



# CENTERLINE



CONNECTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

September 2008

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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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**Subject: Centerline**

**- CDA Website -**

www.ctdressageassoc.org

CDA is a USDF member, and the GMO's members are automatically USDF Group Members.

## President's Message- September 2008 Centerline

Greetings! Our President, Chris, is up to her eyeballs in show management, so it is my pleasure to tell you the news this month. For those of us who show, the silly season is in high swing. Nevertheless, we need to look forward. It is time to start thinking of applying for our Year End Awards program. In this issue and on the website you can find application forms. Remember that this year we have a special award for horses 18 years or older, the Vista vintage Award. You can find details of this special program in your Omnibus.

In September we have two events: a schooling show on September 21 at Once Again Farm. Please go to the website for details and the prize list. On September 28 Margaret Freeman will preside over a ride-re-ride clinic, also to be held at Once Again Farm. This clinic is Margaret's specialty and should not be missed. It will be a wonderful opportunity either to ride or to audit. Please consider coming. Contact Donna Leonessa for more information: dleonessa@hotmail.com.

Heads up! Be on the lookout for your membership renewal forms at the end of September. If you recall, last year the USDF changed its annual year, so we have adjusted ours accordingly. In order to keep your USDF Connection subscription and CDA's Centerline coming on schedule, you will need to renew on time.

Kudos to CDA's two teams of young riders who competed at Lendon's Youth Dressage Festival. Vicki Hammers-O'Neil again served as chef. With the enthusiastic support of parents and a high degree of camaraderie, our teams placed very well and even won the tack stall decorating competition! Vicki and our board of directors' youth representative, Erin O'Neil will have more for you in this issue. Additional thanks go to several CDA members who donated horses for several of our riders, and to Centerline Events and Performance enhancement Services who co-sponsored with CDA.

Here are some early bits of news for 2009: CDA will be hosting 3 pre-certification clinics to prepare instructors for testing in 2010, also hosted by us. This is a major endeavor and will bring favorable attention to CDA and to Region 8. Auditors are encouraged and there may be some opportunities to be a demonstration rider. More news will follow as the planning committee works out the details. In part because of the amount of time required to organize this event, CDA will not offer a recognized show for 2009. We will hold the dates and use the time to make plans for 2010. Clearly we are in need of help from our membership to enrich what the Board members can do. We are lucky to have so many educational and competitive opportunities in our area, but each one takes a lot of planning and logistical attention. If anyone is just plain curious or might have time or knowledge to share, we can certainly use it. You need not be a board member to come to meetings and there is a free dinner! And often M&Ms..... We on the Board are trying to respect the membership priorities as indicated by our recent membership survey when we have to choose where to put our energy.

Lastly, I would like to offer a special "thank you" to the many sponsors and advertisers for our 2008 recognized show this past June. They are all listed on a separate page inside this issue. Their support makes our show affordable and we are very grateful to the several who have consistently supported us and also to our new benefactors. If you are able to shop at their stores or use their service, please mention that you are a CDA member and appreciate their support.

All best,  
*Leslie Weiss*  
CDA Vice President

## 2008 Calendar of Events

### September 7, 2008

CDA Schooling Show  
Once Again Farm  
Meriden, CT  
Contact:  
Nancy Blanchard  
860-283-8748

### September 21, 2008

CDA Schooling Show  
Once Again Farm  
Meriden, CT  
Marisa Evans  
203-217-6150

### September 27 2008

Babcock Hill Equestrian Center  
Coventry, CT  
Terry Glendinning  
860-742-0616  
tm09g@yahoo.com

### October 5, 2008

Abacus Events Schooling Show  
R Folly Farm  
Morris, CT  
Contact:  
Nancy Blanchard  
860-283-8748

### October 19, 2008

Dressage, Combined Training  
and Jumping Schooling Show.  
Oakendale Farm LLC  
Bristol, CT  
Contact:  
Alison Kost-McCallum  
860-314-9514  
[www.oakendalefarm.com](http://www.oakendalefarm.com)

### October 19, 2008

Dressage Schooling Show  
Cedar Brook Equestrian Center  
Sutton, MA  
Jamie Greenebaum  
508-395-6682  
Jamie@g2partners.com

### October 26, 2008

Wells Valley Farm  
New Milford, CT  
Katja Eilers  
44 Blackrock Turnpike  
Redding, CT. 06896

### November 1-2, 2008

Cloverlea Farm Dressage Clinic  
Columbia, CT  
With Axel Steiner  
Contact:  
Morgan Adair  
860-933-0514  
Beth Baumert  
860-228-9242

## ***CDA WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE SPONSORS AND ADVERTISERS FOR THEIR GENERROUT SUPPORT OF THE 2008 RECOGNIZED SHOW***

**Mrs. Peter Flagg**  
**Isobelle Osborne**  
**EQ Bling- Cynthia Clark Paolillo**  
**Moments in Time Photography—Brenda Cataldo**  
**Ellerslie Custom Blankets**  
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**Performance Enhancement Services**  
**M. Chris Rogers and Nick Aquilio**  
**A Friend**  
**Adele O’Kane**  
**Bit of Tack**  
**Patricia Norcia Edwards**  
**Back to Basics**  
**Just Horses**  
**Equestrian Arts Productions**  
**Katja Eilers**  
**Sandy Rabinowitz**  
**Centerline Events**  
**Once Again Farm Friends of Ted and Vista**

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## **New Rule Change for Regional Championship Qualifying**

The USDF Executive Board approved an update to the 2009 Great American/USDF Regional Dressage Championships program rules to reflect the USEF Extraordinary rule change on April 1, 2008 to DR 119.2, making the FEI Junior Tests equivalent to Third Level for the purposes of entering shows.

Regional Championship program Rule C.4 Qualifying System - changed to read:

Junior Riders (age 14-18) must ride the FEI Junior Team Test to qualify for the FEI Junior Division and may ride the FEI Junior Individual Test to qualify for Fourth \*/Third/ \* Level. Junior riders may ride the FEI Junior Freestyle to qualify for the Third Level Freestyle. This change is effective immediately for the 2009 regional championship qualifying period.

Opening Date: August 25, 2008

Closing Date: September 15, 2008

**Sunday, September 21, 2008**  
**Connecticut Dressage Association**  
**Schooling Show**

Location: Once Again Farm, Meriden, CT

Judge: Claudia Tarlov (L)

Secretary: Marisa Evans  
46 Ione Drive  
Meriden, CT 06450  
(203) 217-6150

Class List: USDF 2003 Introductory Tests A-B.  
USEF 2007 Training 1-4.  
USEF 2007 First 1-4.  
USEF 2007 Second and above-State test to be ridden.  
Dressage Seat Equitation. (Youth and Adult Amateurs only)

Fees: CDA members \$25 per Class.  
Non-members \$30 per test.  
Number deposit: \$1  
Checks payable to CDA.  
No refunds after closing date.

Awards: Up to six ribbons awarded in each class.  
CDA High Point Award Medal: Awarded to the Adult Amateur and Junior Young Rider with the High Percentage Score of the show (excluding Equitation Class)

Rules: Number of rides per horse/rider combination may be limited to two. State two preferred tests first on application. Current negative Coggins within 12 months is mandatory and must accompany entry. All competitors must wear ASTM approved helmets while mounted or head gear appropriate to the level. Classes may be combined, split, or canceled at the discretion of management. Family pets not allowed on the premises. Please treat the grounds as you would your own property. Place all trash in designated containers; no alcohol, please.

Times: Call the show secretary the Friday evening before the show between 6 - 9 P.M. or email: salsa\_shark51@yahoo.com to have the schedule emailed to you. You will be able to view the ride times on the CDA Website on Saturday before the show.

Directions: From 1-91 North: Take exit 17 to 691 West. Take Exit 4 off 691W. Turn left at the end of ramp. \*\*Turn right onto third residential street, Gwen Road. At the end of Gwen Rd. turn right onto Johnson Ave. Take the first left onto Finch Ave. Go 7/10 miles on Finch to Allen Avenue, turn left. Once Again Farm is 100 feet ahead on the right. From 1-91 South: Take Exit 18 onto 691 West. Then follow directions from 1-91 North. From 1-84 East and West: Take Exit 27 onto 691. Take Exit 4; at end of ramp, turn right. Then follow directions from 1-91 beginning with \*\*

**Standing Stones Farm LLC**  
**325R Shewville Road**  
**Ledyard, CT 06339**



Standing Stones Farm is a new, state-of-the-art, dressage facility in Ledyard CT. We have regulation full-size outdoor and indoor dressage arenas, fabulous footing, grass paddocks and four-board fencing for turn-out, miles of woodland trails and hills, a quarter-mile exercise track and a low-key, supportive atmosphere dedicated to the sport of dressage. We have a few openings for boarders interested in furthering their dressage training. We also offer driving and long-lining lessons. Five minutes off I-95, Exit 90. Phone Herb Robie, Trainer, (401) 480-2406 or Nancy Hutson, Owner, (860) 625-9887, for more details.



**Connecticut Dressage Association is pleased to sponsor a team(s) to compete at the Northeast Adult Amateurs Championships to be held on October 18 and 19, 2008 at Mystic Valley Hunt Club**

**Qualifying rules for the CDA Sponsored team(s):**

Adult Amateurs must be a CDA member in good standing at the time they earn their scores. Scores may be earned at either a schooling show or recognized show. Details on the rules and requirements for the Championships are being finalized. The rules will be available at [www.mysticvalleyhuntclub.com](http://www.mysticvalleyhuntclub.com) soon. Riders may be required to perform a musical freestyle. More details will follow on the specific format of the show and the requirements.

Please email Donna Leonessa at [dleonessa@hotmail.com](mailto:dleonessa@hotmail.com) with your intent to compete on a CDA team, your highest qualifying score, state your level of riding and shirt size by August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Teams will consist of 3 or 4 horse/rider combinations. CDA will send as many as two (2) 4-member teams. Teams will be selected by scores, with the top 4 Adult Amateurs on the first team, then the second 4 Adult Amateurs on the next team, etc.

**All Adult Amateurs participating on a sponsored team must volunteer a minimum of eight (8) hours at a CDA sponsored function.** This can be a schooling show, the recognized show in June, or one of the clinics coming up this spring and summer. **Your volunteer hours must be completed by the time of the show.**

All Adult Amateurs chosen for a team will receive certain team sponsored items.

CDA will sponsor each individual's entry fees for the Championship, and the team member will be responsible for paying the remainder of the fees. All team members will be responsible for their own lodging and meals.

We are pleased that Ann Guptill of Equestrian Arts LLC will be acting as the chef d'equipe at the Championships. Ann will be responsible for helping to make sure that team entries are sent in, a sound check is performed at the show for the musical freestyles, assist riders in getting to the ring on time and help with team selection. Please feel free to reach out to Ann separately if you would like assistance with your musical freestyle. The fees associated with Ann's assistance are not covered by CDA's sponsorship.

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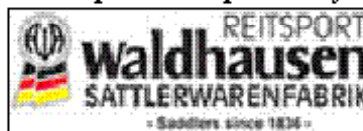
***Timothy F. Malin***

**USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold Medalist**

***2007 USET Grand Prix Festival of Champions***

**Freelance, Clinics and Sales**

*Tim is proud to be sponsored by:*



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## **CDA sends two teams to the Youth Dressage Festival**

This year Lendon's Youth Dressage Festival was held in July instead of August, but the members of CDA's two teams weren't fazed by the earlier deadline for entries, studying, or tack stall preparations.

Six members of CDA attended the competition, which is judged on a combination of scores from a written test, an equitation class, and a dressage test. Riders are placed in divisions based on both age and level of dressage test. Each section is worth 100 points for a total of 300, and the riders are placed based on their totals. In addition to individual placings, almost 40 teams of 3 or 4 riders competed for the team awards.

The CDA Dressage Divas, consisting of Haley Nemeth, Erin O'Neil, and Marissa Lorczak, placed 6th in their division. The CDA Saluting Starlets - Kirsten Walleck, Jessica Bielawski, and Courtney Eaton were originally tied for 6th place in their division, but a math error knocked both of the 6th place teams out of the running.

Individually, Kirsten Walleck was Reserve Champion in Training Level Division A, 18 - 21, and Erin O'Neil was Reserve Champion in 1st Level 14 - 17. Courtney Eaton was 7th in 3rd Level 18 - 21, Marissa Lorczak and Haley Nemeth placed 9th and 10th respectively, in Training Level Division B, 18 - 21. Jessica Bielawski was just out of the ribbons in her division of Training Level Division A 18 - 21.

The crowning moment came when, after working at it for 5 years, CDA won the tack stall decorating competition! Our theme was Classic Hollywood and everyone went all out. The judges loved it!

Personally, I would like to thank the parents of everyone on the team. We had a really great group of kids and parents this year and we all had a super time. Everyone worked hard at studying and also in tack stall preparation. GREAT JOB everyone!

## **USDF Executive Board Position on USEF Dressage Performance Standards Proposal**

The USEF Dressage Committee met on July 1-2, 2008 and discussed the USEF Dressage Performance Standards proposal. This discussion included a review of compiled results of the online survey which was developed to gather feedback from USEF and USDF members. These results were recently shared with the USDF Executive Board and show that a majority of the approximately 1250 respondents expressed support for the idea of having competition performance standards for the sport. In comments received as part of the survey, several important concerns regarding the proposal were expressed, such as program costs, access for riders in parts of the country offering few shows, and recognition of good riding on modest horses. As a result, the USEF Dressage Committee is exploring new ideas to address these concerns, and will discuss possible changes to the proposal in the coming months with the organizations which will be impacted, including USDF.

Based on the feedback from the survey, the USDF Executive Board believes that a majority of USDF members support, in principle, the concept of competition performance

standards. The Executive Board is pleased that the USEF Dressage Committee is listening to and taking seriously USDF member feedback and continues to make improvements to its Dressage Performance Standards proposal that will better serve the sport. In a continuing effort to work together to find common ground, there will be a special session at the USDF Annual Convention in which the USEF Dressage Committee will discuss a revised version of its proposal with USDF members. This session will be held on Thursday, December 4 in Denver, CO.

Although this is a USEF proposal that will likely result in a USEF rule change, the USDF Executive Board believes that USDF is best equipped to provide the administration services that will be needed if the proposal is implemented. However, if USDF becomes the administrator, the USDF Executive Board does not intend to pass on the cost associated with program administration to its members, and intends to work out an arrangement with USEF to make that possible.

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

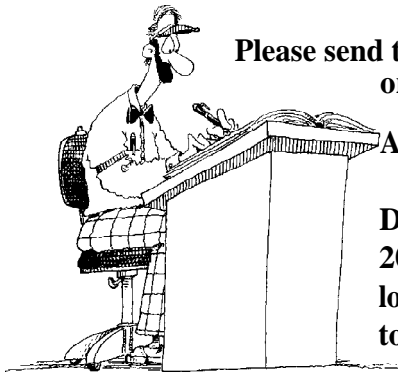
John Gordon  
Attn. CENTERLINE  
24 Darren Court  
Waterbury, CT 06708-3903

or

They can be Emailed to me at [Centerline@ctdressageassoc.org](mailto:Centerline@ctdressageassoc.org)

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 2007 - 2008 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.ctdressageassoc.org>

A horse is the projection of peoples' dreams about themselves - strong, powerful, beautiful - and it has the capability of giving us escape from our mundane existence.

~Pam Brown~

## 2008 Advertising Rates

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Business Card	\$15	\$100	\$30	\$200
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Full Page	\$30	\$250	\$60	\$400

Make Checks payable to CDA

## **Centerline**

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Heidi Nottelman

179 Stetson Road

Brooklyn, CT 06234

860-779-7816

e-mail: [Membership@ctdressageassoc.org](mailto:Membership@ctdressageassoc.org)

**CDA Newsletter for September, 2008**

*CDA BOARD MEETING Thursday September 4, 2008 at 6:15 PM*  
Call Fern Feldman at 203-272-0711 or Email - [Secretary@ctdressageassoc.org](mailto:Secretary@ctdressageassoc.org) for directions.