



CENTERLINE



CONNECTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

APRIL 1999

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 -
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Subject: Centerline

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April President's Message

Sorry I missed speaking to you all last month, but when the editor has a deadline and I cannot make it....OH! Well!

It was great to see all of you at the awards party. It certainly is fun and we had a lot of award winners. Let's see more next year! MANY, Many, Many Thanks to Fern and her husband, Barry, for opening their house to for this event. It is so much fun. Thank you!

Show season is about to start. The Omnibus is about ready to be go to the printers and you should have it very soon. This year's Omnibus has taken on a new look and I want to hear from you how you like it.

This year we will be running three rings(maybe four) at our recognized show. As usual volunteers will be needed. So when the volunteer coordinator calls or leaves messages on your answering machine, please call her back and if even if you cannot volunteer, try to suggest someone. This is a big job! Thank you all for your support.

While I am on the volunteer quest, we need some to help with sponsorship work and/or notifying the media. For example, help find a sponsor for the wine and cheese party at the show or send a press release about the show to Peddlar. CDA puts on a very classic show. If we tell the public about the event we and should be able to attract some really nice sponsors. Both of these jobs are important and kind of go together, but it does not have to be one person. I certainly will give some direction and ideas where I can. So please call me or Penny Hawes if you wish to help with this

Elections are upon us. I know there are some of you who would like to be part of the board. Please submit your name to our nominating committee, Phillia and Charlie Osborne. The information can be found in this Centerline.

I want to welcome all the members who have joined for the first time (and that number is large this year!) or rejoined CDA! Our membership campaign has been strong. However, if you have not renewed, your April issue of the *Centerline* will be your last, nor will you receive a 1999 Omnibus or test packet.

Our next board meeting is April 6th and the main topic is the shows that are coming up.

See you on the centerline.

Debra



“Confidence is absolutely essential because without it the horse just cannot make a sufficient surrender of himself, mentally and physically, to learn and to absorb our teaching. Mental and physical processes are so intimately connected, that they cannot be separated.”

Henry Wynmalen's book "Dressage"

1999 CALENDAR

April 6, 1999

CDA Board Meeting
Fern Feldman
203-272-0711.

April 10, 1999

CDCTA Riding to Music Clinic
Fox Ledge Farm
Robin Cassella
860-885-1860

April 14, 1999

Chris Hickey Clinic
Early Light Farm,
Penny Hawes
860 567-1441

April 25, 1999

Dressage Schooling Show. River
Farms, Avon.

May 2, 1999

CDA Spring Schooling Show
Fox Cliff Farm
Penny Hawes
(860) 567-1441.

May 7-9, 1999

WFDA Spring Festival of Dressage
Bev Reid
914 533-6637

May 8, 1999

Dressage in the Litchfield Hills
Schooling Show
Litchfield Hills Equestrian Centre
Penny Hawes
(860) 567-1441.

May 9, 1999

Ride/Review/Ride
Clinic with Betsy Berrey
Litchfield Hills Equestrian Centre
Penny Hawes
860 567-1441

May 16, 1999

CDCTA/USDF League Show
Ruth Beardsley
203-393-3253

May 22, 1999

Dressage Schooling & Combined Tests
Babcock Hill Equestrian Center

May 23, 1999

Dressage Schooling Show
River Farms, Avon.

GUIDELINES FOR SAFETY TRAILERING YOUR HORSE

by Sue Perry

Have the trailer in good repair.

This will not only ensure the safety of your horses but also prolong the life of the trailer. Check the lights every time you hitch up. Check tire pressures monthly. Snug-fitting rubber mats provide the most secure footing and preserve the floorboards. After each use, sweep the entire trailer, using a wire brush if needed to get manure out of the mat grooves. Raise the tail end of the mat up several inches (bricks, 2x4 blocks) to let air in to dry the floorboards underneath and store the trailer this way. This is especially important if the horse has urinated during the trip as moisture will dangerously rot the floor. Several times a year remove the mats completely for a thorough sweeping and/or hosing and floor check up. Disinfect if necessary. When parked, keep the rear of the trailer completely enclosed. Always have your broom and shovel in the trailer so they are handy.

When the interior walls get soiled, they can be washed with dilute dishwashing liquid and a scrubber sponge. Exterior washing to remove mud and the dreaded winter salt and sand should be done at least several times a year. This is very important for steel trailers that rust easily (likely where any paint has chipped).

Once a year take the trailer and tow vehicle to a reputable trailer dealership for a "tune-up". Tires should be checked for tread wear, air pressure (including spare) and rotated. Wheel bearings must be repacked. Grease is applied to the crank-up wheel in front. Electrical systems for lights and brakes are checked and the brakes will be inspected for wear. If you have noticed any water leaks in the roof or walls, make sure that these seams are tightly caulked. Rust spots, bare places and scratches should be sanded and repainted.

Use an appropriate tow vehicle.

The longer the wheelbase on your car or truck, the safer the towing setup. The longer vehicle will be less influenced by the weight behind it, and will be easier to steer and drive straight. The vehicle must have heavy-duty shock absorbers in the rear to take the extra weight behind while still riding level. The cooling system must also be powerful enough to prevent engine overheating in the summer. And that engine must be big! Don't ever run the air conditioning when you are towing - it stresses the engine too much. A vehicle with automatic transmission will provide a smoother ride for the animals behind. Large mirrors on both sides are a must for safe visibility as the rearview mirror will only let you look in on your horses. Use the appropriate size hitch ball on your truck/car to fit the "pocket" in the trailer's tongue. The height of the hitch ball should be such that when the trailer is attached to the vehicle, the trailer rides level. When a hitched trailer is "Uphill" in front, the horses have an awkward, stressful ride and a lot of strain is placed on the hitch which could cause it to break! Safety chains should be strong and of the proper length. Anti-sway bars are a very helpful addition that keep the rig traveling straight at high speeds. Your trailer dealer should be able to provide your vehicle with the appropriate hitch-and-sway-bar arrangement.

The Judge's Perspective

By Betty Thorpe

Some ideas from the judge's booth on riding your dressage tests on show day.

There is nothing more enjoyable than judging a horse that glides around the dressage ring in perfect harmony with its rider making every movement look easy. In addition, when the horse has exceptional movement, judging is the best job in the world.

It's not easy to crystallize the training of horse and rider for those perfect moments to happen in front of a judge and maybe even an audience, at a scary show location, on footing that may be a challenge. But if you show, that is your task, and maybe these suggestions will give some food for thought.

1. Watch other rides while sitting at C like the judges do. Realize what you can and can't see from there. Many scribes have remarked to me at the end of a day how much they could see from that spot because that was the first time they have been forced to sit there. Better yet, attend an L Program and learn what the judging game is all about whether or not you ever intend to become a judge. If you are a test rider, that's all stuff you will want to know.
2. Know the test. Realize the patterns, recognize the flow. Memorize it even if you have a friend read it under the stress of the show. If you should blank out during the ride and lose your way, for heavens sake don't panic. You're not the first to forget a movement, someone at the World Equestrian Games in Rome went off course. Don't worry about the error points or what people will think of you, just find your way and start again where the judge tells you.
3. Practice in the arena size you will find at the show. Both short and large arenas have advantages. Figure out how far ahead you have to prepare your horse to be accurate at those pesky letters. That's part of the test.
4. Understand the geometry. So many things are more important than accuracy at Training Level, but accuracy gains you brownie points. And it gets more important as you go up the levels.

At an AHSA judge's forum long ago that General Burton conducted, he said that the best way to get inexperienced riders to ride into the corners was to ask

them for a circle. And he was right, I think of him every time I see it. There must be something about a 20 meter circle at C or A that sucks riders into the corners, when they shouldn't be anywhere near it. Figure out the difference between a 20 meter circle and going in to the corners.

But don't ride the corners so deep that your horse can't keep the bend or rhythm.

5. If you are carrying a dressage whip and have a horse that needs a tap, don't be shy about using it. I might be able to see that your horse needs a tap and will appreciate it if he gets it at the right intensity and the right time. And I will think the rider is more effective if he/she uses it to get the performance we are all looking for.

I have a friend with a little Arab that was inevitably sticky when asked to leg yield. She had perfected the taps he needed to get over to the letter, and sure enough, in a show one time I watched her giving this aid with her impeccable timing. She got a good score for the leg yield and for rider from that judge.

And I have given "high" scores for riders who handled difficult horses in otherwise unremarkable tests because I thought the rider was effective for the situation. Another friend on an enormous young horse who was excited at one of his first shows was running through the bridle in his enthusiasm. Every time I remarked to the scribe that the horse needed a half halt, the rider delivered one before the words were out. The test wasn't great but the rider score was.

On the other hand, riders with temper flying and tough "reschooling" in the ring makes me sick to my stomach and makes me hate the rider, and I will give a score that shows this.

6. Minimize the resistance. All judges are looking for that test where the horses are pushing with power from behind into a soft connection that makes the muscles dance. I look for clues as to how the communication between horse and rider is going. Once a good rider on a young horse had a halt at C right in front of me.

(The Judge's - continued from page 4)

The youngster was tense but behaving very well and I was admiring the pair. As soon as the halt was established, the horse rolled his eye, that had lots of innocent white to it, to get a better look at me. The rider felt the inattention and before the eye had a chance to focus it rolled forward again with a "yes, SIR!" attitude that left me giggling.

Another time, an expressive horse was happily trotting down the long side, ears flopping along relaxed, when the rider asked for a half circle. The inside ear flew back to interpret the message and the half circle was accomplished with grace. When the same thing happened to the other side, I fell in love with this combination, too.

7. On the other hand, if the test wants a lengthening and you don't ask for much because you will get resistance on the down transition, that's a mistake, too. Go for it. That's the only way you will get scores higher than 6. I know judges are frustrating. Mr. Klimke said in his symposium here, "Ride for a 10 so the judges will give you a 7."
8. The name of the showing game is to ride a whole test while keeping your horse perfectly on the aids. That means in front of your leg and responsive to the hand. Establish this in warm up, that may be more important than practicing your individual test movements. Maybe do a halt before you enter the ring since that's the first major movement that is judged. And keep the center line straight by pretending you are on one wall or the other, probably pick the one that allows the turn at C.
9. Kyra Kyrland said training is exposing the weak points, showing is hiding the weak points. The judge is also watching your posture for confidence and effectiveness. You are on stage, put on a good act. All riders are nervous but some handle it with humor and some channel it better than others. On your way around the ring past the judge's booth, say hello to the judge but don't spill your guts about this is your horse's first show or your first show since the terrible accident.
10. And since you are on stage, take some pride in your appearance. If manes aren't braided, they should at least be neat. Clothes and boots must be clean and tidy, saddle pads clean. Tuck all the loose ends of girth and bridle into keepers. It's distracting to see anything flopping, including the rider.

Now get out there and enjoy yourself!

(Guidelines - continued from page 2)

Make up a set of emergency equipment that stays in the trailer.

- A. Equine first aid kit, Band-Aids.
- B. Tool kit - hammer, pliers, screwdriver, wire cutter, rope or twine, double snaps, jackknife, scissors, tape, paper towels.
- C. Hoof pick, brush, sponge, spare halter and chain leadshank.
- D. Buckets, at least 10 gallons of water in large heavy plastic jugs.

Make sure the trailer is big enough for the horse.

If the roof is too low or the stall is too short or narrow, your horse will be nervous, uncomfortable and unsteady. The horse must be able to spread his legs as necessary to remain balanced.

Wrap all four legs with sturdy shipping boots or heavy wraps from floor to knee/hock.

The wraps should cover the heels and coronary band as these areas are prone to injury when the horse adjusts his feet to stand steadily during transport. Bell boots can be added for extra protection. Head bumpers and tail wraps may be necessary for some travelers.

When carrying one horse in a two-horse trailer, always load him in the left stall (driver's side).

If a center divider is used, it should be secured in the middle for the horse to brace against. Roads are "crowned" with the centerline higher than the edges and if all of the weight in the trailer is on the right, the rig will tend to sway to the right or, even worse, tip over (especially if you should stop or swerve quickly to avoid another car). If carrying two horses of unequal size, put the larger one on the left.

Drive slowly and carefully, staying alert at all times.

Trailer-driving requires a lot of concentration and planning ahead. It takes a lot longer distance and time to stop or accelerate a loaded rig than a single car. Take all turns slowly so that the horses will not be flung against the walls for support or lose their footing. Give the horses as smooth and safe a ride as possible!



Sunday, May 2, 1999

**Connecticut Dressage Association
Spring Schooling Show**

**Fox Cliff Farm
175 Barndoor Hills Road, Granby, CT 06035**

Judge: Janet Moulding (r) MA
Secretary: Penny Hawes 860 567-1441
556 South Plains Rd., Litchfield, CT 06759

Class List: USDF 1996 Introductory Tests 1-2.

AHSA 1999 Training 1-4.

AHSA 1999 First 1-4.

AHSA 1999 Second and above - State test to be ridden.

AHSA 1998 Combined Novice Tests A & B.

AHSA 1998 Combined Training Tests A & B.

AHSA 1998 Combined Preliminary Tests A & B.

AHSA 1998 Combined Intermediate and above.

State test to be ridden.

Dressage Equitation

Fees: CDA members \$15 per class.

Non-members \$25 per test.

Number deposit: \$1

Checks payable to CDA.

No refunds after closing date.

Awards: Up to six ribbons awarded in each class.

Rules: Number of rides per horse/rider combination may be limited to two. State two preferred tests first on application. Current Negative Coggins is mandatory and must accompany entry. All competitors must wear hard hats. Classes may be combined, split, or canceled at the discretion of management. Family pets not allowed on the premises. CDA thanks Fox Cliff Farm for the use of their facility. Please treat the grounds as you would your own Place all trash in designated containers; no alcohol, please.

Times: Call show secretary only if you have not received your times by the Friday before the competition.

Are You A Missing Person?

Uh, oh!! Don't see your name on this list (compiled on March 20th)? Did you forget to renew your CDA membership? Boo, hoo! This will be your last issue of the *Centerline*, you won't be eligible for year-end awards, and , worse your copy of the 1999 Omnibus, practically hot off the presses, will molder lonely in it its carton. Better root through all that stuff on your desk and find your renewal form - or use the one in this *Centerline*. We'll be waiting for you!

1999 MEMBERS (as of March 15th)

ALLEN,KARI
ANDERSON,EMILY
ARMATA,DONNA
ASTMANN,MARTY
ASTMANN,TONY
BAKER,SALLY
BAULSKI,CHARLENE
BILODEAU,DESIREE
BILODEAU,PAM
BLANCHARD,NANCY
BRAGG,ELIZABETH
BRAVERMAN,ALAN
BRAVERMAN,AMANDA
BRAVERMAN,BARBARA
BRAVERMAN,ELIZABETH
BROWN,ELIZABETH B.
BROWN,EVELYN B.
BROWNSTEIN,MAX
BYRNE,FRANCES
CAPLAN,CAROL A.
CASSELLA,ROBIN
CAVALIERE,DONNA M.
CLOUD,JACQUELINE
COHEN,ART
COUGHLIN,DONNA
COURCHESNE,KAILEY
CURRIE,BARBARA
DAVIDSON,PATRICIA
DEMAREST,GEORGIA
DENTON,MARY FRANCES
DeSTEFANIS,JODY
DICKERSON,DEBORAH A.
DIJON-DOYLE,LISA
DRUCKREY,INGE
ECKEL,JENNIFER
ELLIOTT,PAM
ELLIS,JODIE BETH
FELDMAN,FERN
FLETCHER,MARGUERITA
FLETCHER,MARGUERITE
FORGUE,SHERRY
FOSTINI,HADEWYCH
COUWENBERGH
FRAIZE,JAMIE L.
GAYNOR,JUDY

GIORDANO,CYNTHIA
GOLDBLATT,PATRICIA
GOLUB,KATIE
GORDON,JOHN
GORDON,MARCIE
HALL,ANNE CREEVEY
HAMILTON,CORNELIA W.
HASSELBRING,NANCY
HAWLEY,BONNIE
HORAN,MEEGAN
HUNT,MARTY
JACOBSON,DIANE
KADERLI,JUDITH
KINGSBURY,ANNA
KOIF,VALERIE
LOMBARDI,KIM
LOVELESS,DEE
MAKOVER,JANET I.
MALIN,TIMOTHY
MALLICK,STEPHANIE
MARCUCCIO,SHERRI P.
MATURO,JESSICA
MAVROGEANES,NANCY M.
MAY,DONNA
McEVITT,CAROLYN B.
McNEILL,KATLYN
MELE,BARBARA
MERLI,JENNIFER
MIXSON,MADELEINE
MORRISON,JEAN
MUND,SUSAN E.
MURPHY,DEBBIE
NILSEN,LAURIE
OLIVIERI,LAURI
OSBORNE,CHARLES
OSBORNE,ISABELLE
OWLES,FRANCES J.
PAOLILLO,CYNTHIA CLARK
PEREIRA,CATHERINE
POPP,CAROL J.
PROLL,DENNIS
PROLL,JANICE
PROVENCE,MONICA
RABINOWITZ,SANDY
RADTKE,CAREY

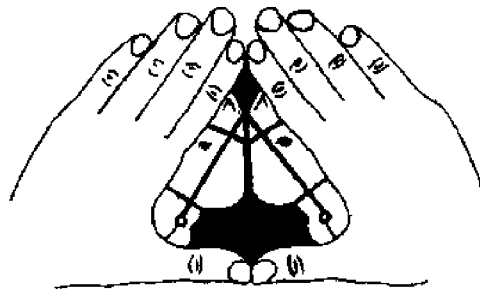
REED,CAROLYN DENTON
REID,BEVERLY B.
REINHARDT,DEBRA
REINHARDT,STEVE
ROBERTS,KAREN
ROSEN,LYN
ROSENTHAL,THORN
ROSSETTI,JODY S.
ROSSI,STEPHANIE
RUBIN,KAILA E.
SASSANO,JUDITH
SCHMITT,MARY C.
SHERRADEN,ELIZABETH
SHERRADEN,VICKI
SICURANZA,DONNA
SIGFRIDSON,LAURIE DAVIS
SIMMS,KATIE
SMITH,LUCY
SMITH-VANIZ,JANE
SMITHERS,LISA
SWINGLE,AMY
SZEPESE,ALIX
TOLL,SUSAN
TRAHAN,MONIQUE M.
UPDEGRAPH,FRITZIE
VALENTE,LESLIE
VALENTI,PATRICIA M.
VALENTI,VICTORIA A.
VOSS,ANGELA
VOYTOVICH,GLENNA
WARZECHO,SARAH
WEISS,LESLIE
WILSON,BARBARA
WOLF,JOAN
WOODMAN,PHYLLIS



SHOW SEASON IS NEARLY UPON US!

Is your horse ready to start a rigorous training schedule for upcoming shows? Now is the time to give your horse a spring "Tune Up". Has your horse started showing some stiffness, or perhaps frolicking on the ice has made him a bit sore. Trigger Point Myotherapy can help these and many other dysfunctions. Myotherapy can also bring your horse to its full potential, therefore achieving greater lengthenings, leg yields, freewalks, etc. Trigger points and spasms can occur from many things including: poor blanket fit, poor saddle fit, injury, overexertion, cold weather, etc. thus creating such reactions as head tossing, shying, one-sidedness, lack of impulsion, cold-backed, and many others. Once a horse is comfortable with himself, he will show his best performance!

taLKiNG HaND



Available for clinics and lectures.

Also available, horse rehabilitation program.

Pam Bilodeau

Certified equine & canine Trigger Point Myotherapist

860-585-8693 or e-mail takhads@aol.com

All articles are to be submitted by the 15th of the month. They can be mailed to me at:

John Gordon
Attn. CENTERLINE
24 Darren Court
Waterbury, CT 06708-3903

or
They can be Emailed to me at ct_dress_assn@geocities.com
In the Subject line: Centerline

Please send them as an Attachment in either Word for Windows, WordPerfect, RTF or in a plain text file Format if possible.

Attention Show and Clinic Organizers, Trainers, Stables and Organizations:



Don't forget to send us information about your activities for the 1998 CDA Calendar of Events!!! Send a one-line description, dates, locations, and contact person's name and phone number. We'll be delighted to include it in Centerline's regular calendar at no cost.

Thanks,
John

Remember to visit us on the web at http://www.geocities.com/~ct_dress_assn/



Nominations for Board of Directors

It is time for the membership to place into nomination their choices for members to the board of directors.

You must have the nominations in by the 15th of April so that we may present the ballot in the May issue of Centerline.

Please sent or call your nominations to:

Phyllia and Charlie Osborune
82 Sharon Goshen Turnpike
West Cornwall, CT 06796

or

Phone 860-672-6296



Don't find yourself
out on a limb
Remember to renew your
Connecticut Dressage Association
Membership Today !!