



ODS NEWSLETTER

JULY 2014

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President's Letter

ODS is currently in a state of transition regarding our methods of contacting our members.

TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE INFORMATION AND E-BLASTS FROM ODS, you must sign up at the following link.

<http://dressageoklahoma.org/?p=1389> You can also go to the ODS website

www.dressageoklahoma.org and look at the Recent News box and find the link that says New Email List-Please subscribe 06/11/2014

Our webmaster Jeanie Eaton has found a new way to send out our ODS information where her computer is no longer in jeopardy of receiving viruses from returned email addresses -- Mailchimp! Many of you may already be receiving emails from various groups that use this carrier.

DON'T MISS INFORMATION about our ODS SUMMER MEETING JULY 26 !!
http://dressageoklahoma.org/?ai1ec_event=ods-summer-meeting-2&instance_id=391

Likewise, our newsletter is also available on the website, including the June issue, which you may have missed

You can also find this information on the ODS website, but you will not continue to receive information from our webmaster unless you sign up.

Currently we only have 30 people who are signed up. Please don't miss out. Sign up now!

Thank you,

Sherry Guess

ODS President

ODS SUMMER MEETING JULY 26, 2014 1 PM - 5 PM

The meeting will begin at 1:00 with our speaker, Dr. Jay Craig, followed by our summer meeting. His point of view comes from being not only a chiropractor, but also a rider, and the husband of a dressage rider. He shared the following regarding the need for correct rider biomechanics.

No pre-registration required. Refreshments will be served. Door prizes and fun and education!

What on earth is biomechanics and what does it have to do with dressage?

Dressage riders require a strength and fitness that is subtle to the unknown eye. Every single movement of a rider affects the way in which a horse carries itself and how it moves. To be great at riding it requires the rider to be in the right position for the horse to express themselves. If you were to get two horses of the same breeding and put a top rider on one and an unfit, unstable rider on the other, the picture would be very different. You see the top rider has something that the unstable rider doesn't have and that is not only the skill in training a horse but you will see their posture and the way in which they carry themselves on the horse is quite different. In order for a horse to be able to become elastic, round, expressive, relaxed and forward it needs to be able to move without tension and without stress. That's the reason why we as a rider have to make this happen by making sure our riding isn't negatively affecting the way in which the horse moves. You want your riding to bring out the best in your horse. This all starts from a strong and stable base so that you can positively influence your horse. This comes down to how well you ride your position, your strength, your seat and your experience.

The way, in which you position your limbs, how stable you are and how you are able to influence your horse is done through the biomechanics of your body.

"Biomechanics in sports, can be stated as the muscular, joint and skeletal actions of the body during the execution of a given task, skill and/or technique. Proper understanding of biomechanics relating to sports skill has the greatest implications on: sport's performance, rehabilitation and injury prevention, along with sport mastery," Wikipedia

Every minute movement of your body affects the outcome of the horse. How well your muscles work in order to keep you balanced and supple. Dressage riders require a unique amount of strength and suppleness in order to stay in balance and positively affect the horse. Poor biomechanics will create a poor result in the horse; great biomechanics will create a great result.

LOCATION : Chandler VFW Hall

860020 S. 3460 Rd.

Chandler, OK 74834

(405) 240-3312

Directions from Turnpike I-44: Take a right after getting off Turnpike onto Hwy 18 and go south. At the Phillips 66 Station take a right. Follow that road, it will turn into gravel. The VFW will be on the left.

Directions from Hwy 18 going North from I-40: at the T, take a left onto Hwy 66/18, stay on Hwy 66, when speed limit goes up to 65 mph, look for Archery/Pawn Shop, take a right after it onto gravel road, go ¼ mile and VFW is on the right.

Enter from side door

From Jeanie, ODS Webmaster

Well, I have finally got my computer back in line and everything re-installed. However, I am not going to be able to send out the E-NEWS blasts from my home computer anymore. Every time I send one I get back numerous emails with viruses attached and these things just keep circling around our group via the email list. This last time was a mess for me and I lost many many hours of work along with it.

So what I have done to fix this and it should protect us all from spreading viruses, is setup a account for ODS with mailchimp. Mailchimp is free to non profits and provides us a safer way to send out the emails through the web instead of using our home email account It also makes our membership responsible for keeping their email up to date as many change it and in turn I receive numerous bounced emails back.

I will keep the webmaster@dressageoklahom.org email address active as that is how most contact us for ads and questions, but will not use it to send out blasts.

To register for the email list , it is posted on the website and also posted in the NEWS announcement area. Once I have subscribers I will start sending News again.

Region 9 Annual Meeting--Everyone Invited!

Jennifer Delmer and Alamo Dressage Association has arranged for REGION 9 to hold it's Annual Summer Meeting in San Antonio, TX at the El Tropicano Hotel on Aug 9, 2014.

Pack your bags like you are going to Mexico as this hotel has a very retro, laid back feel. The room price will be \$105 per night. They have a breakfast restaurant, a sandwich stand and a cute bar that stays open until 11. The hotel is on the lower part of the Riverwalk, but you can walk about 10 minutes to the restaurants.

<http://www.eltropicanohotel.com/default-en.html>

Reservations ph 877-736-4311,
110 Lexington Ave, San Antonio, TX 78205
From the airport you can take a taxi or airport shuttle.

The reservation will be under USDF Region 9 and should be active Monday afternoon June 2.

The Reg 9 meeting will start at 8 am on Saturday. Alamo Dressage Association will host a welcome party Friday Aug 8. So come join and meet friends from around the entire region !

Sherry Guess
Region 9 Director

CONGRATULATIONS MARSHA AND LATTE'
ODS member Marsha Cullen and her draft-cross Latte' traveled to Hamilton Farm at the USET Foundation Headquarters in Gladstone, NJ to compete at the USEF Para-Equesrian Dressage National Championship June 6, 2014.

The awards ceremony named the top horse/rider combinations in each of the five Grades in addition to the top horse/rider combinations selected for the long list for the U.S. Para-Dressage WEG Team. Also included in the final accolades was the Sportsmanship Trophy. The Sportsmanship Trophy was awarded to Marsha Cullen. The Sportsmanship Trophy is a Perpetual Trophy awarded to a Para-Dressage Athlete competing at the National Championship who best personifies the high standards and virtues of integrity, sportsmanship, honor, courage, team spirit, good temper and unselfishness. Cullen was presented with a take-home trophy during the final awards ceremony.

Marsha also took fifth place in her Grade II division aboard her own Latte' with scores from 64.05 - 61.863 %

Odds and Ends

The Board is looking into the possibility of providing grants/scholarships to members. They are working on ways of setting "standards" or guidelines for applicants. More on this later.

On a related note, ODS has an account set up as the Endowment Education Fund. The idea is to grow this account large enough to allow grants to be given from its earnings. This would be similar to the Dressage Foundation grants on a local level. Donations are welcome to this fund and I believe they are deductible.

Early reports show that the ODS Spring Show paid for itself with entries and some extra (not including all the funds raised separately). Great news!!

The 2014 Spring Show was the last show to be held in Shawnee. It has been in that facility for many years but next year, it will be held at the Oklahoma State Fairground in OKC. This facility has many new and wonderful features. Plan to attend—it promises to be a really fun show.

ODS has arenas, mounting blocks, etc. for the convenience of the members. It now has a ring setting tool to allow organizers much easier ring set up.

From ODS Member, Ruthie Korver

Hey everyone!

I just wanted to share with you my experience at Arabian Region 9 Championships in Ft Worth, Texas. This year I was lucky enough to qualify in the Dressage and Sport Horse categories and was even luckier to get to make the trip and ride in the show. Dreamer and I succeeded in placing third place and making top five in all of our classes, and in the First Level dressage we scored in the upper sixties! However, for me it's not about the placing or how well I do, sure it's always nice to earn that blue ribbon, but what about the comments from the judge, that constructive criticism that keeps us striving even closer to our goal. Dressage I think, for all of us that do it, is so incredibly rewarding because we take it one step or one level at a time and we always have something we have done right, and we always have something we can correct. Being able to ride under Dr. Gail-Hoffman at this show reminded me why I love Dressage, and why we all do. Thank you to everyone in our Dressage chapter for all the love and advice you've given me over the years, I appreciate each and every one of you!

Thank you all SO much,

Ruthie Korver

From ODS Member, Marsha Cullen

The Para-Equestrian National Championship and WEG Selection Trial – June 2-5, 2014 USET Headquarters Gladstone, NJ.

So here it is June 17th , 2014! The last time I wrote to you it was February 11th of this year when I explained what is a para-equestrian (PE). Since then I have received word that the current description of a PE is an equestrian who has a permanent, measurable impairment and desires to compete in PE classes. In the picture above, you can see most of the PEs that attended the championship and selection trial at Gladstone June 2 – 5, 2014.

At the time of my last article, I told you of my goal to qualify for the PE National Championship this year with my draft cross gelding Latte'. We accomplished this goal a little sooner than expected at the Great Plains Chapter dressage show in Stillwater April 26, 2014. Our scores were 64.7 on the individual championship test and 66 on our freestyle to music. A score of 63 or above was required on both tests in order to qualify. I had thought we might have to enter at least two more shows in order to qualify. When we earned the scores at Stillwater, I thought of applying the funds I had earmarked for qualifying to actually attending the Nationals. Of course, my

resources were not going to be enough but thanks to my wonderful son, a fundraiser was begun that raised enough money for us to go!

The trip to nationals was quite an experience! I had never used horse hotels before but we met some of the nicest, most accommodating folks at the horse hotels. It seemed they had thought of everything like where the best restaurants were located, extra hay if we needed it and at one place they even checked on my horse for me. We took I-80 through Pennsylvania since I had heard of road construction on I-70. That state is beautiful! I-80 took us almost right to Gladstone, NJ and Hamilton Farm. We had been warned of traffic but coming in on Saturday evening about 7pm, we encountered very little traffic. We arrived about an hour and a half before sunset at Hamilton Farm and the USET Headquarters. After unloading Latte' and walking him around for a few minutes, we fed and watered him and unpacked the trailer. Trailer parking was over on the next hill so we took the trailer over and unhooked it. I checked on Latte' once more and we went to dinner.

The next morning we drove the 15 miles (NOT 15 minutes in New Jersey traffic!!!) to Hamilton Farm and fed Latte' then walked him around the grounds. Afterwards, Brianna (Latte's groom), Ron and I went to breakfast in Gladstone. This small, hilly community is home to many week-end cyclists. We ate at a corner market and watched cyclists go by. The market served huge omelettes, any way you like them! I could not ride Sunday as Latte' had sprung a heel. The shoe was now in an S shape instead of a horseshoe shape so we were awaiting a call back from the farrier on call. Therefore that afternoon as promised I took Brianna to the mall while our driver, Ron took a nap at the hotel.

Monday morning Brianna and I left Ron at the hotel resting and we went to meet the farrier and feed the horse. After his shoe was back on correctly we took a little ride around the grounds. Then off we went to a Media meeting at noon where they also served pizza for lunch. We told Ron we would pick him up after the media meeting. Well 2 and a half hours later, there was no time to go get Ron. Latte' got a quick bath then we hurriedly scraped off the water and walked him around to dry. At 3:45pm we headed to the indoor arena for the jog. There were people dressed in suits and ties and dresses for this event! Thankfully, some were and some weren't so I in my riding attire and Brianna in jeans and a t-shirt did not stand out. The judges announced "Accepted" as Latte' led by Kai Handt trotted out from the jog lane! Whew! Not everyone was so fortunate. We squeezed in another light ride Monday evening.

Tuesday morning dawned bright and early. Did you know it is daylight in New Jersey shortly after 5am in June? We all got up and around early. It was the first show day! Our first ride wasn't scheduled until 3:58pm. We fed the horse, bathed him again because he's white and of course he was dirty again! The food truck had some decent food so we

all ate lunch there on show days. After lunch we put a final polish on everything and Brianna braided Latte's mane. At about 3pm we headed over to the indoor to warm-up. All was going well but about 3:45pm it began to pour down rain! Luckily for the rider before me, that was a very short downpour and she got to finish her ride. They sent us on up the hill to the warm-up arena at the north end of the competition arena. Latte' and I made our way around the arena and past the judges. He had good energy and was stepping out nicely. The bell rang and a few seconds later, we entered the arena. Our halt was good at X. Track left in working trot. At E turn left. At X circle left 10 meters. BUZZZZZ! A loud unfamiliar sound filled the air. The announcer comes on the loud speaker and says, "That's the lightning warning. We have lightning within 5 miles." RING! The bell rings. The announcer says, "We need everyone to seek shelter indoors."

Off we go down the hill, through the trees to the indoor arena again. After asking me some questions and a short deliberation the ground jury decides to postpone our ride until Wednesday morning.

Wednesday morning dawns sunny. I get up this time at 4:30am as Latte' and I are to ride our team test at 8:00am. We hop into the truck and drive towards Gladstone. At the intersection where we are to turn off to get to Hamilton Farm there has been a wreck and a car is on fire. No one is getting through!

Quickly I use the GPS for an alternate route to Hamilton Farm. Luckily we find it. The back way into Hamilton Farms on dirt roads in New Jersey! Thank God for GPS! We saddle up and this morning Latte' has even more pep in his step. Thank God again! Our ride goes well except for his insistence on looking at everyone. Our score is a 61.863 for our very first time to ride the difficult team test. Not as good as I had hoped but good enough to ride a freestyle on Thursday. Now need another score at 58 or above and we will ride again on Thursday. At 3:52pm we ride our individual test. This time I was a bit more alert but Latte' was beginning to tire. We earned a 62.286 and so Thursday we get to do our freestyle for the judges!

Thursday morning it is pouring down rain but light enough we could still see and no lightning this time. At 8:09am we ride a nice but rather damp freestyle test. Splish. Splash. We halted a bit premature but otherwise our test was good enough to earn us a 64! Woohoo! It continued to rain until late morning when it cleared off finally but thankfully it did not get hot and humid. We all kept on our riding attire on for the big awards ceremony at the end of the day. Kai Handt spoke to us first. He was very excited that we had the biggest competition ever in the history of the PE competition! Also, the scores were quite close this year. Kristi Wysocki president of the ground jury gave out the awards. Placings and awards were given in all grades. Rebecca Hart and Scroeter's Romani was National Champion and Margaret McIntosh and Rio Rio were

Reserve Champion. Latte' and I placed a close fifth in Grade II. We knew that two names had been submitted for a sportsmanship award but I did not expect to receive the award as the other person nominated was a long time member of the team and more well-known. However, we all voted and the sportsmanship trophy was awarded to us! The actual trophy will remain at Gladstone with my name on it until next year when another vote will be taken for the sportsmanship award at Nationals. A picture of me with the trophies is included here at the bottom. Now I'm off to plan for the Paralympics Qualifiers! THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!! I APPRECIATE YOU!!!!

What Really Is Classical?

By Hector Carmona

What really is classical? Is it a certain time period and/or a method of training? When the FEI came into existence and dressage became an Olympic sport, many horses were trained with a stiff or hollow back. It is safe to say that the majority were. All the history books indicate this fact. If prior to that, in the classical system, horses were trained giving the back, its' importance why was this not carried over? I don't know. The back started to gain popular attention in the late 50's and early 60's, but still many winning horses were not "over the back." I don't think we have nailed it yet. We began to, but then it got twisted. This all comes down to proper stretching of the horse. And I don't think it has been clearly defined as of yet and understood. Either the horses are strung out, or they are shortened in the neck. There needs to be a conference stating proper stretching and putting it in the rule book. I do believe one day the rule book will be relevant again. This proper stretching will have the scientific evidence behind it. We are at that point in time today. All of the information is available; it only needs to be compiled. That's not hard to do. We have healthy minds in the business looking at things objectively where the welfare of the horse is the most important criteria. We are coming close to arriving at this point. In many ways, it is evident with the ongoing battle to end Rollkur/LDR. We are ripping apart theories and then joining together to rebuild proper training techniques. I guess that's how we humans need to operate.



Oklahoma Dressage Society Spring Show 2014

THANK YOU SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

What a wonderful show! This year our ODS Spring Show was a happening place to be. Whether you were busy out-bidding your fellow competitor at the silent auction, selecting some great finds in our used tack sale, or dancing around in the arena during our Saturday night party, I think everyone would agree that this past weekend was truly memorable. We had such great crowds that came out to cheer for the riders. Thank you to all our volunteers and sponsors. Without your support and hard work, this would not be possible!

EXHIBITORS PARTY ... FOOD, FUN, GAMES & PRIZES

Who knew we would all be dancing around the arena doing our very own dressage test at our "Ladies Night Out!" We had so much fun at the Saturday Night Exhibitors' Party. With everyone ring side, Laurie MacDonald of the MGE guided us through a very fun game for our evening entertainment! Thank you, Laurie! A special "Thank You" to King Steel for donating the wine for our party and Red Earth Feed & Tack for providing prizes and horse treats for everyone who attended.



CUPCAKE LOTTERY – SUE TWITTY OUR BIG WINNER !

All 48 delicious homemade Amanda Edwards' cupcakes were sold during Friday's move in. Each with a very special number which determined who would win the lottery! These cupcakes sold out in 3 hours and were a HUGE success! The winning number was drawn during Saturday evenings entertainment, and SUE TWITTY was our lucky winner. Each cupcake sold for \$5.00 giving everyone a 1 in 48 chance of winning. Thank you again, Amanda Edwards, for donating these truly decadent sweet treats! \$120 went to the winner and \$120 went to ODS. Sweet Deal!

BOB PAPE MEMORIAL TROPHY WINNER

A big congratulations goes out to Taryn Walker and Ulyssio who scored a 69.194% winning the Bob Pape Memorial Trophy. Each year the Bob Pape Memorial Award is given to the amateur rider with the highest score of the ODS Spring I Show on Saturday!

PONY CLASSES

This year due to great interest, ODS offered pony classes. There were 3 entries. The high-point award for this class was donated by Jan Cibula. A beautiful leather pony bridle was won by Richal Flannery riding Genna scoring 71.40%. Congratulations Richal!

DIRT WORK

Footing, well what can we say. This year we tried everything, even bringing our own tractor to make the footing at the Expo Center better. We know it still was not perfect, but Rainee, our tractor drag queen was out there every minute dragging those rings to assure it was as good as it could possibly be! A big thank you goes out to Rainee Boyd and to the tractor owner Lyn Francik.

ODS SHOW SHIRTS – ORDER NOW

Orders are still being taken would like an Oklahoma Dressage t-shirt. (See picture above) They are \$25.00 and available in black or navy blue. You have until May 30th to place your order. Please email Diane Smith, dsmith@varsitymrtg.com your order. Available S – 2XL.

It's a Puzzle
By Anne Kuhns

I've recently been thinking about how managing a horse show is a bit like a puzzle. At first the corner pieces and framework are formed. Those pieces are the obtaining the show license, hiring officials, contracting with the facility, creating the prize list, and making countless arrangements. This process starts a year or more in advance of the show. As the show nears, pieces must be filled in the middle to make the picture complete. Our dedicated volunteers help make the picture come to life and are essential to making the whole show run like clockwork. The Green Country Board offers a warm heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who made the Green Country Dressage Classic a successful show in its 15th year.

***The show would truly not go on without your dedicated support.
If you did not receive your pink shirt, please contact a board member.
If we missed your name, please accept our apology- it was unintentional!***

Olaf Batt	Kendra McDermott	Nate Mauzerall
Sharon O'Banion	Richal Flannery	Audrey McKenna
Kay Kamish	Susan Fraley-Mohler	Lola Barcus-Schafer
Hailey Delay	Katrina Geren	Veronica Moody
Connie Coker	Rita Glen	Alaina Orban
Patty Couch	Sherry Guess	Cathy Orban
Larry Couch	Christina Harmon	Ivy Orban
Ginny Hoyt	Sami Harp	Meredith Reeder
Marsha Cullen	Annie Houchin	Melissa Thibodeau
Beth Circle	Hillary Power	Miranda Thibodeau
Kristen Coon	Marta Koenig	Sandy Thompson
Elizabeth Eaton	Jean Korver	Tamera Mayo
Jeanie Eaton	Ruthie Korver	Lindsey Durbin
Marissa Williams	Susan Wong	Anna Peacock

***Green Country Dressage Classic I & II
High Score and Breed Winners
Claremore Expo Center
June 14 & 15, 2014***

<i>Level</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
<i>Introductory</i>	Tamera Mayo/Mantreh 70.938	Tamera Mayo/Mantreh 72.5
<i>Training-1st Jr/YR</i>	Marilyn Bassett/Jurgen Fan Bluffview 70.484	Marilyn Bassett/Jurgen Fan Bluffview 68.548
<i>Training-1st AA</i>	Holly Luke/Lust in the Wind 68.108	Richal Flannery/Rojo Diamante 68.393
<i>Training-1st Open</i>	Jonni Adams-Allen/FWF Princess Juliana 74.324	Alexandra Du Celliee Muller/River 68.71
<i>2nd-4th Jr/YR</i>	Charlie Puffett/Celtic Warrior 66.31	Charlie Puffett/Celtic Warrior 67.286
<i>2nd-4th AA</i>	Sara Sharratt/Rumba 67.973	Jamie Knight/Teske Van G 65.641
<i>2nd-4th Open</i>	Andree Pernille/Badarodo Castanheiro 69.405	Stephanie Raffety/Teske Van G 70.25
<i>FEI</i>	Marie Maloney/Lazulite 65.132	Traci Jackson/Nessesity 65.132
<i>AA Dover Medal</i>	Jamie Knight/Teske Van G 65.952	Ann Jansen/Made You Look 63.095
<i>Arabian</i>	Jonni Adams-Allen/AAH Jabaskaset Star 66.579	Jonni Adams-Allen/AAH Jabaskaset Star 66.711
<i>Holsteiner</i>	Traci Jackson/Nessesity 64.342	
<i>Friesian (FHANA)</i>	Marilyn Bassett/Jurgen Fan Bluffview 70.484	
<i>TIP (TB) Intro</i>	Emma Claire Stevens/Sweet Sissy Slew 59.375	Emma Claire Stevens/Sweet Sissy Slew 62.187
<i>TIP (TB) Training</i>	Alexandra Du Celliee Muller/River 69.6	Richal Flannery/Rojo Diamante 68.393
<i>TIP (TB) 1st level</i>	Alexandra Du Celliee Muller/River 70.000	Alexandra Du Celliee Muller/River 68.71
<i>TIP (TB) High Score overall</i>		Alexandra Du Celliee Muller/River 70.000