

ON THE BIT

PASO DEL NORTE
DRESSAGE SOCIETY

Feb 2016

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YEAR END AWARDS BANQUET

Join us for food and fun on

Saturday, February 6

11 am - 1 pm

LEO's Mexican Food

7520 Remcon Cir (Westside)

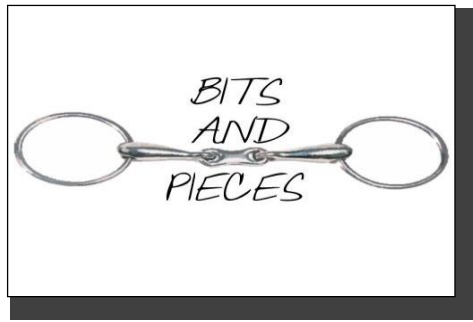
Buffet is \$8.99 adults (does not include drinks)

or you can order off of the menu

[Click Here to RSVP](#)

Directions:

I-10 to Exit 11 (Mesa Street going east), Turn Right onto Remcon Circle



SCHOOLING SHOW DATES

- **March 5th** (Isaacs Ranch w/ Las Cruces Horseman's Assoc., Judge: Karin Lencyk.)
- **April 3rd** (tentative) - Miller Horse Farm, judge to be announced
- **May 8th** (tentative) - Miller Horse Farm, judge TBA
- **Sept 4th** (tentative) - Miller Horse Farm, judge TBA
- **Oct 2nd** (tentative) - Miller Horse Farm, judge TBA
- **Oct 30th** (tentative) - Miller Horse Farm, judge TBA - Includes a Halloween Freestyle class
- **Dec 4th** (tentative) - Miller Horse Farm, judge TBA (Alternative show date in case one of the others is cancelled due to weather.)

Office fee \$10.00, Class fee \$25.00

FYI:

The show will be cancelled if there are not enough entries to break even. Please sign-up early!

CLINIC DATES

Feb 28th

Ride-A-Review Clinic with Ellie Stine Masek at Miller Horse Farm

Ellie is an "S" Dressage judge and an "R" Western Dressage judge

Limited to 16 riders and riders are limited to one ride unless there are open slots after the closing date of Feb 10th.

- Ellie will spend 25-30 min with each rider
- 1st ride will be scored
- Ellie will work with the rider to improve certain parts of the ride
- Rider will re-ride the parts that were worked on with Ellie (not the entire test)
- Registration is now OPEN
- [Click here to SIGN-UP](#)

Date to be Announced

Freestyle Clinic with Cynthia Collins

See below for more information. We will discuss whether or not to have this clinic at the Awards Banquet. If you cannot attend the banquet, please contact one of the board members if you are interested before the banquet date.

Date to be Announced

Dressage Trail Clinic w/ Sandra Welch

Check the website for more information as it becomes available.

POSSIBLE FREESTYLE CLINIC

In last year's membership survey, the two most requested clinics were the "Ride a Review" and "Freestyle" clinics. A "Ride a Review" or "Test and Re-Test" Clinic has been scheduled for February 28th. We will discuss the possibility of having a Freestyle clinic at the Awards Banquet. Please review the information listed below regarding this clinic prior to attending the awards banquet and/or talking to one of the board members.

Freestyle Clinic for both Traditional and Western Dressage

Clinician: Cynthia Collins

[Click here to view her website](#)

These clinics are fun and educational! Cynthia will find a musical score that matches your horses' stride and movement. **EVEN LOWER LEVELS CAN PARTICIPATE!**

Note: We will need a lot of member support in order to hold this clinic. There is a 5 rider minimum and we will need a partial payment up front as well as an auditor fee in order to cover the costs.

What to Expect:

- You will see first-hand how the appropriate music can enhance the horse's gaits
- Music can help riders to regulate a consistent tempo which can lead to relaxation, the basis of the training scale

CLINIC Format:

- 1) A 2 hour Lecture and video presentation covering USEF rules and USDF/FEI requirements is usually held the evening before the clinic. Questions can be answered at any time during the presentation. The video portion shows freestyles Cynthia has designed for herself and clients from Training level through Grand Prix. The technical and artistic aspects of the freestyles are discussed during the presentation.
<http://www.lunatunesfreestyles.com/dressage%20freestyle%20music%20clinics.htm>.
- 2) The riding part of the clinic covers 2 days and each rider will have one 50 minute ride each day. For more information, go to Cynthia's website:
<http://www.lunatunesfreestyles.com/dressage%20freestyle%20music%20clinics.htm>
- 3) The board will apply for a Dancing Horse Fund grant from The Dressage Foundation to help fund this clinic. See the article below for more information about grants from The Dressage Foundation.

TDF Awarded Over \$53,000 to Dressage Groups in 2015 For Educational Events



Thanks to the support of many generous donors throughout the years, significant meaningful financial support has been provided to non-profit dressage organizations from The Dressage Foundation's Grant Funds.

In 2015, over \$53,000 was awarded to groups from Maine to Hawaii and Alaska to Florida. Over 1,000 individuals participated in events that included educational symposia and seminars, musical freestyle clinics, dressage camps, the USDF Instructor Certification Program, and so much more.

A member of a USDF Group Member Organization (GMO) in Virginia shared, "As an organizer for this year's adult dressage camp, I realized how crucial your grants are to us. They allow us to keep the camper fee reasonable, allowing more people to participate. Thank you so much for your support!"

"Because of this clinic, I realized that riding a musical freestyle was definitely within my skill set," said a rider from Kansas. "The Dressage Foundation and the Dancing Horse Fund definitely provide a much needed helping hand to riders everywhere."

Grants are available for USDF Group Member Organizations and other nonprofit equestrian clubs from several different Grant Funds:

Violet Hopkins Fund – For USDF GMOs to host a variety of educational events, such as camps, symposia, and seminars for riders at all levels.

Dancing Horse Fund – For nonprofit groups to hold musical freestyle clinics and seminars or to purchase sound systems to use for freestyle events.

Continuing Education for Dressage Instructors Fund – For nonprofit groups hosting USDF's Instructor Certification Program.

Sally Swift Fund – For nonprofit groups to organize a Centered Riding® clinic.

Edgar Hotz Judges Fund – Provides support to USDF GMOs for the "Continuing Education for Judges and L Program Graduates" program.

Michael Poulin Dressage Fund – For nonprofit groups or individuals to host an event that will improve the quality of dressage in their area through riding, training, instructing, or judging.

For many years, grants made possible by TDF donors have also supported USDF's Junior/Young Rider Clinic Series and the USEF/USDF Young Rider Graduate Program.

For more information about applying for a grant, or to make a charitable contribution to a Grant Fund, please visit www.dressagefoundation.org or contact TDF at (402) 434-8585 or info@dressagefoundation.org.

About The Dressage Foundation

The Dressage Foundation is a 501(c)(3), non-profit, tax-exempt, donor-driven organization that is dedicated to educating, supporting, and advancing the sport of dressage. The organization solicits contributions, appropriately allocates the donations, and awards grants and scholarships to dressage riders, judges, instructors, breeders, high performance teams, and nonprofit equestrian organizations. For more information, please visit www.dressagefoundation.org.

TDF's OP-ED (OPportunity for EDucation)

Region 5 GMOs –

I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday season and are ready to take on a new year! The Dressage Foundation (TDF) would like to invite you and your members to sign up for a NEW and FREE educational opportunity called TDF's OP-ED (OPportunity for EDucation). This will be a monthly e-newsletter that will provide educational articles from prominent and respected dressage professionals.

We'd love for you to help us get your members signed up and ask that you forward this information to them or include it in your next email/newsletter. It's easy to sign up! Just visit our website for information:

<http://www.dressagefoundation.org/op-ed/>

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Jenny Johnson

Executive Director

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[Follow us on Facebook!](#)

Would you like to receive monthly e-newsletters from The Dressage Foundation? [Sign up here!](#)

Traveling Trophy for High Scoring Arabian or Western Dressage

If you are interested in contributing money for a traveling trophy for either **High Scoring Arabian** and/or **Western Dressage**, please contact Arden at RideAPaint@outlook.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- 1) We need a replacement for Ann Hayes to tally the scores & number of rides for the Year End awards.
- 2) One or two volunteers are needed to post pictures and write-up western dressage events on the PDNDS Facebook page. (We will need to know the Volunteer's Facebook profile name so they can be "friended" in order to post to the PDNDS page.)
- 3) One or two volunteers (per show) are needed to help setup, reset, and take down the **trail course** during the following PDNDS schooling dates as follows: April 3rd, May 8th, Sept 4th, Oct 2nd, Oct 30th, and Dec 4th. (There will not be a trail class at the March 5th show at Isaacs Ranch in Las Cruces.)
- 4) Scribes are needed for each of the Schooling shows.

Please contact Arden (RideAPaint@outlook.com) if you can volunteer for any of these positions!

USDF NEWS

A Message from the Regional Director

I hope everyone is having a great Holiday season! We had a great week at the USDF Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. Many thanks to those of you who joined us and there were a lot of you. We had one of the highest attendances for Region 5 for the meetings and the awards dinner ever! It's always a great chance for networking, catching up with old friends and participating in the governance of our great sport. Our 2 regional meetings went very well and a lot of great information was exchanged. The weather was cooler for Las Vegas, but comfortable in the evenings with a light coat. I have to admit I definitely took advantage of the destination and did the most tourist activities at this convention then I've done in years. I enjoyed the roller coaster, wine cellars, the NASCAR parade, the Ferris wheel High Roller, the fountains at Bellagio, shopping and dinner at many great restaurants of the strip in the local part of Las Vegas. We had our own person cab driver the whole week and he was fantastic about taking us to some fun and unique spots. The hotel was pretty nice and I even spent a few dollars in the slot machines and at the Texas Hold'em table.

Some key things to come out of the convention this year:

- We will continue the \$200 reimbursement grant for those attending the USDF Convention as USDF Region 5 PM Delegates for the 2016 USDF Convention in St Louis.*
- The budget was presented as balanced and was approved. The finances of USDF are looking very good and we are doing well as an organization*
- PM membership is up. GMO member is down a little but overall USDF membership is doing very well.*
- USDF National Championships continue to be very well received and more rave reviews this year. We were at approximately the same number of entries for 2015 as we were for 2014. Bids are soon going to be open for the management of the 2017-2019 Finals*
- The USDF Board of Governors voted to keep the Finals in Kentucky for the time being and not move West until such time Region 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9 can come forward to the BOG with an adequate venue that meets the needs of the show in terms of weather, footing, stabling and several other factors.*

The awards banquet was very fun again this year. Congratulations to everyone on their medals, their Horse of the Year standings and their All Breed Awards. We had a lot of awards winners this year!

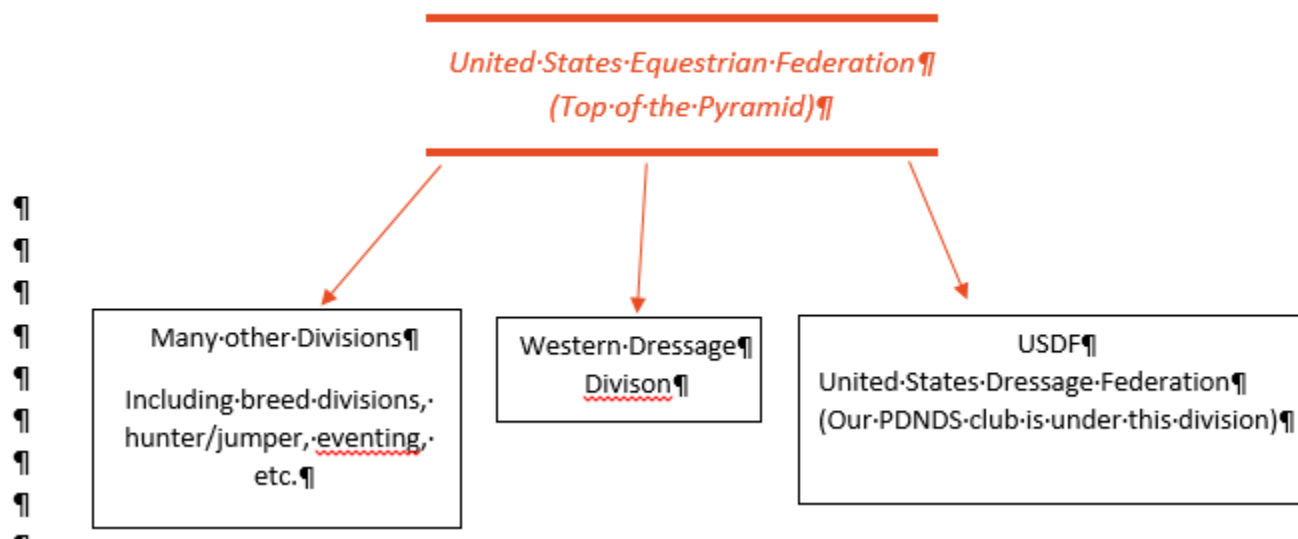
Till next month!

*Heather Petersen
Region 5 Director*

Western Dressage News

Western Dressage is a new sport and it is in various stages of acceptance with different organizations. Because there are different Western Dressage organizations, they have different rules and tests. This can be very confusing to our new Western Dressage members, so I wanted to give you a brief explanation of how our club is affiliated and links to the rules and tests you would follow when riding in our schooling shows.

With our club, the US Equestrian Federation is at the top of the pyramid and it has many different divisions under it. Our dressage club (PDNDS) is in the “dressage division” (The United States Dressage Federation - USDF). There is also a “Western Dressage” division under USEF.



When you ride in one of the Paso Del Norte Dressage Society Schooling Shows, you are following the rules and tests that are associated with USEF.

Here is a link to the USEF Western Dressage **TESTS** used in our PDNDS Schooling Shows:

<https://www.usef.org/IFrames/breedsdisciplines/discipline/allWesternDressage/WesternDressageTests.aspx>

Here is a link to the **2016 USEF Western Dressage Rule Book** that discusses tack and the gaits for Western Dressage: <https://www.usef.org/documents/ruleBook/2015/30-WD.pdf>

Here is a link to understanding what **TACK** is allowed in both the USEF (our schooling shows) and WDAA (Western Dressage Association of America) shows:

<https://www.usef.org/documents/disciplines/westerndressage/WDEquipment.pdf>

As of Jan 16, 2016, the WDAA club is not a member of USEF. According to their website, it is still up for consideration to be USEF approved. That announcement will be made if they approve. However, the Tack information is accepted by both organizations.

Our PDNDS member Sandra Welch competed in the 2015 Western Dressage Association® of America (WDAA) World Championship Show and placed in the Top 5 for Level 3. Congratulation Sandy!

The Western Dressage Association® of America (WDAA) is delighted to announce that, beginning with 2016, the World Championship Show will be organized and hosted under the WDAA brand. This change includes a new venue, management team, date, and show format.

It was important to the WDAA Executive Board to select a facility located in the geographic center of the Western Dressage Community. The Lazy E Arena in Guthrie, OK was chosen as the host facility. With stabling for 500 horses, a park-like setting with a large pond, RV park, and indoor facilities large enough for five show arenas with

warm-up, the facility offers plenty of room to grow. The Lazy E Arena is located a few miles from Edmond, which is a college town with plenty of lodging, dining, and entertainment opportunities. The Oklahoma City Metroplex is only 25 minutes from the Lazy E and offers additional cultural and entertainment options. The show will be managed by Horse Show Consulting with Nora Wert serving as Show Manager and Stacia Wert-Gray serving as Show Secretary. The website, www.horshowconsulting.com, will offer complete information regarding sponsorship, prize list, entry blanks, online entry, exhibitor lists, stabling charts, spectator information, and additional features.



Congratulations TWICE!!!

This is a photo of Sandy in her WDAA World Championship 2015 vest. She showed her horse Star Shower in Level 3 Test 2. WELL DONE SANDY!!

By the way, Sandy is now known as Sandy Welch. She and Jimmy got married earlier this month.

BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU BOTH!!!

In order to better accommodate competitors traveling long distances, the show will be moved six weeks forward in the calendar. The specific dates are for the next 3 consecutive years are:

• **September 29 – October 2, 2016**

The new show format will include many exciting changes designed to enhance the competitor, spectator, and sponsor experience. Some of these changes include four days of classes, a \$1,000 freestyle stake, expanded awards including top ten ribbons for world championships, exhibitor's party and silent auction, welcome party, and much more.