



CENTERLINE



CONNECTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

January 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

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January President's Message:

By the time you receive this newsletter, the holidays will be only memories. I sure hope yours were wonderful and Santa brought you all the new things you needed for your equine friend. As usual, this time of year always brings out the laughs and tricks of everyone and this brings me to a story. As president, I always have the board members and family over to my house for a holiday party. It has been a tradition that it be a pot luck dinner. Well, last year we had a rice dish and chicken wings with 5 different desserts. We had so little real food that my husband thawed some shrimp to add in for dinner. This year we had no desserts right down to the late arrival of Frances. We were not going to let her in unless she had a dessert. It looked very promising but the pie turned out to be a quiche (very good I might add but....) Short of sending my husband out for dessert, the board attacked one of my Christmas trees that was decorated with candies. Now I am not sure if any of you remember last year where we all learned how to disguise how many candies you really have eaten by wrapping one on top of the other and doing really tightly. Well, let me tell you that was not an issue this year. The tree was dismantled, candy was flying, and my 2 1/2 year old son said "What are they doing, Mommie?" Moral to this story, I am cooking (OK, my husband is cooking) next year, they can bring the dessert, and my son goes to bed early.

On a sad note, Sue Toll, a founding member and lifetime honoary board member, lost her husband on October 22. Will Toll was hit by a car and died the following morning at the hospital. Our deepest sympathy, thoughts and prayers go out to Sue and her family at this time.

To more business issues, several CDA board members attended the USDF Annual Convention in Savannah, GA. This is always a great time and very educational to talk to other dressage enthusiasts. Each members was responsible for certain meetings and University sessions. This newsletter will start a series of articles on issues from the convention so that our membership is kept informed. I will be starting this month with my report.

The board is very busy planning the calendar for 1999. The Omnibus is under way with an actual committee working on it and not just one person. Thank you all for responding to our plea for help.

Please remember the Awards Party. Everyone should come, it is a lot of fun!!! Oh! Yes! It is Pot Luck.....

See you next year on the Centerline....

Debra

1999 CALENDAR

February 20

CDA Year End Awards Party
Fern Feldman
203-272-0711

May 2

CDA Show
Once Again Farm

June 20

CDA Recognized Show
Oxridge

Savannah 98, USDF Annual Convention Part I

By Frances Owles

SO SAID THE TYPE on the cover of the pretty-in-pinkly-purple agenda booklet we got when we signed in at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, riverside, if you please. Giant swirling "S" with a stylish magnolia gracing its lower swirl, resting on a rose sepia-clone photo of one of Savannah's grand historic houses—multistoried, multiwindowed, multishuttered, veranda-ed, columned, and balconied with the most elegant milled balustrades. Draped with wisteria, it was (purple), and the foreground was lush with a sultry fade of azalea (pink, bet you anything).

Wow! I thought, Johnny Mercer crooning tunes in my ear. Bluuuue Riiviver. I'm out of here! Where's the nearest tourist track? I'm gonna find all those places in The Garden and Good and Evil and do a little voyeuristic stuff at the Lady Chablis' hot nightspot. See the squares (there are 22 of them) and famous cemeteries. Hit the Churchill pub for bangers and mash, and Kevin Barry's for Irish brew and song, eat okra and knaw on crab at Miz Willis', and sip white-tipped Earl Grey tea from fine china and my pinky crooked just right at the Tea Company on Broughton Street.

But then, floating on the azalea fade I noticed a couple of columns of bulleted type. Black, not pink. And with serifs, those little hooks you see on the bottoms of letters that mean BUSINESS, not piano bars or casbahs. Anti-decadent. Serious stuff: "Four University Session, Six University Mini-Sessions, GMO Educational Program, Board of Governors," I read. O woe! But then, "Equestrian Trade Show and A Social Night Out." Maybe I can handle this after all. Here's a recap of some of the events:

Wednesday, December 2.

Penny Hawes and I stumble down to the, um, athletic center at 6:30 a.m., run a bit on the machine and paddle around in the pool. Then to change and the hotel restaurant, set for buffet breakfast but unprepared for large numbers of eaters. Gave the surly a 1 out of 10, including tip.

Regional Meetings. Our group met with Region 8 Director Fern (Feldman, of course), who shared news from the national directors and where we discussed issues we wanted to bring up in various committees. We planned who would go to what meetings over the course of the week so most of them would be covered. Annie Gupstill's little boy provided light entertainment.

Stephanie went to Max Gahwyler's ever-popular historical presentation on the origin of dressage in the Fertile Crescent. Some stayed away thinking the Fertile Crescent had to do with growing grass on the moon, perhaps an alternative browse. Penny went to the Judges meeting, which covered the judging of freestyles, and I went to the GMO Workshop addressing the problem of personnel in a volunteer organization. We took personality tests to reveal people's leadership or followership styles and talked about the problem of too many chiefs and no Indians (Nothing gets done) and its converse (Nothing gets organized). Lots of laughing and levity from the Gahwyler meeting next door. I wanted to sneak a peek but didn't.

Not sure who covered Jan Jacobson's mini-University session "How Saddle Fit Affects Performance," but it sounded interesting. Competition Management attracted a crowd in the late morning. Lunch "on your own" after that attracted even more. I hotfooted it over the cobblestones to the Broughton St. teahouse and nibbled cucumber and tuna sandwiches on homegrain wheat with sides of mixed tiny cakes, sweet biscuits, and fruit. And tea with lumps of colored sugar like stone crystal and amber in a little bowl with a weensie teaspoon of silver. Oh, and sun outside the window. Sigh.

The afternoon featured a TD (Technical Delegate) meeting for Debbie. I avoided bylaws, and chose over Advanced Young Riders another USDF University Mini session, "Putting Together a Quality Quadrille," led by California Dressage Assn.'s Alexandra Howard. Watching videos and projected schematics, we were able to study the movements and compare the music, performance

(Savannah 98 - continued from page 2)

style, and scoring of several teams. Quadrilles are becoming increasingly popular in the country,

(Savannah 98 - continued on page 8)

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- Full-time positions available at Cloverlea Farm. Please call Jennifer Baumert at 860-228-1393 (H) or 860-228-9242 (B)
 - Several remarkable young Hannoverians for sale—extremely well-started with show experience. Half-brother to Gifted with fabulous gaits, 3rd level, 9yo, 16.2, \$25,000. Super-quiet, straightforward 16h, 5yo gray TB mare with 3 lovely gaits, shown very successfully Tr-1st with a junior, \$15,000. Call Jennifer Baumert 860-228-1393 (H), 228-9242 (B).

Chris Hickey Clinic—A Hit with Juniors

CDA hosted the Jr/YR Incentive Clinic with Chris Hickey on November 14th at Cloverlea Farm in Columbia. Chris is a USDF Certified Instructor through Fourth Level and is most noted for his achievements with his Grand Prix horse, Dwight. Chris is from Northampton, MA and he winters in Wellington, FL.

The day was divided with juniors riding before the lunch break and adults riding in the afternoon. Seven junior riders participated: Jennifer Daniels, Dennis Proll, Desiree Bilodeau, Victoria Valenti, Lena O'Keefe, Elizabeth Sherraden and Katie Galub. Chris was enthusiastic and encouraging with all riders. "I learned a lot of new exercises and Chris helped me with my position," said Denny Proll who was fortunate enough to ride twice. The afternoon segment included horses from Training Level through Prix St. Georges. Riders were Jeri O'Keefe, Rachel Gioia, Dee Loveless and Jennifer Baumert.



CDA Jr/YRs and guests pose with junior coordinators Jen Baumert and Pam Bilodeau after lunch and clinic wrap-up session: Top row from left: Lucy Day, Katie Golub, Liz Sherraden, Jen Daniels, Desiree Bilodeau. Bottom row: Denny Proll, Jen Baumert w/ Lily, Lena O'Keefe, Pam Bilodeau, Lucy Smith. (Not shown: Victoria Valenti and mom, Pat (behind camera).

During the lunch break, the first Jr/YR Board meeting was held. Six young CDA members attended along with several potential members and interested adults. Juniors and Young Riders are encouraged to voice their needs and wants through these meetings as they make plans to implement the activities that they choose.

Desiree Bilodeau, a participant in the clinic had this to say, "I found the clinic to be very fun and educational, it was definitely worth the time spent volunteering this year. I am especially excited about upcoming Jr/YR meetings and events."

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 17th at 4pm at Cloverlea Farm in Columbia and plans are to show videos, eat pizza and make plans for 1999. All juniors and young riders are encouraged to come and participate. For more information on the board meeting, carpools, etc call Jennifer Baumert at 860-228-1393.



Desiree Bilodeau and Duke chill out at break time.



Victoria Valenti and her 9-year-old TB, Louie, look pleased with themselves after a lesson with Chris.

1998 CDA Award Winners

The first two in each category are Champion and Reserve Champion.

SCHOOLING SHOWS

Schooling/Introductory

1. Carol Caplan 66.66 Neapolitano Bonamia

Schooling/Introductory/Junior

1. Desiree Bilodean 67.54 High Renaissance

Schooling/Training/Senior

1. Pam Bilodean 69.61 Eiselmann
 2. Vicki Sherraden 67.01 Pico de Gallo
 3. Kari Bradshaw 65.44 Briar Bay
 4. Nancy Blanchard 60.63 Arcadia
 5. Susan Hart 57.052 Northstar Cajandanty

Schooling/Training/Junior

1. Desiree Bilodean 65.42 High Renaissance
 2. Elizabeth Sherraden 63.73 Mikela
 3. Amanda Braverman 61.60 Casanova
 4. Katie Golub 60.19 Tara

Schooling/First

1. Pam Bilodeau 64.87 Eiselmann
 2. Jennifer Ford 60.823 Mt. Airy Brutus
 3. Susan Hart 57.948 Northstar Cajandanty

Combined Training/AHSA/Prelim

1. Carolyn Denton Reed 65.66 Big Spender



"When I competed, I tried to do my best. In my early years, I just went as fast as I could to get out of the ring as soon as I could. I concentrated so hard that I really messed up by not taking the time to show the judge what my horse and I could really do. My scores got better when I learned to just relax and take the attitude, 'Hey, I'm on my horse and I'm going to show my horse off.' That's when I started to take time to prepare him for each movement - I rode the test better, and my scores improved enormously. When I rode for myself, that's when I got better. It's a matter of confidence and getting used to showing."

Linda Zang
1998

RECOGNIZED SHOWS

Recognized/Training/Junior

1. Dennis Proll 66.021 Mystic
 2. Jacqueline Ducci 64.5 Sir Galahad
 3. Monica Provence 63.69 Inca
 4. Amanda Braverman 60.92 Casanova
 5. Jennifer Daniels 60.36 Princess Callene

Recognized/Training/Senior

1. Jennifer Baumert 70.01 Wallstreet
 2. Dee Loveless 69.28 Donnaldo
 3. Alix Szepesi 67.22 Emily of Ca-Lyn
 4. Jean Morrison 66.22 Eli
 5. Kim Lombardi 66.00 Scandia's Promise
 6. Jody Rossetti 64.61 Oliver
 7. Maureen Hawes 62.16 Siglavy Flora 8
 8. Debra Serencko 58.00 Trillium's Sunday

Recognized/First

1. Alix Szepesi 64.18 Ballywhim Ardan Mor
 2. Susan Hart 56.544 Northstar Cajandanty

Recognized/Second

1. Carol Popp 63.71 Siglavy Wera
 2. Alix Szepesi 62.64 Ballywhim Ardan Mor
 3. Debra Reinhardt 61.02 Black Tie

Recognized/Second Freestyle

1. Carol Popp 67.24 Siglavy Wera
 2. Alix Szepesi 62.04 Ballywhim Ardan Mor

Recognized/Fourth

1. Ann Guptill 64.04 Heraud (DWB 0)
 2. Ann Guptill 63.92 Gideon

Recognized/Intermediaire

1. Ann Guptill 63.22 Bijan
 2. Alix Szepesi 62.18 Triple S High Noon

Recognized/Intermediaire Freestyle

1. Alix Szepesi 65.68 Orlov II



CONNECTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

1999 Omnibus Advertising

Dear Fellow Equestrian,

In preparation for the coming season, we are soliciting advertising and competition space for our 1999 *Omnibus* to help you publicize your business or club events and help us defray our printing and mailing costs for this member publication. As a past advertiser, we should like to know if you would like to advertise again. And as a first-time advertiser, we welcome you to the Omnibus advertising showcase. Please note specs and terms below.

Whether you list your shows and events for the season or you send us your prize list, the full-page price is the same. You benefit from placing your prize list in the *Omnibus*: Your show entries will increase since CDA members desperate to find alternate schooling shows where they can earn enough scores to compete in our Annual Awards program. Members ask us all the time, "Where else can I show my horse or go to other dressage activities?" The Omnibus will be mailed free of charge to more than 350 dressage enthusiasts and will contain listings of competitions from several organizations. It will also be available at our cost to other organizations for their members.

PREPARING YOUR AD: Choose from two options: Repeat the same ad as last year, or submit camera-ready copy (please enclose 2 copies) for a different one. Prize lists: See the 1997 Omnibus for correct format. If you are digitally inclined, please call first to arrange for sending your ad on disk or as an e-mail attachment. If you change your ad in any way, a copy will be faxed to you for your approval prior to publication. We are happy to tell you that except for the full-page ads, our 1999 rates remain the same as last year's:

Full page ad or prize list (4 1/2" x 7 1/2")	\$ 100.00
Half page (4 1/2" x 3 3/4")	\$ 50.00
Business card	\$ 25.00

The deadline for submitting your ad is January 20, 1999. If you know of another business who would like to place an ad in the 1998 Omnibus, please pass along a copy of this rate sheet. Many thanks.

..... CUT HERE AND SEND

CDA OMNIBUS ADVERTISING ORDER FORM

Name & Business, Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone	
Fax	
E-mail	

- I would like to repeat last year's ad. I understand CDA may charge me to set my non-camera-ready copy.
- I am enclosing 2 copies of my new camera-ready ad or one of a different size.
- I am enclosing my ad on disk or sending an e-mail attachment (please call Frances first)

The size of my enclosed ad is (check one) (PLEASE FILL OUT A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH AD YOU PLACE):

Business card \$25
 Half page ad \$50
 Full page ad/prize list \$100

I am enclosing a check for \$ _____.

DEADLINE: January 20, 1999. Please send a copy of this form and your CHECK PAYABLE to CDA and the bottom half of this page to FRANCES OWLES, 241 Baldwin Hill Rd., New Preston, CT 06777.

the skill and the number of team competitions rising notably among the Interscholastic Teams in New England. (Mt. Holyoke was pressing for a dressage quadrille championship, which through the persistent efforts of quadrille's rah-rah lobbying group at the Board of Governors meeting later in the week (led by Adore Diesel), won support. If you're interested in this, write to USDF for the booklet *Quadrille Competition: Rules and Guidelines*, compiled by the Quadrille Development Committee in 1996. It also contains the tests. Great fun!

Wednesday's official duties behind us, the CDA contingent proceeded to the Trade Fair Kickoff party, sponsored by Eisers (and the efforts of Debbie, of course). Horsey products, both beautiful and practical, supplied by vendors from all over the country, beckoned. USDF had a wonderful stand, where they offered videos, all of their books and manuals, and clothing. We plucked goodies from trays of hors d'oeuvres, queued at the cash bar, and networked tirelessly.

As if this were not enough, Penny and I decided to search for gustatory delights out in the street. (The trade fair goodies, while gustatory, were not what I'd call delights) Eschewed by an anti-spice-food NEDA group, the Casbah on Broughton Street was our destination. A sign just inside the door announce Belly Dancing Lessons. Ask Inside. We didn't but were seated anyway on red plush banquettes before a tiny table, very low. Music from a piped-in rebek or sitar played squeaky, exotic melodies. We held out our unclean hands to a decidedly un-Moroccan waitress from Michigan, who poured hot water from an ornate silver urn over them. We dried them with a warm cloth. Very relaxing. Then we ate curried this and that with our hands and had to bathe our digits and palms again. While all this was going on, a very pale belly dancer attired in a spaghetti of straps, sequins, and flowing white gauze undulated her way about the room, dancing a seductive meditation and piaffing in place in front of the tables where rapt young men were pulling dollar bills out of their pockets and into her whatevers. She ignored us; we sneaked sidewise glances, drank tea, and sauntered home to our pink factory palace.

Stay tuned to more Savannah next month.

USDF Convention - President's Report

Meetings...Meetings...Meetings.....Just when you have had enough, the Board of Governors start for the next day and half! The USDF Convention is a lot of work but it is very beneficial and fun.

First let me tell you about the fun in Savannah, GA. The Hyatt was located right on the river front which had shops and restaurants. The weather was unbelievable. So it made walking a joy and a fun escape from the meetings.

I did, however, attend a lot of meetings and want to report the highlights. Being a Technical Delegate and being the Region 8 TD Coordinator, I, of course, attended the TD meeting. Basically, we went over issues about the TD Video, TD Check list, and the proposed rule changes. Many rule changes are still being discussed and will be finalized at the AHSA Convention in January. However, one rule change which goes into effect on January 1, 1999, is the rule regarding bits and the two different metals. This rule no longer exists. Hence, you can use your stainless curb bit with your German silver bradoon or any combination.

At the Competition Management and Competitors meeting, the rules were another big issue. A proposed rule change was to allow double bridles at Third Level which the Competitor Council voted down. Other big issues were regarding Freestyles. With the proposed rule change, a competitor could not compete in a Freestyle unless they had a qualifying score at the highest test of that level. The judges wanted this rule and the competitors did not. So a compromise was developed and being proposed to the AHSA.

Remember USDF does not make up the rules. Only the AHSA does. However, USDF can strongly suggest changes to rules. The AHSA may or may not listen. So we will have to wait and see. Other issues on rule changes were also reworked and being sent to the AHSA. So at this time I will not go into detail. However, when the rules (and there were a lot of them!) are actually finalized, we will get them printed for you.

Board of Governors meeting! Here is where we, CDA, have a vote. Your delegate (which was me but I reassigned them to Penny Hawes

since I felt everyone needed to sit through this at least once.) carried nine(9) votes. Issues were voted on during the meeting, but only once(almost twice) was there a need for a roll call vote. This is where each delegate is called for his/her vote. For nine regions, this takes 20-30 minutes if we are lucky.

The first of two issues that were hot were incorporating the Quadrille Team of the Year Awards. The issue was not the actual rules of qualifying for the awards, but a motion was made to incorporate this award now. This presents a major problem legally and recording wise. After much discussion, a call to the question, and a roll call vote, it was defeated. These awards will go into affect next year 2000. So get your Quadrille Teams ready!!! The other issue was with regards to the Regional Championships. This year an extra \$5 will be collected and distributed to regions evenly as prize money. The larger regions wanted them to be distributed back proportionally. In other words, the larger regions would get more prize money. Again it came very close to a roll call vote until statistics of the actual difference paid to each champion in different regions. Believe me it was less than \$5 across the board! Luckily...No Roll Call!!!

I hope I am not going into too much detail, but I want you to have a feeling of the passion the delegates have to make things right for their region, or their association.

The last major issue was our national publication. As you maybe aware, *Dressage & CT*, which was the "Official Publication of the USDF" is not longer in print. Fleet Street and Cowles Publishing merged and *Dressage Today* will be the only Dressage publication. Starting in 3-4 months USDF will publish their own newsletter/publication. Several options were being discussed, but the executive board went this direction. We are looking forward to new Publication and of course as a CDA member you will receive one.

I will let the others who went discuss the meetings and their experience. Next year it is in Denver and you should try to come. It is a lot of fun learning and talking to Dressage enthusiasts.

Debra

Region 8/NEDA Annual Meeting

Some business has to be conducted at an annual meeting, such as electing officers (of NEDA) and having council reports (of Region 8), but there was also some shopping and some socializing. It certainly is nice having the vendors there, and I hope that their time and effort is worth it in sales for them. It did look like purchases were being transacted. The brunch is always good, and even though, as horsepeople we often do not take time for a full meal at 11:30 a.m., it is amazing how hungry we are when we have been sitting rather than actively riding.

The highlight for most, however, was the talk given by Oded Shimoni, the first World Equestrian Games rider for Israel. Oded spoke about his training in Germany with Mr. Conrad Schumacher prior to the WEG competition. He had hoped to be able to ride with Mr. Schumacher before going to Germany, and was able to gain the chance to ride for him in the United States. He was extremely flattered when Mr. Schumacher invited him to Germany to train. Oded said that Mr. Schumacher stressed gymnastics: using the basics to work the hind end of the horse and keep him through the neck. "Be nice to your horses" was the comment Oded often heard. To illustrate the depth of horses in Germany, Oded said that at his first "local" show there were 49 riders in the Grand Prix. After that, Rotterdam was his first international show and only the 8th Grand Prix of his life, but it was also the most successful. Oded said that he "could push his horse Amora without worrying about her neck, because the gymnasticizing had been so successful. The horse was totally in front of me." Oded said that with three weeks then to Rome, he tried to keep Mr. Schumacher's training philosophy in mind: don't stress the animal to the point that he does not want to do it; you don't always have to push to the maximum.

Oded's performance at the World Equestrian Games was a great achievement for him personally. He explained that the Israeli Equestrian Federation was extremely supportive emotionally and in return he goes to Israel at least annually to clinic on a voluntary basis. Israel's financial support was minimal, but was the best they could do, and he expressed his gratitude to his native country. He also expressed his appreciation of the American team and especially Jessica Ranshousen, our chef d'equipe, as they always included him and assisted him wherever possible.

YEAR END AWARDS PRESENTATION



**February 20, 1999 at 7pm
Where - Fern Feldman's Home**



Pot luck dinner, and some fun...dancing????

Bring spouses, significant others, friends, potential CDA members, but come!!!

This is a party for you, CDA members.

RSVP to Fern by Feb 18th. 203-272-0711



Directions: From I-84, take exit 26 'Cheshire'. Turn right(or bear right if you are coming from the Waterbury) at the light at the end of the ramp. Stay on route 68/70 until Mountain Rd. Land Mark is that Mountain Rd is the NEXT light after the Notch Store on the right and at the light where Rt 68 splits from Rt 70. Turn Right onto Mountain Rd. At four-way stop go straight, Fern's home is about .6 mile on the left from the four-way stop, 890 Mountain Rd, white ranch with circular drive.

