



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- JAN 23** ODS ANNUAL MEETING & BANQUET
Sapulpa, OK
www.dressageoklahoma.org
- Mar 27-28** J. Ashton Moore Symposium
Shawnee, OK
www.dressageoklahoma.org
- May 1-2** ODS Spring Shows I & II
www.dressageoklahoma.org
- Jun 3-6** ODS Dressage Camp
www.dressageoklahoma.org
- Jun** GCC Dressage Classic I & II
www.dressageoklahoma.org

From the Editor: It has been my pleasure to edit the newsletter for the last few years. I am looking forward to being "just a member" for a while. It's a fun responsibility but deadlines are deadlines and, since being retired, I am trying to avoid them for a time.
Good Luck to the new editor and may she enjoy the job as much as I did.
Lee Ann

**ODS ANNUAL MEETING
and
AWARDS BANQUET**
JANUARY 23, 2010
FREDDIE'S STEAK HOUSE
SAPULPA, OKLAHOMA

J. Ashton Moore Symposium
March 27-28, 2010
Shawnee Expo Center
www.dressageoklahoma.org

ODS DRESSAGE CAMP
June 3-6, 2010
Claremore, OK
Scheduled Instructors:
Sarah Martin
Louise St. Amour
Gigi Nutter

Dear ODS Member,
Happy New Year!!!
It's a great time to look back on where the year has gone. We have had so many good times this past year with our educational programs. It is a true validation that our commitment to education is being supported by our membership.

In 2010, Anne Kuhns our Education Director has got alot of wonderful activities on the calendar. In March we will host Jeff Moore - he was here in 2008 for a bio-mechanic symposium- and he will follow-up on that. If you are interested in being a demo rider or just auditing please send your application into Anne.

We will have our annual Camp this year in Claremore - it has grown larger every year - so please put that on your calendar because spaces fill up very fast!

ODS will have it's annual show in May at Shawnee and GCC is having their show again in June. The board is considering having a show again in the fall, ODS had a fall show in the past for many years and it was well attended. It's a great opportunity to show your horse and not have to travel a long distance.

Our AGM meeting this year is hosted by GCC and will be Jan 23 at Freddie's in Sulpulpa. We will award our end of year winners, have a short meeting, and have plenty of time to visit with our friends! Make plans to attend, the form is on the web-site. I look forward to seeing you there.

Warmest Regards,
Debbie Nutt
ODS President

ODS Board of Directors Election will be at the Annual Meeting in January. The three positions that will expire are currently held by Linda Powell, Rainee Boyd, and Michael Colclasure. If you are interested in running for the board, please contact a board member as soon as possible. At the time of printing, two bios have been received and are printed in this newsletter. It is not too late to run! Contact a board member or be nominated from the floor at the meeting. This is a wonderful opportunity to have a voice in how the organization is heading. *LA*

A

**2009 Oklahoma Dressage Society
Schooling Show Championships**

Dressage Suitability Champion
Passelande ridden by Michael Colclasure

Walk-Trot Dressage Equitation Champion
Cinderella Story ridden by Miranda Thibodeau
Reserve Champion
Frost My Chaps ridden by Susan Rush

Dressage Equitation Champion
Kenworth ridden by Michael Colclasure
Reserve Champion
Teddy Bear (Prepar?) ridden by Kimberly Allen

Introductory Level Junior Champion
JC Barely Britches ridden by Sarah Davis
Reserve Champion
Formal Attire ridden by Kaleigh Lynch

3rd Tater Dee ridden by Denise Stanley
4th Cinderella Story ridden by Miranda Thibodeau

Introductory Level Amateur Champion
Gholfer ridden by Lyn Francik
Reserve Champion
Formal Attire ridden by Hailey Flannery

3rd Princess June ridden by Hilda Wilkins
4th Lunar Aleron ridden by Kendal West
5th Frost My Chaps ridden by Susan Rush
6th CP Sugar Doc ridden by Sue Twitty
7th Passelande ridden by Michael Colclasure

Training Level Junior Champion
Jurgen fan Bluffview ridden by Denise Stanley
Reserve Champion
S.C. Wild Willy ridden by Marilyn Bassett

3rd Teddy Bear (Prepar?) ridden by Kimberly Allen

Training Level Amateur Champion
Kenworth ridden by Michael Colclasure
Reserve Champion
Golden Gigalo ridden by Michael Colclasure

Congratulations to Julia Peacock riding Drosselmeyer
Median Score-- 70.400%
6th USDF Horse of the Year Training Level Junior/Young Rider
2nd Hanoverian Training Level Junior/Young Rider

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2010 ODS AGM Registration Form



OKLAHOMA DRESSAGE SOCIETY AWARDS BANQUET
Saturday, JANUARY 23, 2010
FREDDIE'S STEAK HOUSE, 1425 N Sapulpa Rd., Tulsa, OK

Traveling from OKC on the turnpike take exit 218A.

Traveling from Tulsa stay on Hwy 66 (do not get on turnpike)

Name: _____
Address: _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ E-mail address _____

**Cash or check must accompany this reservation form and be received
no later than Friday, Jan. 15, 2010.**

Send reservation form and payment to: Susan Fraley Mohler, 13998 N 4310, Big Cabin, OK 74332

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ODS

Number of tickets	\$22.50 each	Total Enclosed
_____ X's	_____	= _____

Menu

Tossed green salad w/ Ranch or Italian dressing

Tabouli

Mini Cabbage Rolls

Tequila lime marinated chicken breast

Seared beef-tips with demi glaze sauce

Herb roasted potatoes w/peppers & onions

Chef's choice vegetable

Rolls

Iced Tea/ water / coffee

Cheesecake

10:00 AM ODS Annual Business Meeting & Awards Presentations

12:30 PM Banquet

Please help us raise money for ODS Education by donating an item(s) for the SILENT AUCTION. If you know what you are bringing, please let us know. If you come up with something after you make your reservation, just bring it with you. We appreciate your support!!



GCC NEWS

Greetings GCC Members!

I know everyone is deep in the throes of holiday preparation, but please take a moment to read this wonderful message written by author Joanne Friedman in her book, Horses in the Yard. I don't know about you, but after reading this

blurb, I am going to treat myself to a Christmas present and order the book. This lady obviously knows horses and horse people and if the rest of the book is anything like what is below, there is much wisdom within the pages. (Book excerpt printed on next page)

I also want to take this opportunity to tell you what a pleasure it has been to serve as GCC President the past two years. I have met and corresponded with so many wonderful people that I would not have had contact with otherwise, and certainly have broadened my knowledge of the business end of dressage and horse organizations, in general. You will soon have a new GCC President, who will appreciate your support and friendship as she takes up the reins of the Green Country Chapter. Look forward to a great new year for 2010. Happy Holidays to All!

Sincerely,

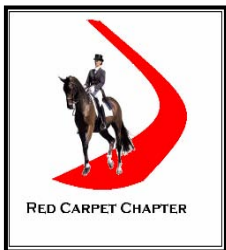
Liz Logan

(former) GCC Prez

I feel I speak for all GCCers in my appreciation for the outgoing board members. Liz Logan showed her expertise these past two years at herding cats and keeping everyone well-informed of GCC happenings in her witty way. Susan Fraley-Mohler was a first-rate treasurer for the last four years keeping the checkbook in balance and taking care of all the financial and insurance needs. Jolie' Pressler served for three years and used her talents to coordinate the schooling shows and manage the Green Country Dressage Classic in 2009. Karen Taylor was the secretary, Sandy Thompson was the volunteer coordinator, and Christina Harmon did the year-end awards. Thanks gals for your contributions to GCC.

Marsha Cullen, Laurie Hedlund, and Cheryl West are continuing in their positions. Nichole Burris was reelected. New members for 2010 are Kathy Burrows, Cindy Ramsey, Kendall West, and Elizabeth Eaton is the junior representative. We look forward to 2010 and the exciting things to happen in GCC.

Anne Kuhns



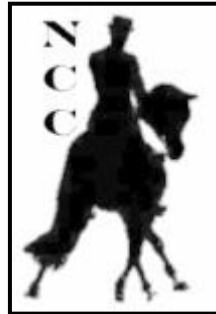
RCC NEWS

Ok, the RCC is going to try to revive itself. We are calling a meeting on Feb. 7th at 2:30pm at the Moore Public Library to discuss a path forward for the Red Carpet Chapter. We have to, by the by-laws, send this out 30 days in advance notice of this type of meeting so hopefully enough people will see it and come.

If you are interested in keeping "Dressage Alive" in Oklahoma City and the surrounding area, then **Please** attend this important meeting on February 7th at 2:30pm at the Moore Public Library. This meeting is open to everyone and anyone who is interested in keeping the classical art of Dressage going in this area. If for some reason you can not attend the meeting but you are interested and would like to be counted as "IN FAVOR" of this then please contact either Sue Twitty at (405) 570-1992 or Rainee Boyd at 580-761-7951. We are discussing and voting as to the Red Carpet Chapter's continuance. We need to know who all is interested in keeping this chapter of ODS going. If there are enough people there to support it then it will continue if not then it will be dissolved after this meeting. Please help us try to keep Dressage alive and strong in this area. This meeting will be attended by at least

2 of the ODS board members so please come. We want to hear what you have to say and any and all of your ideas. Remember if you can't come at least call Sue or Rainee and be counted as "In Favor" for the RCC group to continue. Or you can email Rainee at raineeboyd@itlnet.net to let us know how you feel. Thanks very much for your time and consideration
Rainee Boyd

ODS Chapter Coordinator



NCC NEWS

Here it is almost 2010. Probably by the time that you read this it will be Jan. of 2010 and the NCC has a new President for this year. Michael Colclasure has graciously accepted his nomination for President of the NCC and really it is a welcome relief for your past President Rainee, or me in other words. You all know that the NCC is only as good as it's members so please try to make this Chapter as good a Chapter as you can. First to have an active chapter "YOU" have to be an

active member. Don't sit back and say Oh I wish that I could do that, just DO IT!! Don't wait until "Next year will be my year to ride". Believe me if you wait until then, then and tomorrow never comes. Michael has been President of the NCC for 2 terms before and did a fine job then and I am sure he will do an even better job this time around. I am now the Vice-President and happy to serve you all in that capacity. I want to ride this year so this is "my" year. Ziggy is starting under saddle in late Jan. or early Feb. and shall we say "The race" or "The war" is on!! Ziggy will make a great horse but only in his time not mine. So that is why the late start with him, but you know that is ok too. He is a very tall boy (not as tall thank U Lord as his 1/2 brother Gladstone) but he had lots of growing to catch up too. He stands right at 17 hands and is a very handsome fellow, look for him this year at the shows as he will be there. He needs lots of time out of the barn and around the shows to be getting ready for his recognized show debut hopefully coming sometime soon. You know you hear news about what the club is doing but you know what? WE are the club. So that is why I am telling you what I am doing instead. Ziggy is on his training scale and I am on my weight scales and my exercise machines. However we turn out is (guess what) how we turn out is almost entirely up to us..... People think that it is up to their instructor or their trainer or their luck but it is almost entirely up to us how our progress goes. Your progress is just like your club you will get out of it what you put into it. I hear people say well what has this group or that group done for me, well, what have YOU done to support that group and make it what you want it to be? Probably like most of us we would rather give it some talking about than the working about. I decided a long time ago that if you want something to work out you work at it like it already has. When you believe that something is going to happen you then prepare and care for it like it already has. When you do that pretty soon you realize that it has already happened and what you wanted is right there at your reach ready for you to grab it. Don't let another year go by without taking part in YOUR club and making it what you want it to be today. Don't wait another month or week or even a day go by without being willing to work at what you want your club to accomplish for Dressage in our area. If you have talents then by all means use them. Use them even for helping your club family to learn. We all need each others help. Each of us knows something's that the others don't, now if we share some of that information with our other club members we will all be smarter and in better shape to get where we all are trying to go. Well, I hope to see all of you out there on the show grounds riding or getting ready to ride, I will be there looking for you.

Happy Transitions!!

Rainee B.

NCC of ODS President for 2009

The Five Horses We Meet On Earth (from *Horses in the Yard* by Joanne Friedman)

1. The Intro Horse.

We each came into horses in our own way, but it was always with a horse leading us. This might have been a friend's first pony, or perhaps it was a draft horse on a farm you once visited. It might have been a real-life meeting, or an imaginary one. I was escorted to the party by The Black, Walter Farley's star horse in The Black Stallion series...

2. The Experimental Horse

Once you had crossed the line between "Damn, they're big!" and "Wow! Can I try that?" you found yourself face-to-face with the horse that would suffer through your early attempts at figuring out the whole horse experience ... wherever this horse came from, he probably didn't benefit from the encounter as much as you did...

3. The Connected Horse

The first horses we meet don't really connect with us, nor do we with them. Those are experiences in survival and tests of endurance. The Connected Horse is the first horse you truly bond with. This is the horse that sounds a chord that lives so deep in you that you might never have heard it otherwise...

4. The Challenger

Into each horseperson's life, a little challenge must fall. You'll have read that one final training book, bought yourself a clicker and heading rope, and there you'll stand, arms crossed, assessing the situation as if you actually knew what the situation was. It might be difficult to believe, as you are flying down the aisleway on the losing end of a braided cotton line, but you actually need this horse in your life...

5. Your Deepest Heart

There will come a time when you will look at yourself with a cold, appraising eye, and you'll have to be honest about your continued ability to deal with The Challenger and other difficult horses. At that point, you'll seek out the horse that will be your soul mate forever... You'll have bought him the most comfortable, best fitting equipment... Maybe you'll still go to shows and ride - brilliantly or barely - in the Alzheimer's class. Maybe you'll just stay home. Whatever you do, one day you'll realize that after all the money you spent on animal communicators and trainers, you only had to stop and listen and you would have clearly heard your horse's thoughts and desires...



TACK ROOM SALE!

Guinness is retired and will not be ridden again. Scotch is gone and, Wvodka, my new baby, is of an entirely different type than my beloved draft crosses and will get his own wardrobe. I have gone through my tack and have decided to sell the following items. All are in good condition and some are brand new, never used. Several are high quality Passier and Otto Schumacher. These items will be available for inspection at the ODS Annual Meeting on January 23. I have tried to describe them accurately and honestly.

1. Passier PSL Dressage Saddle: brown, 17" seat, medium tree; it had 4 short billets and I replaced the first (point) and third with long billets; complete with leathers, stirrups, and contoured Otto Schumacher girth; very good condition. \$500
2. Silhouette Dressage Saddle (made in England): brown, 17.5" seat, med-wide tree; very comfortable for both horse and rider; complete with leathers, stirrups, padded girth; very good condition. \$500
3. Otto Schumacher rolled double bridle: brown; warmblood size; bits are stainless steel-5.5" curb, 5.75" bradoon; excellent quality, good condition. \$150
4. Oversized (*extra large*) Double Bridle: 6" Herme Sprenger bits; black-originally had white padded browband and cavesson but I replaced the browband and dyed the white padding on the cavesson black; bridle is of fair quality. \$150
5. Passier Snaffle Bridle: brown, horse size (not oversize), flash noseband, rein stops. \$75
6. Snaffle Bridle: brown, horse size, flash noseband, laced reins; good quality and condition. \$50
7. Passier Laced Reins: brown, buckle end, NEW. \$60
8. Schumacher Reins: brown, rein stops, NEW. \$75
9. Passier Plaited Reins: brown, rolled where not plaited, barely used, like new. \$50
10. Extra Long Stirrup Leathers: brown Courbette leathers; NEW with tags. \$60
11. 3 Brown Dressage Girths: one Passier elastic girth, 2 padded leather; good condition. \$100
12. 3 Fancy Browbands: brown, unique. \$50
13. Turnout Blanket: size 81, black and white swirl design on top, black bottom (would look really nice on a black or gray); NEW. \$75
14. Cristy's Dressage Top Hat: marked size 7 but fits smaller, NEW. \$135

Contact: Lee Ann Alf leeannalf@gmail.com or 405-771-5571



**ODS SYMPOSIUM- March 27-28, 2010
JEFF ASHTON MOORE BIOMECHANICS II
FAQ's**

Who is Jeff Ashton Moore? Jeff Ashton Moore is a judge ("S", vaulting, breeding sport-horse) from California. He is a faculty member of both the Learner Judge ("L") program and the USDF University programs. He is an author and editor for many USDF publications. Jeff is also a lecturer, clinician and Grand Prix rider. For a complete list see "Jeff Ashton Moore-bio" on the ODS website.

Biomechanics? What is that? Put simply, *rider biomechanics* is how the rider moves on the horse. This can either influence the horse in a positive way, which will improve the horse's ability, or negatively. How often do riders get frustrated because their horse doesn't respond the way they would like? Often, the problem lies within our riding, because we are giving the horse mixed signals. No one does this intentionally, but because we don't understand how our body is moving. How many people realize that their hands/hips should move oppositely in the walk than in the canter? Lack of understanding is why so many horses get banged in their mouths at the canter, while the reins go slack-loose-slack-loose at the walk. *Horse biomechanics* is about how the horse moves its body. Again, we often get upset with our horses because they don't seem to be able to do what we want. How much kinder for the horse if we understood things like "bend." Most people don't understand that much of the horse's spine has a very limited ability to bend, and what we really need the horse to do is to place its feet more under (away) from its body to give the appearance of a bent spine, as is often discussed in dressage.

Sounds pretty technical, will I be able to understand? Not only is he one of the best communicators in the dressage world, he has a wonderful ability to make a "dry" subject interesting light enough to be fun. He's one of the funniest men I've ever met; his humor will keep us from ever being the least bit bored. –Lyn Francik.

How will this help me in my riding? Because riding is a sport where two very different living beings are interacting together, the study of biomechanics of each is essential to understanding how they can physically interact and influence each other. Rider biomechanics addresses psychological (empathy) and physical (body control) issues. Learning about horse biomechanics helps us with training the gaits, the horse's physique, and how we can influence the horse. With an understanding of biomechanics we can learn to recognize quality riding versus just riding tricks.

Wow, that sounds pretty cool! What is the symposium schedule? Rider biomechanics will be covered on Saturday and horse biomechanics will be on Sunday. Both days start with lecture in the mornings approximately 8:30-noon (a light breakfast and box lunch is included). Lunch is noon -1:00 and demo riders will ride in three groups from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Where will the symposium be held? The Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center in Shawnee, Oklahoma, just a few miles south of I-40 on Hwy 177 where it intersects with West Independence Street. The lectures will be held upstairs in the main building in the northeast area of the Expo grounds. The demo riders will be riding in the large arena. Jeff will use a sound system and bleacher seating is provided for auditors, or you may bring a chair if that is more comfortable for you.

How will auditors be involved? Auditors not only hear the full lectures but have opportunity to watch all riders in the afternoons. Also, each person (auditors and riders) have been asked to bring a dressage whip, reins (or baling string is fine), empty water bottles or soda cans. We also need mini trampolines and exercise balls to borrow for the weekend-contact Anne if you can bring one or both!

Should I be a demo rider? We need 9-12 demo riders. This is an integral part of the symposium for everyone. Your riding level is not important, being able to walk, trot, and canter is sufficient. You will be riding with a few other people of similar level at the same time. Being a demo rider offers you the opportunity to gain a personal insight as to your way of moving with your own horse right away. What better way to enhance your partnership with your horse?

Who is sponsoring this symposium? ODS with the assistance of a grant through The Violet M. Hopkins Fund at The Dressage Foundation is sponsoring this symposium. The grant is helping ODS keep the cost to members very affordable for a speaker of this caliber.

What does the symposium cost? Auditors pay \$50 per day or \$85 for both days. Demo riders pay \$120 per day or \$175 for both days. The rider price includes a stall with two bags of shavings and security at night. Breakfast and lunch are included in all prices☺. Non-ODS member prices are slightly more.

How do I sign up? Applications will be available at the AGM on January 23, 2010, on the ODS website, or from Anne Kuhns at akuhns@atlasok.com. Demo rider applications are due February 26, 2010, and auditor applications are due March 19, 2010, in order to get the appropriate number of meals ordered.

I see that I can get USDF University Credit, what is that? Through the USDF University Program, USDF recognizes members who strive to continue their education in dressage and related sports. Based on number of credits earned, educational recognition will be given by USDF annually. Visit the USDF website: www.usdf.org or see page 65 of the 2009 USDF Directory for more details.

Wasn't Jeff Moore already here for a symposium in March of 2008? Yes, he was. Because of the enthusiastic response from riders and auditors we had no option but to bring him back. He has a lot of knowledge and will explore rider and horse biomechanics further. He is an entertaining speaker and maybe we've forgotten some of what we learned. Here is an opportunity to refresh what he presented in 2008 and learn more or, if you didn't attend, to see what everyone was raving about.

Schooling Show Championship Correspondence

Hi Rainee: Just wanted to let you know I thought you did an awesome job on the Schooling show championships. The arena was set up and nice, the concession stand was up and running with hot food, a NICE little setup for pictures, stalls... made lots of things to make the exhibitors and spectators get the "horse show fever". I also think those with inexperienced, spooky or troublesome horses certainly appreciated the extra effort you and the judges gave them helping them get their horses out and about. And Shawnee expo center, that was the perfect place to have it. Sure beats the heck out of Tulsa, or the Lazy E as far as I'm concerned for more than one reason. Plus with the weather and now/december... definitely need something totally enclosed and not a mile hike to the indoor or warmup. I hope ODS (you) continue to have it there. That certainly has a lot of potential to grow!!! IT is sooooo much better than that first year or so where people had to stand with their horses tied to a trailer like you were at the round up club. Ha. It has much better feel to it - much better! And honestly, I was surprised that some of the local barns didn't have half of it filled with their lesson students.

Again, thanks for all your efforts on behalf of everyone that have young horses, inexperienced horses or riders, don't feel competitive enough (either horse or rider or both) for recognized shows or feel they cannot afford the large expense of those recognized shows.

Vicki Yahn

November 14-15. 2009 Alf Athenstaedt Clinic Review



From rider **Clydette Womack** and Louie: A big thanks goes to Anne Kuhns who did a wonderful job organizing the clinic. The Farm staff worked hard to make everyone feel welcome and see that our needs were met. Alf set the tone by running a wonderful relaxed clinic. Rider and horse not only learned they enjoyed the experience. I had been working to get Louie quicker behind, Alf helped me understand that he was putting breaks on in the front end by avoiding the bend and dropping the contact.

From rider **Deryn Stewart** and D'Erin: Thanks to everyone who made the clinic possible. The facility was excellent and very convenient for campers. We parked right beside Erin's stall. We were blessed with good weather even though the rain and cold were getting closer on Sunday.

Alf used Saturday to mainly get an idea of where we were. Sunday we looked at where we need to be. I thought the curve we have negotiated was steep, but the next one looks even more so. So exciting to look ahead at what we might be able to do.

I am sure everyone will agree with me how Alf was able to assess just where the horse/rider sat on the training scale and show them how they could progress. He was always positive. "You can do this!"

Working with Laurie Hedlund with an occasional clinic with Alf is a blessing.

From rider **Pam Rawlins** and Betty: "Thanks for putting together a wonderful clinic! What I learned was that basics are very important and we need to get them correct early or problems will show up later on."

From rider **Diana du Pont** and Blackie: For me the goal was to understand the progress, if any, on the skill of connection. Blackie and I were thrilled to feel the difference from early last year and to hear our improvement confirmed by Alf. Indeed, his feedback was inspiring! I thoroughly enjoyed the clinic and feel that it gave me an ever greater foundation on which to build. I also felt the facility was nice, clean, and accommodating and that the clinic was extremely well organized. It was a highlight of my first year with horses in Oklahoma!

From auditor **Susan Rush**: I came to this clinic last year when I had just started learning about Dressage. Some of the horses were ridden in 2208 and 2009 and it was interesting to see their developments. I really could see differences and growth in both the horse and their riders.

Riding with a Dressage Master

Oklahoma is blessed to have many dressage instructors and trainers compared to many states but what Oklahoma can really boast about is having a resident Master Dressage Trainer/Instructor. This past summer USDF's magazine featured Tempel Farms and their dedication to the development of classical dressage with their Lipizzan horses. Highlighted in the article was a young man from the Spanish School of Riding who was hired to develop their program which included training, instructing, and showing. This Master, Alf Athenstaedt, now resides in Oklahoma and has given two ODS clinics. Though it might be difficult to travel to Vienna, Austria (especially now with increased travel restrictions!), it is not hard to travel in Oklahoma to attend an ODS Educational Symposium or clinic (Thanks, Anne Kuhns!). No one, novice through instructor, should miss the opportunity to see Alf Athenstaedt instruct, ride or work in-hand. This Master has devoted his entire career to the improvement of the sport we hold dear. For the novice rider, this is a wonderful time to increase your eye's ability. For the more advanced, gain information from a Master to improve connection, contact, throughness, collection and upper level movements including in-hand work.

At this past clinic in November, I watched a horse prior to my ride inconsistent in its connection. Mr. Athenstaedt long-lined the horse and soon the contact was consistent in all three gaits. So amazing. Next he long-lined the horse with an instructor mounted followed by the owner. The horse was much more steady in the contact with the owner who now had more feel and information to conquer the issue.

For the day I rode, my main goal was for an examination of our quality of throughness. While we were praised for our development of throughness, Mr. Athenstaedt found the need for improvement in some movements of which he gave strategies for correcting. What came next, though, was truly awesome and scary. Alf deviated from the usual method of walking to the side and behind tapping appropriately Frito's hind legs for working the piaffe. This time Alf connected the lounge line to the outside ring of the bit and placed the line over Frito's neck. Alf now was connected and communicating with Frito. In spite of my knowing Alf's experience, my mind was playing scary scenarios of which most were consisting of my horse turning to the outside with me caught in between Alf and Frito. Thoughts that I was not embracing. After living through a couple of schooling piaffes, I relaxed and began to ride in stead of being a passenger. As I participated, I now noticed that ever so quietly Alf connected and communicated with Frito. Frito elevated in his withers and shoulders, rocked back, and began an expressive and rhythmic piaffe. He had freedom in his shoulders and lightness of forehead. Never did his nose bend or tilt to the outside. Only in a master's hands could something so elegantly develop. Once again I became a passenger, but not due to fear but due to jubilation. What FUN for both of us as Frito was so proud.

Be sure to look for our resident Master in the future. It is such a privilege to watch and learn from someone who has experienced it all and worked through it all. In fact, watch for all educational opportunities. Support our educational coordinator who puts so much time and effort into these experiences that benefit US.

Roberta Clark

Report from the 2009 USDF Convention by Sherry Guess

George Williams was elected the new USDF President and Steven Schubert the new Treasurer. Since George is vacating his spot as Vice President, he appointed Melissa Creswick as interim VP. Melissa has already stated that she will not run for that position when it comes up next year.

The USDF Executive Board had already completely restructured the committees and councils to fall under two headings of Administration or Programs. Participation from each region will no longer be mandatory, which could have significant ramifications for regions of lesser membership--like the Midwest.

The following are notes taken by a friend during the convention. For a detailed look at the Committee and Council Reports please refer to the following link www.usdf.org/about-usdf/governance/index.asp, they are posted under the heading "Board of Governors (BOG)".

Judge's Round Table –

- Trenna Adkins has developed a DVD for scribe training
- Janet Foy talked about the \$800.00 available for each region to help defray costs of judge's training programs.
- Jayne Ayres is the new USEF Head of the Dressage Committee
- Lois Yukins spoke about judging ethics and how destructive low scoring and 'Santa Claus' judges are to the sport. She also addressed the need for judges to be respectful and helpful to riders with their comments. She encouraged panel judging whenever possible for newer judges to develop consistency in scoring.
- Hilda Gurney talked about an experiment she did using regular bridle and bitless bridles on several of her horses. She found that they went no differently in the bitless bridle and encourage everyone to be open minded in the discussion about whether they should be legal to use when showing.

Rule Changes

Janine Malone brought everyone up to date on the many and mystifying rule changes that are now in affect or proposed for the near future. Please consult the USEF Rule Book for all details.....I took notes as fast as I could and could not keep up with her, but here is what I think I heard:

- Look for riders wearing orange vests in the warm-up area. This signifies a safety concern and to steer clear i.e. green horse, green rider, paraequestrian
 - For FEI high performance competitors no running martingales are permitted, and no whips are allowed in the enclosure around the arena or in the arena, no fixed curb chain hooks are allowed in these classes
 - Whips up to 120cm / 47.3 inches are allowed in all USEF classes, except championship classes
 - Plain Snaffles are allowed in FEI classes !!!! finally!
 - The word 'Marginal' will replace 'Sufficient' for the score of 5
- See the rule book for all new details www.usef.org, it is always a good New Year's resolution to read the current rule book(s) for our sports.

*****NEW SHOW LEVELS FOR RECOGNIZED SHOWS*****

USEF dressage competitions will now be identified by one of five levels depending on the facilities and/or the classes offered. Most of the regulations pertain to management and facility requirements. The level of each show will be stated in the prize list. There are five levels of shows and these are some of the basic differences:

- ◆ **Level 1 shows** are considered "Introduction" to licensed competitions, will be one day only, and limited to 75 horses. They can be held on grass arenas and chain rings are permitted. There are no minimum requirements for footing maintenance. Warmup area provided but no minimum requirements. Prize money is not permitted. Regional championship qualifying classes may be offered and scores will count toward year end awards. Concessions are optional. USEF drug rules.
- ◆ **Level 2 shows** are one or two day shows. Stabling must be provided if 150 or more horses are entered. Grass arenas and chain rings are permitted. Warmup area provided but no minimum requirements. Ring maintenance is required at least once per day. Night security at night is optional. Concessions are required. Prize money is optional.
- ◆ **Level 3 shows** may offer developing program qualifiers (JR/YR/YA, YH & DH) and are two or more days. Concessions and arenas same as Level 2 shows. Warmup must be minimum size of standard arena. Ring maintenance is required twice per day. Stabling is required, minimum 9' x9'. Night security is recommended. At least two "S" judges required.
- ◆ **Level 4 shows are Regional Championship shows.** The competition must be at least three days. Good all weather footing, otherwise arenas and warmups same as Level 3. Ring maintenance is required three times per day. Night security is required. Three FEI judges required per HP rules. Regional Championship classes may be offered. Prizes required per USDF rules.
- ◆ **Level 5 shows are USEF HP Selection Trials (I1-GP) National Championship shows.** The competition must be at least three days. These competitions basically follow FEI rules/Nat'l Championship rules for judges, footing, warmup. Ring maintenance is once per hour.

Below is the link for the comparison chart found on the USEF website:

<http://www.usef.org/documents/competitions/DressageLevelsChart.pdf>

*****Attention Entry Level Riders wanting to try a Recognized Show*****

Opportunity Classes may be offered at Level 1, 2, and 3 shows.

These are a great "opportunity" for riders wishing to show in a recognized show without all the fees. They are for entry level riders. You must enter only in the opportunity classes offered at the show, and you are exempt from Federation and affiliate organization membership and Horse Identification (HID) requirements and non-member fees. The different level shows have restrictions as to what opportunity classes they may offer. Level 1 shows may offer up to two opportunity classes per level Training – 2nd, Level 2 shows may offer up to two opportunity classes per level Training -1st, and Level 3 shows may offer up to two opportunity classes at Training level only. Check out the prize list of each show to see what opportunity classes are offered.

More from USDF coming up in 2011

Membership Dues and New Membership Type

The new dues increases were all accepted at the USDF Convention. Beginning 2011 GMOs will pay \$20 to USDF, which means the dues will increase by \$3. ODS may have to raise membership fees as well. We'll keep you posted.

New Participating Membership dues for 2011: Adult -\$75, Youth -\$60, Business -\$200, Five year -\$300, and Life -\$1,500.

A new membership will be instituted called an Education Member at \$35. These members will have no voting or showing privileges and may only access on-line educational materials, including the USDF Connections magazine. *Your GMO membership with ODS is a way better deal ☺*

AND

New Test changes effective December 1, 2010 (not this year but next):

- ◆ The new USEF 2011 dressage tests will only have 3 tests at each level (Training, 1st, and 2nd included)
- ◆ The rising trot will be permitted in 1st level in all trot work
- ◆ There will be more delineation between the levels especially between 4th level and PSG

Lurena Bell Dressage Clinic—January 15-16, 2010

Lurena Bell is returning to Oklahoma for clinics in January and March. She will be in the Oklahoma City area on January 15-16 (contact leeannalf@gmail.com) and in the Tulsa area on January 17-18 (contact Kelly Langerak langarak@cox.net). Lurena has been longlisted and ridden on the USET several times. She has trained or helped students train many horses to the GP level. She enjoys working with all levels and all types of horses and riders.

Easy J Stable Presents a Clinic with Sue Malone-Casey

January 29-31, 2010

Sue is a USDF "S" Dressage Judge. USDF Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals. Has been USDF National Regional Champion at 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, Prix St. George, Intermediare I, Intermediare II and Grand Prix Levels at both Open and Free Style competition. Southwest Dressage Champion at all levels. Currently she is showing at Grand Prix. She attended national trainer's conference with Kyra Kirkland, Jan Brink, and Ulla Salzgeber. She was the only Texan to qualify for 2 years in a row for Dressage at Devon at Grand Prix. She has trained with Harry Bolt, Pam Goodrich and Albrecht Heidemann. She has trained over a dozen students to achieve their Bronze, Silver and Gold USDF medals. She has been competitive at FEI levels for over two decades. For those who want to compete, Sue sees the training pyramid from both the judging perspective and the competitors view. For more information: Email: easyjstables@msn.com or Phone: (405) 454-6886

Fran Dearing Dressage Clinic--February 2-3, 2010

In this day of no economy, we have decided that 2010 is going to be different. Therefore, we are planning a Fran clinic for February 2 and 3, 2010, Tuesday and Wednesday. Fran would come up early Tuesday afternoon and teach a bunch, then teach again Wednesday. Contact Judith Hankins-Brown at jhankinsb@aol.com for more information.

Sarah Martin Dressage Clinic—March 5-7, 2010

Sarah Martin is scheduled to return to Oklahoma for a Dressage Clinic on March 5, 6, and 7, 2010. Contact: Karen Taylor ktinok@tds.net for more information.

Classified.....

1.) 84" GORTEX Waterproof, breathable ripstop turnout sheet. Extremely well-made. Dark blue with grey trim. \$100
 2.) 84" Big "D" Med weight winter blanket; water resistant; closed front. Red with black trim and yellow piping. \$85
 3.) 84" Triple Crown Stable Dress Sheet; Cotton; Absolutely Beautiful! Dark blue plaid w/ grey w/ dark blue piping. \$100 Worn once
 4.) Woof Wear "Ultra" Hind Boots; Black; Large...Paid \$104.90 Worn only once. \$75.00
 All items are in BEAUTIFUL condition! Contact: Laurie Hedlund hedlunddressage@sbcglobal.net (11/09)

Dressage Saddle for Sale: Used Barbier dressage saddle. 18" seat, narrow tree. Great condition. Two tone seat with single layer flap to reduce bulk under your leg. Wonderful balance and workmanship (see www.dominiquebarbier.net). New these sell for over \$2700. Asking \$950 for this saddle. For more information contact birdie_sbaby@yahoo.com or call 405-381-4537 and leave message. (11/09)


LA SELLERIA ITALIANA PRESTIGE 2000D 17" WIDE TREE (35)-\$1300.00
 THORNHILL PRO TRAINER LE MONDE 17" WIDE TREE (34) with fittings-\$575.00
 Contact: Nicole Burris getnicole@earthlink.net (11/09)

Slash is a lovely 7 year old registered Trakehner / Anglo cross gelding. He is 15.2 hands. He is currently being ridden by my 14 year old daughter. He is being worked in jumping and dressage. Shelby trail rides him daily as well here on our farm. He has been started on some XC fences. He is VERY talented and has beautiful and floating gaits. He has a kind personality and a willing attitude. Because he is still green I would not recommend him for a beginner or novice rider. He loads and trailers well, cross ties and is tolerant of clipping. We love him dearly, but my daughter has grown to nearly 5'8" in this past year and is still growing. I am afraid it is inevitable that she will out grow him. \$5,500. Please contact Tomi Faulkner at: 580-762-9593 or 580-761-2560
justjumpfarm@aol.com or mrcow@poncacity.net (10/09)




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RUNNING FOR THE ODS BOARD

Michael Colclasure

Hello everyone my name is Michael Colclasure and I have been with horses all my life. I had taken a break from horses for a couple of years but I just was not happy until I got a horse again. My day just is not complete until I get to be with them. I love the sport of dressage and I would love to excel at it. I would be honored to serve on the board again if given the opportunity. I am currently serving on the board of ODS and I am currently Vice President for the NCC of ODS and was elected President for this coming year. If elected to the board of ODS again I would be honored to serve the state of Oklahoma again. Thank you for this opportunity. *Michael Colclasure*

Rainee Boyd

I have been associated with horses since before I was conceived. My mother and father both rode, and raised horses. When I was born my sister's horse was just 2 months older than me. I have some pictures of me sitting on her before either one of us knew what was going on. I have been involved with ODS for around 16 years now. I have served on the ODS board for one 3 year term a while back and then this past 3 year term. I served ODS as President for one year of my 6 on the board. I also served ODS as Schooling Show Coordinator for 4 years, and as Chapter Coordinator for several years.

I am actively teaching Dressage in Newkirk, Ok., and my students are showing in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas. I have 8 wonderful horses at this point in my life, to which there is not much time to ride, because I am usually teaching. This year I should be bringing out my Hannoverian gelding Danzig's Artistry to the show grounds. Hopefully he will take to it like a duck to water or we both might be in trouble. I have a great passion for Dressage in Oklahoma as I moved to this state from Illinois in 1973 riding a Passier Dressage saddle and people really thought that I was nuts. Working on locals to invest and learn Dressage was a challenge, but it has paid off over the years. We have a pretty nice group of riders in the northern part of the state now, so I am not alone anymore on my dressage saddle.

Our board has done a good job in the past, but I feel we still have some room for improvement. Being on the board of ODS is a very thankless job, but a necessary one for the club to thrive and grow. I for one appreciate everyone in ODS who has served on the board and everyone who has ever served on a committee, these again are thankless jobs and all that you ever hear are usually the negative comments. Well, THANK YOU each and everyone of you that has helped, because you haven't been told enough how important you are to the club as a whole. If I am elected to the board I promise to do the best job for the group of ODS members as a whole. My door will always be open and my phone always turned on for questions and discussions. Thanks for your consideration. *Rainee Boyd*

OKLAHOMA DRESSAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

8310 NE 122nd STREET Jones, OK 73049

FIRST CLASS

December 2009/January 2010

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ADVERTISING RATES for the OKLAHOMA DRESSAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Beginning March 2008, display ads will be limited in the newsletter (contact webmaster for display ads on the webpage); Business card ads only in the newsletter at \$7.50 per insertion or \$60 per year. Classified ads: free to members - \$5 for non members; **Deadline is the 15th of the preceding month, payment must accompany ad.**

www.dressageoklahoma.org