



CENTERLINE



CONNECTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 1998

Connecticut Dressage Association

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CENTERLINE

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*Centerline is the official newsletter of the Connecticut Dressage Association and is published about 10 times annually. It is distributed to all members. CDA welcomes story ideas, informative articles and commentary. Please submit all contributions to: John Gordon, 24 Darren Court Waterbury, CT 06708
Email - ecenter2@ix.netcom.com
Subject: Centerline*

President's Message!

I cannot believe that the holidays are over! I sure hope you all had a wonderful holiday and were very strong and careful not to gain a pound. Yeah! Right! And it never snows in Alaska! However, the bathroom scale or our four legged herbivore friends will tell us if we were good or if we were bad. However, I did learn a great deception this year at a holiday gathering for the board that I think I should share. At Christmas time, holiday candy, like Hershey kisses, are wrapped in red, green, gold or silver. Choose a color for the evening, then after each piece you eat wrap the wrappers together. By the end you have no idea how many you have had nor does anyone else. You feel great cause you just made up your own number and everyone else thinks you are just being neat! I did learn this from a CDA member but name will be withheld!

Our last board meeting was tremendous. The board has made several New Year resolutions. The Board meeting will occur on the second Tuesday of the Month. Hence each CDA member will know when they are and can make plans to come. Fern Feldman will be the contact since they are usually held at her home. I have also written an article about certain issues in the 'Centerline,' but more of these type articles will be written throughout the year. Please let us know if you like them. Finally, deadlines for the Centerline are mandatory, the 20th of the month. Hence, you will receive them by the 5th! Please understand that we are not starting this procedure but just going to start REALLY enforcing it.

I also want to congratulate the CDA year-end awards winners! The awards will be presented at a 'Mid-Winter-Blues' Party on February 21st at Fern Feldman's home with a DJ and all. See details in the February Centerline.

CDA is starting a new year and we all want to make it the best. Make 1998 a great year to volunteer!

See you on the Centerline...Debra

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How does CDA run? Why does it seem so simple, but it is not?

As your president for two years I have asked in a lot of my messages for the membership to come to CDA's board meetings. I wanted the membership to see how we make decisions and how much decision actually happens. The board actually uses Robert's Law of Order and both the secretary and myself have studied them for those difficult times. However, very rarely and I do mean rarely do we ever see anyone, CDA member or not, having an interest or the time to come. So I thought about it. Is it because the meetings are too far away? Is it because you do not know anyone? Or Is it because you do not have the time, but are very interested? I had hoped it was the last reason. However, the board did receive a letter from a CDA member with some concerns, **"I felt I needed to respond ..., as these are the issues which are causing me to seriously reconsider renewing my membership for next year."** Upon reading the letter it made we want to write this article even more!

So I want to address some issues that the board decided on in 1997 and how we are planning to inform you of things in the future.

"...promotion of the CDA and the advantages of membership therein, especially to those of us who live (and ride) in what's perceived as that vast wilderness full of Philistines east of the Connecticut River..." (How CDA runs - continued on page 2)

1998 CALENDAR

January 25

Ethel Walker Schooling Show
Winter Jumper Series
2'3 thru 4', Table 2, sec.2b
Rick Cadwell
869-408-4354

January 30

Teikyo Post University
Quiz the Experts

February 8

Ethel Walker Schooling Show
Dressage
Walk-Trot thru 4th Level
Rick Cadwell
869-408-4354

February 10

CDA Board Meeting
Fern Feldman
203-272-0711

February 20

Teikyo Post University
Quiz the Experts

February 21

CDA's Mid Winter "Blues Party"
& Year End Awards Presentation

February 22

Ethel Walker Schooling Show
Winter Jumper Series
2'3 thru 4', Table 2, sec.2b
Rick Cadwell
869-408-4354

March 20

Teikyo Post University
Quiz the Experts

Thanks for the continuing contributions to the "You Know Your a Horse Person When "

....you catch yourself trying to give your car a half halt before down transitions ...oops, I mean down shifting.

....you dress like a lawyer on weekdays and someone who needs a lawyer on your days off.

....you run your tongue over your molars and idly wonder if they need to be floated.

(How CDA runs - continued)

"A little more "user-friendliness" is in order here. For starters, perhaps the CDA can begin by choosing venues for the schooling and recognized shows it sponsors that are more readily accessible to the majority of its members..."

Two years ago in 1996 we realized that we were missing a group of members and we started by having a Cindy Ishoy Clinic at Cloverlea Farms in Columbia and a league show at Mystic Valley Hunt Club. Hence, we had our schooling shows at Ethel Walker School, Simsbury (used as a warmup for the recognized show), one at Once Again Farm, Meriden (more central located) and the last one at Mystic Valley Hunt Club, Gales Ferry. Last year we moved the Mystic Valley Show to Cloverlea Farm in Columbia. Why? Because we could not get in touch with the manager of Mystic Valley before our prize list had to go out. This year our shows are at Mt. Valley Equestrian Center, Southbury, Cloverlea, Columbia, and Once Again Farm, Meriden. So we have one on the west side, central, and east side of the state, hoping to cover all bases.

CDA is starting to branch, but for many years, like 15 or more years, CDA was mainly the western part of the state. This was not right so we have started to incorporate activities in other locations. However, the majority of our members are central and western part. I actually should say the working membership. When we do functions on the eastern part of the state we have problems getting volunteers. Walt Nott who manage the Cloverlea show had to bring in his 4-H members after making calls to more local members. For example, our scribe was from Watertown and drove 1hour and 15 minutes to volunteer all day! So now the job of the board is to figure out away to get the **"...Philistines east of the Connecticut River..."** involved in these programs or create new ones.

"...the CDA recognized show is now more inaccessible than ever. Had the Board considered a more central venue, say, Westbrook Hunt Club? Is it too late to reconsider OxRidge?..."

Bottom line, yes it is too late to reconsider OxRidge for 1998. Prize lists are due in November and the dates and locations in May for AHSA which we were late with our location. This topic was a very difficult one for the board so let me tell you how it came about that we chose OxRidge.

We have held our recognized at Ethel Walker School in Simsbury for three years and if you were there last year you would have seen that CDA had out grown these show grounds. The footing had become worst than ever, the parking was bad, and over 25 entries were refused because we could not have a third arena. Ethel Walker did offer a grass arena across the road, i.e. Rt. 167. The board would not considered this as an option for a third arena. We decided to look for other options.

I had the privilege to be the Technical Delegate at the CDCTA show held at Westbrook Hunt Club. I was really impressed with the grounds and spoke with Jane Dow about using them for CDA. I took the information back to the board. The board was a bit nervous about volunteers again because the core of CDA members are central and northwest. But the board was VERY excited about Westbrook Hunt Club. Hence we went forward. This option hit a major halt with the AHSA. You see Westbrook Hunt Club was 90 miles from Beland Farm (the way the crow flies) who also has a show on one of the same days as CDA. Hence, we would have to change our dates. After looking at the calendar and trying to coordinate with the Hunt Club's other show dates, it became clear that we may have to look at Ethel Walker again. The board then made the decision that we would not hold a recognized show until we could find show grounds and/or dates that were good for the competitor.

Again I had the privilege to be the Technical Delegate at the OxRidge Dressage Show in August. Here I met the manager of OxRidge and we talked. I never even consider that CDA could afford show grounds like OxRidge. They made a very reasonable offer, and I took the proposal back to the board. They voted and decided we would try it. This of course does not mean that we will stay there forever nor does it mean we will not consider other options, but show grounds in Connecticut are VERY limited. I personally will be trying to speak to the manager of Beland Farms Show and see if they would have a problem with us having our show at Westbrook in the future.*(How CDA runs - continued on page 4*

(How CDA runs - continued)

“ The Centerline helps, but it's usually incomplete and is often too late...”

I actually had to laugh at this concern, but not because it was not true, but because the January board meeting's agenda was the Centerline and how to make it better! This concern did give us some ideas which I hope you will like.

John Gordon, our editor, who has improved this newsletter tremendously, said that his deadline of the 20th the month for the next issue is going to stick for 1998. This way the Centerline should be at your home by about the 5th of the month. No exceptions! That means some months I may miss the president's message.

Of course, all CDA members are invited to the board meetings, (I do sound like a broken record), allowed to participate in discussion, and believe me can alter and influence the board. To encourage you to come we are going to publish the 'major topic' for the meeting in the Centerline. This way if you want to come and see hear about the Awards and voice your opinion then you will know which meeting to come to.

The calendar is a major issue. John can only print what is given to him. In each of his Centerline issues John asks for dates of events. We always send issues to other organizations so that they too may send us their dates of events. It seems to not really happen. If you have any ideas please call, write, or better yet, email John (eventer2@ix.netcom.com) with your thoughts.

As far as getting our dates well published, sometimes it is hard. For example, I am sure most of you did not know about the Tom Noone Clinic for the young riders. Our very successful young rider program gives these riders a free clinic if they volunteer, etc. through the year. At first Tom was only doing the young riders, then the dates kept moving, and then he would stay the afternoon and do an open clinic. The organizer, Jennifer Baumert, had to work very hard and quickly to fill the afternoon session, which she did. Believe me when I say “things happen”, this was an event that things just happened. Do not forget while this is all happening the background things must also happen. Like insurance for the day...it must have been changed three times.

“Finally, the awards program. The requirements in both the open and

schooling categories are needlessly restrictive.”

This one concern was raised much earlier in the mid-1997 year. At that time we really could not change the awards for 1997 as the criteria had already been published, so we tabled this topic. It just so happens that this past meeting our awards chairman, Pat Sheeran, present changes to the awards. Because of this letter of concerns we tabled it until February so that we could publish the Centerline and let the membership know. At our next meeting, on February 10th at 7:30pm at Fern Feldman's home, the two major topics that are being discussed are Awards and Scholarship. If you have input regarding the Awards or Scholarships, please come to the next meeting. These are your awards and they should be your rules.

In closing, the Centerline will contain more news on the happenings at the meetings. Please do realize that this is a total volunteer organization and a volunteer board. Actually as the board was paying their dues at the meeting, someone said “we actually pay to work so hard” The board becomes tired and frustrated at times. We want new ideas, new faces...You may be a frustrated member but without telling the board we do not know this. This letter was a wonderful help for the board, and we thank this CDA member for taking the time to express their views.

A REVIEW:

THE JUDGES & TRAINERS ROUND TABLE Held at the Region 8 Annual Meeting

Dee Loveless, the Competitors Coordinator for Region 8, organized and moderated a round table discussion between judges (BETSEY BERREY, SANDY OSBORN, BILL WARREN, LOIS YUKINS) and trainers (DOROTHY MORKIS, SARAH GEIKIE, HARRY DIEL). Dee had sent out questionnaires to the panelists in advance and had then collated their questions and concerns as a hand out for the audience. This gave substance and guidance to the discussion.

Issue: What is considered acceptable communication between judges and competitors at shows, and when is it most convenient?

Response: At Schooling Shows, judges are encouraged to talk to the riders (if organizers schedule enough time for that). At recognized shows, AHSA regulations do not allow judges to give unauthorized assistance. Arrangements can be made through the TD to hold a conversation between competitor and judge, after the former has finished competing in front of that particular judge. Also, that should be done “time permitting”.

Issue: Do judges take into consideration an individual horse's confirmation when judging? For example, will a horse with a short neck always be marked down because his neck is “too short”?

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Response: Sarah Geikie: not if the horse has been trained correctly and is going correctly. (A REVIEW - continued on page 6)

Betsey Berrey: judges try to look at correct training and judge accordingly. They consider how each horse's confirmation affects his movement.

Issue: Judges are looking for correct training as well as quality horses. It is not enough to be accurate and do the movements. A horse who is brilliant with training, going well, but with mistakes, may be scored higher. What do trainers and competitors think of this?

Response: Harry Diel: "suitability of the horse" is an issue. Thus, if the horse does have more talent for dressage than, say, a smaller-gaited, quarter horse; then, yes, the dressage-type-horse should and will be scored higher. For example, a walk that tracks up will score better than one that does not. That's an innate characteristic for a horse.

Comment: Harry Diel and Dottie Morkis agreed that lower level tests should be ridden in the small arena, especially when young horses are involved. It is easier for the young horses, they are kept busy, helps their attention span and balance; it's easier to "keep them together." And for inexperienced riders: it helps riders learn to unlock; they must think faster and learn to relax.

Comment on judging: the trainers felt that there can be the feeling that judges are trying to criticize rather than help with their comments. Betsey Berrey responded that the judges' training programs have improved, and judges are encouraged to write in every box and to justify their scores. Judges should strive for the correct spread in a class. At the end, ideally, the best horse should win the class. A good self-assessment for judges is to look at your test results over a season—do they seem correct?

Conclusion: trainers must uphold the standards that they impose on the judges by "correct" teaching. That's an ideal world!

It was an ideal panel and a great discussion. Fortunately, Dee is in charge again for 1998, so we can expect another excellent program at the Region 8/NEDA Annual Meeting in November, 1998.

Fern Feldman

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"The air of heaven is that which blows between a horse's ears"

Arabian Proverb

Please come and join us on February 21 for the Year End Awards presentation and help us to celebrate the achievements of these riders. Details for the celebration and who to contact will be in the February issue of Centerline.

1997 CDA Year End Award Winners - Recognized Competitions

Training Level Champion	Carole Margolis	Longwood	64.96
First Level Champion	Barbara Wilson	Aldarich	60.14
Second Level Champion	Carol Popp	Siglavv Wera	66.20
Second Level Champion-F/S	Carol Popp	Siglavv Wera	67.63
Third Level Champion	Jennifer Baumert	Pelion	66.33
Third Level Res. Champ.	Ann Guptill	Heraud	66.16
Third Level Third Place	Jeri O'Keefe	Irish Kastle	61.43
Prix St. Georges Champion	Ann Guptill	Bijan	65.17
Prix St. Georges Res. Champ	Jennifer Baumert	Brio	61.99
Prix St. Georges Third Place	Jennifer Baumert	Roy	59.54
Intermediare I Champion	Jennifer Baumert	Brio	60.19

1997 CDA Year End Award Winners - Schooling Competitions

Introductory Level Champion	Deborah Dickerson	Monterey	66.84
Introductory Level Res.Champion	Carolyn McEvitt	CKC Katie	60.54
Introductory Level Champion/Junior	Monica Provence	Inca	69.81
Training Level Champion	Kim Lombardi	Scandia's Promise	68.48
Training Level Res.Champion	Kari Bradshaw	Briar Bay	66.31
Training Level Third Place	Marty Astmann		63.10
Training Level Fourth Place	Debra Serenko	Trillium's Sunday	60.27
Training Level Champion/Junior	Jacqueline Ducci	Sir Galahad	66.98

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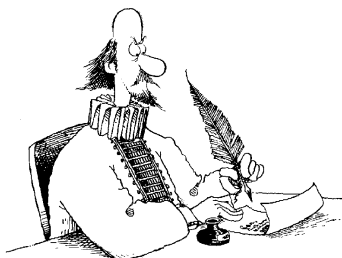
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Elizabeth C. Watts

The Beacon



As I finish my first year as editor of the Centerline, I look back and see that it was quite a learning experience for me. I did not really know what I was getting myself into when Debbie Reinhardt asked if I could please "give it a try for awhile". But, the fact is, I have come to look forward to doing this job each month.

I hope that you have enjoyed the Centerline over the last year as much as I have had in putting it all together. Also, please feel free to contact me at any time at eventer2@ix.netcom.com with suggestions for improvements, or articles that you have written or issues that you would like to see addressed. One last issue, all articles for the

Centerline **must** be in to me by the 20th of the month so that you will have your copy of Centerline in the first week of the month.

Thanks,
John