18
 Building Horse Sport20
 2019 Ad Contract22
 New Sponsor Challenge.....23

In Every Issue

President's Message..... 2
 Chapter News..... 3
 News You Can Use.....5
 Calendar12
 Executive Board 14
 Chapter Meetings.....15
 RMDS-Sponsored Events .15
 Region 5 Message.....24
 Ominbus Corrections24
 Business Ads.....26
 Classifieds27

**SEE YOU AT
 CHAMPIONSHIPS - COME
 AND VOLUNTEER!
 CONTACT HEATHER
 PETERSEN**

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

Three Weeks at the Colorado Horse Park...pg 6

Martha Brown takes a three-week excursion to the Dressage Symposium followed by two weekends of showing!

USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshop...pg 8

Carol Cunefare received a grant from TDF to further her education

Jr/YR Intensive...pg 18

Report and pictures from another great summer camp!

Building Horse Sports for More Sponsors...pg 20

Mark Belissimo shares his thoughts on how to build horse sport sponsors and audience

2019 Advertising Form...pg 22

Championship Sponsor Challenge...pg 23

*Cover photo:
 Scenes from Championships past*

UPCOMING EVENTS

RMDS CHAMPIONSHIPS: SEP 20-23

USDF REGION 5 CHAMPIONSHIPS: OCT 5-7

AVDA RIVERWALK SCHOOLING SHOW: OCT 6

REG 5 JR/YR CLINIC/GEORGE WILLIAMS: OCT 13-14

RMDS BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING: NOV 3

Welcome competitors, sponsors, volunteers and officials to the 2018 RMDS Championships.

Thank you to the Colorado Horse Park for your generous support of dressage in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region. To all our sponsors - we appreciate the help and donations that make this event possible. Two White Feet Staff - you are the foundation of this show and we cannot even begin to Thank You enough for all your time and energy. Volunteers - you are the glue that binds the pieces together so that the show can run without problems.



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

Officials - you keep the day going by working to help the competitors and show management to run an efficient competition. Your expertise brings forth the champions for the year.

RMDS Executive Board members - you have the job of making this show a success by being everywhere and helping out where you are needed. I regret that I cannot support my team this year as I am out of town judging another show, but I know that I have left everything in the best hands.

Enjoy the show, the parties and your equine partners.

Aloha, Gwen Ka'awaloa



Functional Physical Therapy

At Functional Physical Therapy, we create a partnership between the patient and the therapist to return the patient to a full and active life in work and play. We are constantly questioning where the symptoms are originating so the cause can be addressed, and not just treat the symptoms.

Nancy Hackett Harrison, MSPT, CFMT, FFMT, FAAOMPT (clinic owner and USDF Bronze and Silver medalist) specializes in biomechanics of the rider and teaches Integrated Riding clinics with Dolly Hannon, S judge. Dolly refers all her students who need excellent physical therapy to our practice. With a background in eventing and dressage, we will formulate a treatment plan for riders with sports related injury and posture asymmetries.

We have two locations:

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Denver, CO 80212

(303)941-0664 phone

(303)997-4832 fax

www.functionalphysicaltherapyllc.com

2935 Baseline Rd Ste 301

Boulder, CO 80303

(303)941-1768 phone

(720)381-6776

Info@functionalphysicaltherapyllc.com



Foothills Chapter

Members are looking forward to competing at RMDS Championships this month, with participation at many levels by our Junior, Adult Amateur and Open riders. They prepared at our Ride-A-Test and two RMDS-recognized dressage shows this year.

Please join us as we plan our 2019 events on Monday, Oct. 22, at 6:30 p.m. at Table Mountain Ranch, 19000 W. 58th Ave., Golden, CO 80404. We would like your suggestions and preferences for show judges and staff, education programs and clinic presenters. Preparing a freestyle program, riding precise dressage “geometry,” learning at a schooling show and Ride-A-Test all will be considered, among other ideas. What do you want to learn? How can you help your horse with ground manners, loading or trail etiquette? This meeting is the place to request a program by an expert who can assist you in any equine activity.

Meeting attendees will set chapter activities for one year. They will nominate and vote on next year’s officers, select their representatives to attend the RMDS Board of Governor’s meeting in November, plan a basket for the RMDS Banquet and choose a Volunteer of the Year to be recognized at the banquet. Attention also will focus on organizing the chapter’s end-of-year dinner in November.

This is an important meeting to share your opinion. Join us for a casual meal, conversation and planning on Monday, Oct. 22. Call if you have questions (785) 470-7569 and check our website for the latest information, www.cofoothillsdressage.org.

Linda Gaber, Foothills President

On The Bit

Entries are open for our RMDS recognized show in August! Check out the prizelist on www.onthebitdressage.com. Our judges will be Ulf Wadeborn (S) on August 11 and Kathy Simard (L) on August 12. The show will take place at Spur Ridge Equestrian Community in Laramie, WY. This relatively new facility has a nice large outdoor arena, which will be used as warm up arena, and a great indoor arena for the tests. If you are curious, you can find pictures of Spur Ridge on their facebook page.

Since we have been quite busy preparing for the show, we are taking a break from presentations at our monthly meetings, but we will continue to hear about interesting equine topics in September.

In order to get a little bit closer to our goals in the saddle, we brought Kathy Simard to Laramie for a two-day clinic in June. More details to follow!

We hope to see you at our show or at one of our meetings every first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm at Altitude Chop-house in Laramie, WY!

Ginka Kubelka, On The Bit President

NCDA

NCDA’s Spring Schooling show April 22nd was very well attended. We love being able to provide a fun, quality show experience for everyone. And I mean that! We had a good number of our members, new members, other Chapters, Eventers, Western Dressage, and Hunters.

The May meeting was our “May Moot House Madness” meeting. Dinner and libations at the local Fort Collins restaurant was paired with a presentation on results from our survey. We are listening!

Also, at the meeting, we announced High Point winners from the show: Classical Dressage is Felix Duerr and Don Christino, Western Dressage is Silja Knoll and Ruby, and Eventing Dressage is Alison Murphy and WeatherBee!

Our Board continues to meet over the “Summer Break”. We are preparing for; elections, the upcoming Fall Festival in October, next year’s general meeting presentations, and next year’s show/events.

General meetings are the second Wednesday evening September through May. Follow us on Facebook or see our new web page, www.Noco-dressage.org and check out all the new features!

Didi DeKrey, NCDA President

High Plains

The High Plains Dressage Society hosted their second annual Adult Clinic in June with USDF certified instructor Joan Clay. We had riders participate from Western Dressage to all the way through the FEI levels. The 8 adult participating riders worked on dressage foundations and applications including position, straightness, and suppleness to assist the horse and rider pair in their continued educational journey. Thanks to Joan for her wonderful knowledge and teaching abilities! And thank you to Pat VanBuskirk and VB Farms for their table sponsorship.

Lastly, a huge thanks to all the

cont. on pg 4

RMDS members, friends and family for your loving support to one of our members, Una Shade, who was involved in a head-on car collision on her way home from volunteering at the Fountain Valley Show. Una is a huge part of High Plains and Rocky Mountain Dressage's success and we hope and pray for a speedy and full recovery. To donate, please visit gofundme.com/una-schade

Upcoming Board Meetings in Parker:

- September 11, 2018 @ 5:30
- October 9, 2018 @ 5:30

Please RSVP to stephaniefiggins@gmail.com to attend

Stephanie Figgins, President

Boulder Valley

2018 BVD Events

William McMullin Clinic – September 10 – Blue Roof Equestrian Center

Sandra Rosewell, BV President

Arkansas Valley

Going from drought to our annual monsoon weather has been quite an adventure in the Arkansas Valley! We have had a couple of cancellations or changes of venue with washed out roads and arenas. However, the hay is growing like crazy which is great!

July was a busy month with our schooling show which was well attended and included a Century Ride by Sis Harmon and her mount Shania. A celebration was held with cake and many congrats! With high temps (100 degrees!) wind (40 mph) and a spooky pony Sis, age 78 and Shania 22 did quite well!

The following day our judge, Simone Windeler gave some of our members lessons in Pueblo which was greatly enjoyed!

Our Dolly Hannon clinic was delightful; we learned so much! The facility was very gracious, providing us with good footing, clean and roomy stalls and excellent meals from their restaurant.

Our next meeting will be on Aug 20 5:30 pm at Coyote Den in Penrose. We will discuss our awards program and our next Riverwalk Schooling Show #3, on Oct. 6.

Brenda Haley, AVDA President

Western Colorado

Things are hopping on the Western Slope with a renewed effort by the Western Colorado Chapter going forward with new Board members Lesley Hill, President, Lisa Harrisfield Vice-President, and Carolyn Miller, Secretary. The Board would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to Barbara McElnea, guiding light of the Chapter for many years, who is stepping back from her day to day involvement in the Chapter. Lesley, Lisa and I are all adult amateur riders with a vested interest in generating more educational opportunities arising out of our 501(c) non-profit organization and upgrading our schooling shows through the use of recognized judges and next Spring a Ride-A-Test show and clinic! We have an active clinic schedule with a variety of teachers coming to the Valley on a regular basis.

Our first schooling show, held at the Strang Ranch, Carbondale on June 13 was a big success with 48 rides ranging across the board from Prix St. George to Intro, and a number of Working Equitation rides and Eventing tests, a quadrille demonstration during the lunch break – all ably judged by Megan Bretey who came up for the day from Grand Junction.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the July show due to the interruption to our Valley from the Lake Christine Fire, but we are set to complete our season with the WCC-RMDS Schooling Show III to be held at the Strang Ranch on Wednesday, August 15, with Sharron Sarchet making the trek from Longmont to judge for us.

We are currently re-designing our website which should be up and running within the next weeks. It will feature a clinic/event listing, a competition section which (eventually) will offer the ability to enter and pay through the website for our shows, bio's on our Board Members and a Trainer Directory Listing for the region. In the meantime, we have a Group Facebook page – Western Colorado Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society – which is our current communication medium.

If you would like to be on our mailing list and receive news about our clinic, show and event schedule, please email carolyndarleymler@gmail.com. Please also contact me with news pertinent to our members and I will disseminate to our mailing list and post on the Group Facebook Page.

Carolyn Miller, Secretary, WCC-RMDS, 970-948-6462

2017 Trophy Return

**PLEASE return your 2017 trophies
to Shannon Lemons at
Championships.**

2019 Omnibus Opening Date

The Omnibus, RMDS' annual rider, trainer, instructor show guide will open for advertisement on Oct. 10. Reservations are taken on a first paid, first served basis.

Closing deadline for submissions, both ads and shows, is Nov. 15.

News from The Dressage Foundation

Don't miss these dates...

If you're reading this, chances are that you might know a youth, young adult, adult amateur or instructor who loves dressage. We can also assume that they might like some money to help them along their educational journey, right?

In just the month of September, we have \$24,000 to award to these dressage enthusiasts! Applications are ONLINE, quick and easy. Get started on these grant applications now:

- Cynthia Aspden Youth and Young Development Fund (Due Sep. 1)
- Gifted Memorial Fund for Adult Amateurs (Due Sep. 15)
- Lindgren Instructor Education Grants (Due Sep. 30)

The Dressage Foundation

(402) 434-8585

info@dressagefoundation.org

www.dressagefoundation.org

RMDS Scholarship Programs

Every year, RMDS awards scholarships in the following categories. Scholarship applications will be accepted between October 1st and November 30th for the following year's scholarships.

1. The 'Leg-Up' Scholarship will be awarded to riders, regardless of age, who are training at Intro, Training or First Level.
2. The 'Solid Seat' Scholarship will be awarded to riders who qualify as USEF Adult Amateurs (must have a current USEF AA card on file with the RMDS Central Office). This scholarship is available to riders over the age of 21 and for any level.
3. The 'Junior/Young Rider' Scholarship will be awarded to a rider under the age of 21 and is available to riders of any level.
4. The 'Opening Doors' Scholarship will be awarded to riders/riding instructors of any age who are considered professionals according to the USEF rules. This scholarship is available to professionals, whether they compete or not, to help support their continuing education and/or competitive goals.

Contact the Scholarship Chair, Mary Jo Hoepner, for further information and also check the website, rmds.org under Forms.

Combining Education and Showing at CHP

By Martha Brown

Show pictures courtesy of Kathleen Bryan

The seed was planted back in January when I opened up the Centaur and started looking at the 2018 calendar of events. I noticed a series of events—educational and competitive—one after the other to be held at Colorado Horse Park (“CHP”) from mid-May into early June. Dressage in the Rockies Symposium followed by three days of shows the next weekend, and (yes!) a two day show the following weekend! The wheels began to turn. Soon I was consulting with my trainer, RaeAnn Cook, and a friend, Toni Zurcher, to see if attending was even thinkable, let alone do-able. It would take our village to make it happen. Over the course of the winter months plans were made, and in the spring our dreams came to fruition.

The horses’ accommodations came first. We contacted CHP who agreed to stable our horses for the three week stay. Next came our housing. Online searches through AirBNB, Home Away, etc., produced good results, and I was able to negotiate a slightly reduced fee for our extended stay in a house. This was all a huge gamble because we had no idea if we would be selected to ride in Dressage in the Rockies Symposium. But Toni and I held hopes high and were delighted to be selected for the Symposium.

Interestingly enough, Toni and I had travelled to Omaha last year for World Cup and recall watching Judy Reynolds’ harmonious Grand Prix ride, garnering her fourth place. A year later, we would be riding for her during the Symposium! We found her to be a highly focused instructor who really honed in on helping the rider gain better position in order to elicit better movement from her mount. Again and again with each student over those two days improvements were clearly made. On Saturday evening during the wine and cheese event, Judy accepted my offer to sit with

our table full of auditors and riders. She was most gracious in answering all sorts of questions thrown at her, and we all learned a little more about her. Did you know that the only reason she came to Colorado was for this symposium? Did you know she’d be delighted to return for next year’s Symposium? Did you know that she’s been living near Dusseldorf, Germany, for the last 15 years or so? But she rides under the Irish flag.



CHP did a great job of planning the Symposium. Due to their organized setup, we were able to watch Janet Foy, Lilo Fore, Lisa Wilcox, Allison Brock, and Scott Hassler giving lessons to Junior/Young Riders, Adult Amateurs, and Professionals. The sound systems were well placed, so it was easy to move from one clinician to the other and still keep an eye on another lesson.

We were able to watch all levels of riding over the course of the Symposium. One of the best things about auditing the Symposium was seeing problems arise and how to solve them. Videos and YouTube don’t hold a candle to watching solutions occur in real time! During phases of sketchy weather, riders were moved to one of the indoor arenas at CHP. What a luxury to have so many spaces from which to choose!



Speaking of weather, we all know how unpredictable Colorado can be in May. Mother Nature blessed us during our stay with bouts of hail, chilly temps, extreme heat, and everything in between. We were grateful to have packed plenty of stable wear for the horses and plenty of layers for ourselves. We needed every bit of what we brought! And for what we might need while at CHP, Dover Saddlery is a stone’s throw away. Another in-place shop-

ping option were the vendors (who were there primarily for the jumpers who populated CHP during most of our stint there). We sure enjoyed watching the jumping as we walked to or from our turnouts or

cont. on pg 7

Three days at CHP *(cont.)*

rode by on the way to one of the many arenas for a schooling session.

Toby was paying special attention to the jumpers as we passed by them each day, seeming to be studying them. I understand that he'd spent a couple years jumping prior to my purchase. During a spate of bad weather we were schooling in the large indoor amongst the many jumps set up. I was using them as obstacles in some exercises to enhance our communication and handiness. During a diminishing and expanding canter circle he took the opportunity to make a very nice flying change and headed straight toward a jump. I don't know how to jump. Toby does. It was too late to alter course or stop, so we flew over the jump, landed in one unit, and made another flying change. I was able to divert him from the next jump and took a few moments to catch my breath. Perhaps I should learn how to jump properly just in case that knowledge is ever needed again!



With our Symposium lessons behind us, we were now as ready as we were going to be for the first series of shows. Toni and I were showing second and third levels in the AA division. For me, I wasn't quite able to channel the previous weekend's lessons as well as I'd hoped I would, so my scores weren't swoon-worthy. We would continue to work on that in the hopes that the last two shows the following weekend would produce better results with greater consistency. Back to basics. As always.

During the last week at CHP, Toni and I spent lots of time discussing our lessons with Judy, what we learned by auditing the other Symposium riders, and the comments from the judges the previous weekend. We tried to make a game plan for our final couple days there. By the afternoon of June 3, we'd both made some improvements on our tests, increased our overall scores, and had ribbons from every test to take home.

There are some things that I would do differently. Since Toby and Brianna knew each other I would definitely ask to have them across from each other instead of next to each other. They were all alone the first night, and Toby kept standing on his hind legs to look over the wall to check on Brianna. Once other horses moved into the stable, he was fine. Both of the horses seem to enjoy traveling to new

places and exploring. CHP has amazing property for hacks, and we took advantage of that as often as we could. The house that we rented was lovely, but it was too big for us. Next time I'll see if there's a smaller, more cost effective house. And I would bring as much of my own hay and bedding as I could. I'd misunderstood some communications and thought we weren't allowed to bring our own. Toby and Brianna sure did enjoy the lovely hay that CHP provided, though!

It was somewhat bittersweet in leaving our home away from home. We'd learned so much! In retrospect, we'd certainly do this again. And we are hopeful that RMDS' 2019 calendar will offer a similar series of events so that others may also take advantage of what CHP has to offer. I doubt I'll ever be able to go to Wellington, FL, for the winter season. And that's perfectly fine with me. We have a lovely venue right here in Colorado.



Martha and Toby share a moment in his digs at the horse park

USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshop

2018 TDF Continuing Education Grant Recipient: Carol Cunefare

By Carol Cunefare

Applying for a grant through TDF is easy, but I encourage you to follow their tips to make it the best it can be. The most important tip: start early!

Getting letters of recommendation, planning a budget, and documenting the history of my career was cathartic and took some time. I did not want to forget one student, horse or instructor/clinician I have ever ridden with. It was important to keep it simple and relevant. The Dressage Foundation has so much to offer both professionals and amateurs, don't think for a minute that you might not have what they are looking for. It can never hurt to ask! I was ecstatic to learn that I had been chosen as a recipient of the **Maryal and Charlie Barnett Continuing Education Grants** for Dressage Instructors to further my education in Dressage. Truly such an honor!

If you are on the fence about attending the USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshops, I highly recommend it! It is, without a doubt, a time and financial commitment, and I could not have done it without the support from TDF. This grant made it possible for me to be able to take time away from teaching and training while traveling from Colorado to Central Arizona Riding Academy where the three workshops were hosted by Dorie Vlaten Schmitz. We had fabulous horses and students to work with during all three workshops, which were held a month apart.

I live in the southwest Colorado, and it is not a hot spot for dressage. I travel quite a distance for shows and clinics. I knew going into this certification that it would be a huge commitment, but I loved every minute. The Pyramid of Training is emphasized throughout, regardless of the horse or rider's level of training, and is incorporated into each schooling session. The same format was used each day; we had a lecture each morning then moved out to the arena for the hands-on portion. In all three workshops we had to be able to observe, analyze, plan, and implement the assessment cycle. We had to present our assessment to the group after having approximately ten minutes with the horse or rider/combo and explain what exercises we felt would be beneficial. Then we had 15-20 minutes to ride/teach and implement our plan, and 10 minutes to recap at the end and state what worked and perhaps did not work and why. Using correct terminology was the most challenging, but I expanded my vocabulary after each workshop. It



has improved the way I speak and explain things to my students.

The Riding Workshop was first, led by Sarah Martin. She focused on the what, why and how of being able to identify the root issue by identifying the symptoms first. I found the riding portion easy, even though I was the first rider to go on the first day. There was continuous open discussion between the instructor and those auditing, and the other participants, so it felt

very instructional and was a fabulous learning experience.

The Teaching Workshop was second, led by Sarah Geikie. Teaching in front of so many people who were critiquing me was a tad uncomfortable. I always say that we do not learn and grow if we are always in our comfort zone, so this was a fantastic exercise!! At home, I use a communication system, so I am not used to projecting my voice and especially not in front of so many people. Again, despite this, it was such a great learning experience and it made me more confident.

The Lunging Workshop was last, which was led by Bill McMullin. I was fortunate to grow-up on the lunge line, receiving lunge lessons on a regular basis. I will admit going into this Workshop, I did not think there was much more to learn about lunging. I was very mistaken and came away from this weekend with a new appreciation for proper lunging techniques, leading to a huge difference in my horses and students alike.

My clients have been ecstatic about this endeavor and so appreciative of the knowledge that I have brought home. It has given me clarity and drive to demand correctness, and not to pass over the basics to advance. I am looking forward to our "Mock" testing in October and the final testing in November 2018. This experience has made me appreciate what the USDF stands for and the principles they promote. Anyone can call themselves a "trainer" these days, but when someone dedicates their time to complete the comprehensive programs offered through the USDF, the reward is felt by many. Trainers will have a feeling of accomplishment and pride in continuing the legacy that the USDF has fought to establish, ensuring that riders will learn and implement a correct and solid foundation to build upon. I remind my students that it is not the destination that matters, but our journey there.

KL Realty

BOULDER'S INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE BROKER



\$1,495,000

7097 Jay Rd, Boulder

14 acres close to Boulder! Existing home is an immaculate 1910 structure. Useful outbuildings totaling 3,700 sq ft. Two perennial springs in the yard and 6 shares of N Boulder Farmers Ditch for irrigation.



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10069 N 65th St, Longmont

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\$2,800,000

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Rich in history and nostalgia, this property abounds with possibilities for the farmers of today. Includes 2 homes and 140 shares of Left Hand Ditch; easily and efficiently applied by way of a storage pond, pivot and water cannon. The land produces superb hay and still has acreage for grazing livestock. The Flatirons views are unsurpassed, and the location is private and rural.

Only minutes from Boulder.



Karen and Lagnes



Call For Pricing

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The KL Team

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team@klrealty.net

www.klrealty.net

RMDS Caps!

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Denim Blue or Khaki with

Dressage With Altitude on the front

and

RMDS on the back





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While inventory is still low, the market is changing. Call me with questions.

UNDER CONTRACT IN 48 HOURS!



5648 PHEASANT LANE, FORT COLLINS

PRICE \$625,000 7 acres
3 bedroom, 3 bath walkout ranch style home. 3 stall barn, arena with base, pond, pasture.



ANDRIA ALLEN

Aim Higher and Achieve More

Visit my blog for interesting information, statistics and articles about the real estate market at www.andriallen.wordpress.com



UNDER CONTRACT IN 5 DAYS!

6122 MONARCH RD, LONGMONT
\$1,800,000 16 acres



UNDER CONTRACT IN 5 WEEKS!

9647 N. 63RD ST, LONGMONT
\$1,950,000 30 acres



To see photos and more information about any of these properties, please visit my website at

www.AndriaAllen.com • 303-810-8375



WK
REAL ESTATE

Shows and Events

All shows are RMDS recognized except schooling shows.

RMDS CALENDAR

2018

SEPTEMBER 2018

- 1 **The Training Pyramid Clinics-Impulsion-Black Forest, CO**
Contact Simone Windeler 719-287-2040 simonedressage@gmail.com
- 6 **Executive Board Meeting-Darcy's Pub-4955 S Ulster St #103 Denver, CO OPEN to all**
Contact RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org
- 8 **Western Dressage in the Rockies Fall Schooling Show-Colorado Horse Park-Parker, CO**
Contact Heather Petersen 303-648-3164 slush@drgw.net www.2whitefeet.com
- 8 **Shiloh Schooling Show-Shiloh Ranch-Black Forest, CO**
Contact Simone Windeler 719-287-2040 eleganttrider@gmail.com
- 8-9 **BV Dressage Festival I & II-Boulder County Fairgrounds-Longmont, CO**
Contact Patti Hallock 720-323-6691 bvdressage@comcast.net
- 8-9 **Dressage in the Rockies Fall I & II-CO Horse Park-Parker, CO USEF**
Contact Teresa Griner 352-636-2669
- 9 **Western Dressage in the Rockies Show 1 & 2-Colorado Horse Park-Parker, CO-USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen 303-648-3164 slush@drgw.net www.2whitefeet.com
- 10 **Bill McMullin Clinic – Blue Roof Equestrian-Boulder, CO**
Contact Beth Geier 303-673-9840 bethgeier1@comcast.net
- 15 **Hidden Creek Schooling Show-Hidden Creek Equestrian Center-Peyton, CO**
Contact Susan Borders 719-740-1099 susan.e.borders@gmail.com
- 20 **Great American Insurance Group/USDF Breeders' Championships & RMDS Sport Horse Championships-CO Horse Park-USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen 303-648-3164 slush@drgw.net www.2whitefeet.com
- 21-23 **RMDS Championships-Colorado Horse Park-Parker, CO USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen 303-648-3164 slush@drgw.net www.2whitefeet.com
- 29 **Triple Creek Schooling Show-Longmont, CO**
Contact Lynn McChesney 303-444-4291 lynntriplecreek@gmail.com
- 29 **Creekside Schooling Show-Creekside Equestrian-Parker, Co**
Contact Angel Hoskins 720-810-5466 ah@angelshorses.com

OCTOBER 2018

- 5-7 **USDF/Great American Region 5 Championships-Scottsdale, AZ**
Contact USDF usdf@usdf.org
- 6 **AVDA Riverwalk Schooling Show Series-Pathfinder Park-Florence, CO**
Contact Kathleen Knight <http://arkansasvalleydressage.org/index.html>
- 6 **The Training Pyramid Clinics-Straightness-Black Forest, CO**
Contact Simone Windeler 719-287-2040 simonedressage@gmail.com
- 7 **Sharron Sarchet Clinic –Pathfinder Park-Florence, CO**
Contact Kathleen Knight arkansasvalleydressage.org
- 9 **Executive Board Meeting-Darcy's Pub-4955 S Ulster St #103 Denver, CO OPEN to all**
Contact RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org
- 10-11 **Gerd Heuschmann Biomechanics Clinic-Wilson Ranch-Black Forest, CO**
Contact Alexandra Robinson 719-351-9721 therobinsons4@msn.com
- 13-14 **Region 5 JR/YR Clinic with George Williams-Colorado Horse Park USDF Jamie Humphries usdf@usdf.org**

- 13 **Triple Creek Schooling Show-Longmont, CO**
Contact Lynn McChesney 303-444-4291 lynntriplecreek@gmail.com
- 14 **NCDA Spring Schooling Show-Tomora Trng Center-Greeley, CO**
Contact Didi DeKrey denisedekrey@gmail.com
- 26-28 **Nancy Baker Clinic-Somerset Farms-Longmont, CO**
Contact Gayle Udall 303-503-3383 tawdie@comcast.net
- 27 **Creekside Schooling Show-Creekside Equestrian-Parker, Co**
Contact Angel Hoskins 720-810-5466 ah@angelshorses.com

NOVEMBER 2018

- 3 **Board of Governors-TBA**
- 3 **The Training Pyramid Clinics-Collection-Black Forest, CO**
Contact Simone Windeler 719-287-2040 simonedressage@gmail.com
- 18 **Triple Creek Schooling Show-Longmont, CO**
Contact Lynn McChesney 303-444-4291 lynntriplecreek@gmail.com
- 17-18 **TDC Club Fall Festival I & II-Tucson, AZ**
Contact Debbie Garris 312-401-1157 dgarris@horseshowolutions.com

2019

JANUARY 2019

- 5 **RMDS Banquet and 2018 Awards dinner-Renaissance Hotel-Quebec St-Denver, CO**
Contact RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@indra.com
- 12 **Heart Saver & First Aid Certification - Gwen Ka'awaloo Safe Sport – Heather Petersen**
Contact RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org
- 13 **Biomechanics Lecture for RMDS 'L' Graduates & Professionals Continuing Education with Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez & Kathy Simard-Douglas County Fairgrounds**
Contact RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org

FEBRUARY 2019

- 9 **TD/Show Management Training**
Contact MaryJo Hoepner 719-495-3648 education@rmds.org

SEPTEMBER 2019

- 19-22 **Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 5 Dressage Championships & RMDS Championships-Colorado Horse Park-Parker, CO-USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen 303-648-3164 slush@drgw.net www.2whitefeet.com

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS – open to all-2nd Thursday of the odd months-6:30 p.m. See Calendar listings for dates, contact RMDS Central Office for location updates. For latest updates to the calendar, check the website at www.rmds.org

**For updates to the calendar, go to the website:
www.rmds.org**

Show Membership Requirements for RMDS and More!

RMDS Championships

- Rider must be a member for the current year.
- Owner, if different from the rider, must be a member for the current year.
- Horse must be lifetime registered with RMDS.
- All memberships must be current before the qualifying scores are earned.
- All members must be in good standing with the Society.

Educational memberships for rider/owner are not accepted. Must be a full member.

RMDS Year-End Awards

- Rider must be a member for the current year.
- Owner, if different from the rider, must be a member for the current year.
- Horse must be lifetime registered with RMDS.
- All memberships must be current before the qualifying scores are earned.
- All members must be in good standing with the Society.
- Riders & owners that have an Education membership are not eligible for year-end awards. Riders or their representative are required to have a minimum of 4 recorded volunteer hours earned in the current competition year in order to be eligible for year-end awards.
- Scores may only be earned at RMDS Recognized competitions.
- Competitors are responsible for making sure their scores are correctly reported to the RMDS Central Office – score checks are highly recommended!
- Breed papers for the horse must be on file with RMDS if you would like your horse to be eligible for RMDS Year-End Breed Awards.
- Any USDF Region 5 Championship is automatically RMDS recognized.

RMDS Memberships are not required for trainers, coaches or handlers.

RMDS Membership Cards must be submitted with your entries to shows.

Be sure to review the "Show Membership Requirements for RMDS and More!" here, and remember, starting in 2018, Riders or their representative are required to have a minimum of 4 recorded volunteer hours earned in the current competition year in order to be eligible for year-end awards.

2017 Trophy Return

PLEASE return your 2017 trophies to Shannon Lemons at Championships.

2019 Omnibus Opening Date

The Omnibus, RMDS' annual rider, trainer, instructor show guide will open for advertisement on Oct. 10. Reservations are taken on a first paid, first served basis.

Closing deadline for submissions, both ads and shows, is Nov. 15.

2018 RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Gwen Ka'awalo	303-917-3679	Kaimana_co@hotmail.com
Past President.....	Simone Windeler.....	719-540-2000	simonedressage@gmail.com
Vice President.....	Tiffany Rutledge	719-237-4115	tiffanybusch@hotmail.com
Secretary	Heather Petersen	303-648-3164	slush@drwg.net
Treasurer	Sharon Soos.....	303-904-7534	sksoos@mesanetworks.net

PERMANENT COMMITTEES

Adult Amateur Co-Chairs.....	Anclaire Spaulding.....	303-903-7878	anclaire.spaulding@gmail.com
	Michelle Stevens	951-264-4100	mshoops@hotmail.com
Awards.....	Shannon Lemons.....	719-686-0064	lemons_shannon@yahoo.com
Results.....	Central Office.....	720-890-7825	rmds@rmds.org
Communications.....	Beverly Swanson	720-401-0357	centaurpublisher@gmail.com
Centaur Editor/Production.....	Beverly Swanson	720-401-0357	centaurpublisher@gmail.com
Advertising	Central Office.....	720-890-7825	rmds@rmds.org
Omnibus Production	Nicole Bizarro.....	303-939-0110	nicbiz@indra.com
Webmaster	Michael Petersen.....	719-683-8435	webmaster@rmds.org
Education.....	MaryJo Hoepner.....	719-495-3648	education@rmds.org
Junior/Young Riders.....	Cassandra DiPentino.....	303-641-9162	dipentinodressage@gmail.com
Marketing Co-chairs	Una Schade	720-862-4444	unaschade@gmail.com
	Dorothy Kapaun.....	970-310-5229	dorothykapaun@yahoo.com
Professionals Co- Chairs	Kathy Simard	720-981-4448	katsimard@msn.com
	Joan Clay.....	970-420-0887	jnclay@comcast.net
RMDS Show Liaison	Una Schade	720-862-4444	unaschade@gmail.com
Scholarship	MaryJo Hoepner	719-495-3648	scholarship@rmds.org

APPOINTED COMMITTEES

Banquet	Beth Geier	720-890-7825	rmds@rmds.org
BOG	Heather Petersen	303-648-3164	slush@drwg.net
Historical.....	Open		
Nominating.....	RMDS Central Office	720-890-7825	rmds@rmds.org
Central Office Manager	Beth Geier	720-890-7825	rmds@rmds.org
Western Dressage Liaison.....	Simone Windeler.....	719-540-2000	simonedressage@gmail.com

RMDS CENTRAL OFFICE

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

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Arkansas Valley.....	Brenda Haley	719-275-0118	brendahaley@q.com
Boulder Valley	Sandra Rosewell	303-638-2525	sandra.rosewell@colorado.edu
Foothills.....	Linda Gaber	303-674-7998	writers@icloud.com
Grand Valley	Arlene Rhodes	970-201-1779	arlene@skypony.org
High Plains.....	Stephanie Figgins	720-480-7044	stephanieeffiggins@gmail.com
Northern Colorado	Didi DeKrey.....	970-222-1304	denisedekrey@gmail.com
On the Bit Dressage.....	Ginka Kubelka.....	307-399-8763	gbuchner@uwyo.edu
Pikes Peak.....	Tiffany Rutledge	719-237-4115	tiffanybusch@hotmail.com
Western Colorado.....	Lesley Hill.....	970-925-9238	ljs@rof.net

GOVERNING BODIES

United States Dressage Federation (USDF) 859-971-227 www.usdf.org
4051 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511

USDF REGION 5

Director	Heather Petersen	303-648-3164	slush@drwg.net
FEI Jr/YR Coordinator	Joan Clay.....	970-420-0887	jnclay@comcast.net
Website			www.usdfregion5.org

US Equestrian Federation, Inc (USEF)..... 859-258-2472 www.usef.org
4047 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511

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

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RMDS CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE

Arkansas Valley: 3rd Mon.-monthly, location on website, Brenda Haley, 719-275-0118, brendahaley@q.com check www.arkansasvalleydressage.org for times and locations

Boulder Valley: 2nd Mon., even months, location TBD, Sandra Rosewell, 303-638-2525, Sandra.Rosewell@Colorado.edu

Foothills: quarterly meetings, location TBD, Linda Gaber 303-674-7998 writers@icloud.com

Grand Valley: third Monday of the month, February through November at Canyon View Vineyard Church, Classroom T106, at 736 24-1/2 Rd Grand Junction, CO, Arlene Rhodes 970-201-1779, arlene@skypony.org

High Plains: Bimonthly- Julie Burt's residence, 6796 Ponderosa Dr., Parker, Stephanie Figgins, 720-480-7044 stephanieefiggins@gmail.com

Northern Colo.: 2nd Wed., September – May, Mimi's Cafe-Loveland, CO, Didi DeKrey, 970-222-3104, or events.ncda@gmail.com

On the Bit: 1st Tues. of the month 7 p.m. Altitude Chophouse-Laramie, WY, Ginka Kubelka, 307-399-8763, gbuchner@uwyo.edu

Pikes Peak: 2nd Tuesday of the month - check www.pikespeakdressage.org for dates & location, Tiffany Ruttledge 719-237-4115, tiffanybusch@hotmail.com

Western Colorado: location TBD, Lesley Hill 970-925-9238, ljs@rof.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 2017-18 may be variable, please check the calendar or the website. Contact the RMDS Central Office for location.

2018-19 RMDS-SPONSORED EVENTS

All events are open to **EVERYONE** to audit or participate unless otherwise stated. A great opportunity to continue your learning! Register for these events at www.rmids.org

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

2018:

September

- 20 USDF Breeders' Championships & RMDS Sport Horse Championships-Colorado Horse Park-USEF
- 21-23 RMDS Championships-Colorado Horse Park-Parker, CO USEF

November

- 3 Board of Governors – must be a delegate to vote-anyone may attend

2019:

January

- 5 2018 Awards Banquet-Renaissance Denver Hotel-3801 Quebec Street-Denver, CO
- 12 Heart Saver & First Aid Certification - Gwen Ka'awaloa
- Safe Sport – Heather Petersen - Douglas County Fairgrounds
- 13 RMDS 'L' Graduates & Professionals Continuing Education with Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez & Kathy Simard

February

- 9 TD/Show Management Continuing Education

September

- 19-22 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 5 Dressage Championships & RMDS Championships

For details on these and other RMDS events:

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

The Centaur Newsletter

The Centaur newsletter is published monthly. To guarantee that ads and articles will run in a given month, they must be received by the 5th of the month prior to the month of publication, i.e. January 5th for the February edition. If not received by the deadline, articles and ads may be placed in the following issue, if not time sensitive.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For article suggestions, articles, columns, letters-to-the-editor: RMDS Office, Beth Geier, 2942 Park Lake Dr., Boulder, CO 80301, Phone: 720.890.7825, email: rmds@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 marketplace receives between 300-400 hits per month, and the trainer page averages about 80. RMDS receives emails requesting names of trainers in the RMDS region. Don't miss the opportunity to expand your client base and gain recognition.

Cost is \$50 annually. Mail check to: RMDS Central Office, 2942 Park Lake Drive. Boulder, CO 80301.

Advertise Events on the RMDS Website

Website ads on the RMDS site provide your event with high visibility. Your ad will run for one month from the date it first appears. Unless the RMDS Central Office is notified in advance (rmds@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. 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.

Technical Delegates, Judges and Certified Instructors

Dressage Judge Ratings and Levels Qualified to Judge

All Current RMDS Members

Any class ridden before a judge not qualified to judge at that level must ride "Hors d'concours" where the score does not count.

Status	Status	Levels	Status	Status	Levels
"r"	Recorded	Training - Second	3*	(FEI C)	All
"R"	Registered	Training - Fourth	4*	(FEI I) International	All
"S"	Senior	All	5*	(FEI O)	All

FEI 5*

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

FEI 4*

Sandra Hotz [^] 303-817-2030

FEI PARA Dressage 3*

Sue Curry Shaffer [^] 707-483-0860

USEF 'S'

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

Janet "Dolly" Hannon ^{^*} 303-919-4112

Sandra Hotz [^] 303-817-2030

Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez ^{^*} 303-263-0768

Sue Curry Shaffer [^] 707-483-0860

[^] = FEI Young Horse Certified

* = Dressage Seat Equitation Certified

USEF 'R'

Gwen Ka'awaloa 303-917-3679

USEF 'r'

Julie Haugen 970-290-8360

Amy Jablonovsky 970-493-2833

USDF 'L' Graduates (Schooling and RMDS

Only recognized shows)

*Denotes Graduation with Distinction

Michelle Anderson 303-646-1375

Megan Bretey 970-250-5812

Kathleen Donnelly* 970-310-8729

Wendy Fryke 720-314-0974

Beth Geier 303-673-9840

Jessica Greer 970-581-5613

Sarah Martin * 720-891-1369

KC Parkins-Kyle 303-841-9953

Sharron Sarchet* 720-320-4461

Kathy Simard* 720-981-4448

Stephanie Soule* 970-201-0747

Simone Windeler 719-287-2040

L FACULTY

Janet Foy 719-260-1566

Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez 303-263-0768

Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Judge

Janet Foy 'R' 719-260-1566

Gwen Ka'awaloa 'R' 303-917-3679

Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez 'R' 303-263-0768

USDF Sport Horse Seminar Faculty

Janet Foy 719-260-1566

Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez ... 303-263-0768

FEI Level 1 Dressage Steward

Debbie Moloznik 818-515-0377

Heather Petersen 303-648-3164

Technical Delegates USEF

Eva-Maria Adolphi (UT), r.. 801-913-6054

Rusty Cook (NM), R 505-249-7586

Laurie Mactavish (CO), R . 970-390-5160

Debbie Moloznik (CO), r ... 818-515-0377

Heather Petersen (CO), R. 303-648-3164

Deeda Randle (WY) R..... 307-631-1875

Mike Taylor (ID), r 208-637-2755

Technical Delegates, RMDS recognized shows only

Joan Clay 970-420-0887

Didi DeKrey 970-568-3916

Mary Jo Hoepner 719-495-3648

USDF Certified Instructors

Training - First

Sheila Buschette..... 406-672-9378

Joan Clay 970-420-0887

Carrie Washburn 585-330-6224

Training - Second

Julie Burt 720-347-8084

RaeAnn Cook 970-225-1408

Sheri Mattei 970-227-8864

Bridget Milnes 303-660-4986

Training - Fourth

Simone Ahern 719-339-2286

Janet "Dolly" Hannon 303-919-4112

Gwen Ka'awaloa 303-917-3679

Clayton Martin 719-379-3716

Sarah Martin 720-891-1369

Kathy Simard 720-981-4448

USDF Instructor/Trainer Faculty

Training - 1st Level

Kathy Simard 720-981-4448

USDF Instructor/Trainer Faculty

Training - 4th Level

Sarah Martin 720-891-1369

Note: If you are a TD, Judge, or Certified Instructor and a current RMDS member and your name is not listed here, please contact the Central Office at 720-890-7825 or email: rmds@rmds.org

RMDS Summer Intensive for Juniors

By Jewlee Barber and Cassandra DiPentino

Another successful year of the RMDS Summer Intensive! With 10 riders we were bigger and better than last year. Returning from last year we had Maggie Sayers, Uliana Ukrainchuk, Skye Holdridge, and Ally Bucknam; and joining us for the first time we had Simone Hearsh, Belen Houge, Candice Christopher, Walker Jones, Sophie Still, and Delaney Morris. These dedicated riders were a talented group with skills ranging from training level to riders schooling second level moments.

Thursday morning as everyone was settling in and helping each other unload horses and set up a tack stall we had the privilege of Janet 'Dolly' Hannon judging a Ride-A-Test with our riders giving them many tools to use and showing them what other areas they could improve on in the following days with other instructors. Along with riding in front of Dolly, riders got to listen to her judge other rides through the morning.

Everyone saw the benefit of listening to Dolly as we all crammed into the judges booth. Students also learned how to call tests for each other and score a test. After everyone had ridden, we had a break from the heat and had lunch where everyone had the chance to get to know each other a little more.

Seeing how well everyone got along and knowing the potential for amazing teamwork was within each of our riders we gave them a task to complete; carefully and safely spray paint and stencil cinder block letters for the dressage ring. With instruction and an example everyone dove in to help, shortly after that the task was completed.

With a storm approaching we decided to start our afternoon activities early. Our riders learned about the TRT method of groundwork and the benefits of using it with their horses. As a group activity each participant got to try the exercises with their horse, review or learn the physical signs of a horse releasing and processing, and everyone had a chance to try the exercises with a horse already knowledgeable of them.

After the storm rolled past, riders saddled up for a group ride. Due to the interest in the Dressage Seat Equitation classes, we held a mock class, followed by a game of "Simon Says". With tired horses and riders, we wrapped up for the evening. As everyone helped prepare dinner, laughter and conversation filled the room. We hurried through dinner as everyone was excited for our major evening activity, "Yoga For Equestrians" with Andrea Osmond.

This was a challenge but also very educational for our riders so they could learn how to improve themselves so they can help their horses shine. Now with full bellies and worn out bodies, we pitched a tent where the TMR pool used to be and slept peacefully under the stars.

Morning came too quickly for our riders as we had a busy day with an early start. Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez made time for semi-private lessons with riders first thing Friday morning. The maturity of these young people was evidence by their punctuality and attentiveness during their lesson as well as while others were riding.

Lunch and a quick stencil and tie dye tee shirt making took place before we marched back out to the dressage ring for a presentation by some of our NAJYRC team members. Lexi Donaldson, Rassia Chunko and Paige Smith graciously rode an I-1, a 3rd level freestyle, and a 4-2 test respectively as demonstration/inspiration riders for everyone. Participants were thrilled to see what could be accomplished with hard work, dedication, and passion. There was also time for a Q and A session with each rider about how these talented riders got to where they are now.

Following that was Megan Pifer who demonstrated saddle fit and why it is so important, specifically to the dressage horse. Megan also showed riders what to look for with their own saddle fit and how it can negatively impact their horses performance. As afternoon turned to evening everyone washed up to help prepare for dinner with riders helped by cutting produce, opening cans, and stirring bowls of food. After everyone had eaten and helped clean up we tacked up for an evening trail ride. As the air cooled and the sun just barely started to set, we headed up Table Mountain for a little outing. Once we arrived back safely everyone settled their horses and then themselves in for the night.

Beginning another busy day riders had an early wake up call. We hustled to get the tent cleaned up, riders fed, and horses for the morning tacked up.

Saturday Susanne Primgaard came to give each rider a private lesson. Everyone helped their friends get into the arena on time and listened to what they were learning. In addition to auditing everyone made some very kind and heartfelt thank you notes for our wonderful clinicians, the NAJYRC riders who demonstrated, and Table Mountain Ranch for hosting the event. As the afternoon wrapped up and parents began to arrive everyone was a great help packing up and cleaning up.

Camp Pics



How Can We Build U.S. Horse Sport So That Fans And Sponsors Will Come?

By Mark Bellissimo

This article was excerpted from *Chronicle of the Horse*, October 2016. Reprinted with permission.

In a given year in the United States, there are 8 million people who ski, 23 million people who pick up a tennis racquet, 25 million who swing a golf club, and 27 million people who will ride a horse.

There is great interest and passion for horses and horse sport, but for many it's considered a fringe, elitist, inaccessible activity. Horse sport is further complicated in that unlike skiing, golf and tennis, there are huge fragmentations of activity across many diverse disciplines and interests, albeit, with a common element: the horse.

Mark Bellissimo says the critical economic driver for the success of U.S. sport is spectatorship and sponsorship, such as Land Rover's support of the Rolex Central Park Horse Show. "Without a strong sponsorship model, there's no meaningful sustainable top sport in this country, and there's no financial model for the riders," he says. Photo by Ashley Neuhof

According to www.alexacom.com, an Amazon company that tracks global websites within the sports segment, soccer has the most sites dedicated to it with 10,586 websites. Surprisingly, to many, equestrian is second with 5,779 websites (which is the embodiment of the 27 million people who ride a horse at least once in a year).

When presenting this fact to many sponsors they are shocked and become intrigued. The ultimate question for them is, "How do I tap into the 27 million people who enjoy horses?"

The fact is, it is very hard to do so. If you try to target enthusiasts within a horse sport discipline (jumping, dressage, polo, etc.) the numbers are small and rarely garner any major attention. So to be successful at the national level, your target audience shouldn't be the discipline (e.g. jumping), but rather targeting the people who love horses, which I believe is a very large untapped market—but very hard to understand and access.

In most U.S. Equestrian Federation disciplines, the events are local, fragmented series of competitions, with certain regional and "national" championships often occurring

in remote geographically dispersed temporary locations. The championships are most often broken up into pieces to "spread the wealth" among organizers who have a diverse level of resources and interests and, usually, very few spectators. These championships are not being used to generate interest in the sport outside of the industry. In my eyes, these events "preach to the choir" and provide little opportunity to grow interest in the sport.

In fact, in most cases, there is very little incentive for an organizer to generate spectator, media and sponsorship interest beyond their own financial model. The presentation of the event and the development of the sport suffers beyond the immediate participants, which compromises growth. As a result, within equestrian sport, as many people are entering the sport as are exiting the sport. In many equestrian disciplines, actual participation is in decline because the preservation of the status quo has become more important than inspiring innovation in the design of the products.

All of these factors together limit participation in the sport, refinement of the product, spectatorship, and sponsorship, which limits the media coverage online, in print, and/or on air, which are critical elements to generating more interest in participation and therefore compromise the growth and sustainability of the sport.

Transitioning To Commercialization

With all of these obstacles before us, we face a scenario where to succeed as an athlete in top sport in the United States, you have to be independently wealthy, have a strong owner, or be extremely productive in horse acquisition and sales as a trainer to survive in the top level of the sport.

Sports such as skiing, tennis, and golf went through transitions from hobbies to professions in the United States through aggressive efforts by the athletes, organizers and governing bodies to commercialize the sport which increased exposure at the top levels of the sport and then created entry level interest in participating in the sport, which had the effect of growing the sports.

Most often that transition comes as a result of executing five steps: (1) structuring the event to ensure a high level

cont. on pg 21

Building Our Sport *cont. from pg 20*

of spectator interest; (2) aggressive promotion of the sport to the target market; (3) increased media coverage of the events and the development of participant personalities; (4) developing strong sponsorship relationships; and finally (5) developing a financial model so that the athletes and the organizers can both make money.

Currently few equestrian athletes in this country can generate their primary income through prize money. The critical economic driver for the success of U.S. sport is spectatorship and sponsorship. Without a strong sponsorship model, there's no meaningful sustainable top sport in this country, and there's no financial model for the riders.

There needs to be more productive collaboration between the top riders, event organizers and the governing bodies to create rider and horse "personalities" in the sport and a more engaging and marketable product that attracts media, spectators and sponsorship. Without personalities and interest in the sport, there is no media; if there is no media, there are no spectators, and if there are no spectators, there is no sponsorship, and if there is no sponsorship, there is no money to promote commercial sport.

We live in a society where instant gratification is highly desirable, and unfortunately, there is no silver bullet that will solve this problem overnight. For this transformation of U.S. horse sport to occur, I estimate it will take well more than 10 years.

But it will only work if show organizers, USEF and the FEI work together to create accessible and low-cost participation in the sport in order to create a pipeline of riders who aspire to participate in top sport; institute the highest standards for horse welfare; heavily promote rider and horse personalities; develop a model for attractive and entertaining events for spectators; and finally create a sponsorship model that provides the funding to maximize exposure to a broader audience.

The show culminated with a free family day on Sunday where thousands of spectators attended various equestrian demonstrations, and hundreds of children were able to ride ponies within the backdrop of the Manhattan skyline, have their faces painted, and participate in a mini Land Rover driving experience. The level of excitement was high, and the number of children having to get "extracted" from the ponies was frequent. "Mommy, I want to go again!" was a frequent cry.

Next year the show will expand with more disciplines, and more equestrian activity. It is one of the great opportunities to expose the public to equestrianism. The next step

is to then to direct that interest to local programs that can satisfy the interest in horse sport.

All of us know that horses have an amazing ability to have both immediate and long lasting connections with humans. Those of us who work in the industry experience it every day; however, people are not going to search this out. We as event organizers, and as an industry, need to find innovative ways to bring horse sport to the people.

Critical to that strategy is to find low-cost ways for access and participation across all socioeconomic groups that have an interest in horse sport.

Again, I believe there is an amazing opportunity for horse sport in this country and abroad, but this requires many structural changes and much innovation—and must be supported by the governing bodies.

The Rolex Central Park Horse Show is just one example of the increasing number of high profile platforms that are emerging to promote equestrian sport nationally and globally. As a complement to this effort, I'm also hopeful that we are selected by the FEI and given the opportunity to run the

2018 FEI World Equestrian Games at Tryon International Equestrian Center (N.C.). We believe TIEC is the first year-round equestrian lifestyle destination dedicated to growing equestrian sport across all disciplines and critical dimensions: participation, entertainment, lifestyle, sport and commercial.

I'm confident we can present the sport uniquely and powerfully, exposing great horse and rider athletes to a broad global audience who can be captivated by the magic and majesty of the horse and, hopefully, inspire them to participate in this amazing world of equestrian lifestyle and sport.

Mark Bellissimo is CEO of Wellington Equestrian Partners, who are owners of the world's largest and longest running horse show, the Winter Equestrian Festival, as well as the Adequan Global Dressage Festival and International Polo Club in Wellington, Fla.

He is also the managing partner of Tryon Equestrian Partners, which owns and operates the Tryon International Equestrian Center in Tryon, N.C., and the Colorado Horse Park in Parker, Colo.



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Rocky Mountain Dressage Society / Advertising / Revised: Oct 2017

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The **NEW SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE** makes it easier for you to talk to local business about the many different advertising vehicles available with RMDS. Demographic information underscores the value of advertising with RMDS and the dressage community in the Rocky Mountain Region. Consider the equine, and non-equine, businesses that you frequent and support all year long. Do these businesses a favor! Give them the opportunity to thank you for your business while broadening their reach to a lucrative market.

Visit the RMDS website for our new Sponsorship Package, and easy to use form letters! Andrea Chirich and Una Schade are happy to help. Don't hesitate to reach out to them, and be sure to let them know when you have an interested sponsor (or sold sponsorship!)



Congratulations to everyone from Region 5 who qualified and competed at the USEF Festival of Champions at the end of August at Lamplight in Illinois!

The USDF convention is coming up quickly and it's time to book your hotel rooms, airfare and register for the convention and symposium. We are in Salt Lake City, Utah this year November 28th - December 1st. Information and registration forms for the Convention and Symposium are available at www.usdf.org/Convention/. All Group Member Organization's (GMO) were asked to designate their delegates for the USDF convention Board of Governors meeting by August 31st and if not determined by that date, the GMO president would become the delegate. If the GMO delegate/president is not able to attend the convention, a proxy for that delegate can be submitted at any time up until the night before the BOG meeting at the convention. The advantage for the GMO is that the delegate will be known and can receive communication from the USDF office earlier. GMO Delegates are included on a list of USDF delegates to receive e-mail communications containing pertinent information on issues that will come before the 2018 BOG meeting at convention. If GMO's have not yet sent in their delegate information, please do so as soon as possible.

The Board of Governors will be considering a dues increase from the Group Members Organizations and there will also be some other significant and very important discussions

that will be announced soon so I encourage all of you to attend since this is in our Region and a very critical year.

If you are going to Salt Lake City for the Convention or the Awards Dinner, make sure you set aside some time to explore the unique downtown, the Mormon Tabernacle, do some genealogy research, or you could get a group of friends together and take the free bus out to Park City and the old Olympics venue and quaint downtown area there. It's a beautiful time of year in Utah.

We are still looking for sponsors for the USDF Convention as well – it's a great opportunity to showcase our USDF Region 5! You can sponsor anything from the coffee breaks in the mornings to the Board of Governors breaks. Please contact Melissa Schoedlbauer (mschoedlbauer@usdf.org) or myself (slush@drwg.net) if you have any interest or potential sponsors we should talk to.

Don't forget, the Great American/USDF Region 5 Championships is coming up October 5-7 in Scottsdale, Arizona. Entries close September 10th, and we hope to see everyone there to cheer each other on or to help volunteer!

Till next month!

Heather Petersen
Region 5 Director

2018 OMNIBUS CORRECTIONS

Educational members and horses owned by education members are NOT eligible for RMDS year-end awards or qualifying for RMDS Championships. Riders and horse owners must be general members.

Page C-40 - Grand Valley Dressage Society Recognized Show August 24-25, and Schooling Show August 26, 2018. The judge for these shows is now: Louise Koch 'S'

Page C-42 – Somerset Farms - All shows are cancelled

Page A-13 & C-53 – Gwen Ka'awaloa is now an 'R' rated judge.

Page C-64 – Clinic with William McMullin now being held at Blue Roof Equestrian-Boulder, CO

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- Colorado Horse Park Western Dressage I & II
USEF Rated Show: August 4-5
- Western Dressage in the Rockies, Fall
USEF Rated Show: September 9

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
coloradohorsepark.com

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Show Membership Requirements for RMDS and More!

RMDS Membership is never required, but it is strongly suggested and can help fulfill some of the membership requirements of USDF for rider and owner.

RMDS Championships

- Rider must be a member for the current year.
- Owner, if different from the rider, must be a member for the current year.
- Horse must be lifetime registered with RMDS.
- All memberships must be current before the qualifying scores are earned.
- All members must be in good standing with the Society.

Educational memberships for rider/owner are not accepted. Must be a full member.

RMDS Year-End Awards

- Rider must be a member for the current year.
- Owner, if different from the rider, must be a member for the current year.
- Horse must be lifetime registered with RMDS.
- All memberships must be current before the qualifying scores are earned.

- All members must be in good standing with the Society.
- Riders & owners that have an Education membership are not eligible for year-end awards. Riders or their representative are required to have a minimum of 4 recorded volunteer hours earned in the current competition year in order to be eligible for year-end awards.
- Scores may only be earned at RMDS Recognized competitions.
- Competitors are responsible for making sure their scores are correctly reported to the RMDS Central Office – score checks are highly recommended!
- Breed papers for the horse must be on file with RMDS if you would like your horse to be eligible for RMDS Year-End Breed Awards.
- Any USDF Region 5 Championship is automatically RMDS recognized.

RMDS Memberships are not required for trainers, coaches or handlers.

RMDS Membership Cards must be submitted with your entries to shows.

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