

The Reader



CenterLine Dressage is a Group Member Organization of USDF. CLD members are automatically members of the United States Dressage Federation.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

(For full calendar of events, see the online calendar at centerlinedressage.com)

January 26 - 27

Sangamon Valley Pony Club Clinic
at Pratense Farms
w/ Jennifer Kotylo
Contact: Paula Briney
BRINEYPAULA@aol.com

February 2

SLADS Schooling Show
at Lake St. Louis, MO
slads.org

February 9 - 10

Cindy Ishoy Clinic
at StarWest
Contact: Kate Fleming-Kuhn
kate@starwestonline.net

February 16

CLD Executive Board Meeting
at StarWest, 2pm
Contact: Nancy Simpson, President
president@centerlinedressage.com

February 16

Continue Learning Dressage Lecture
at StarWest, 3pm
Contact: Kate Fleming-Kuhn
kate@starwestonline.net
bring snacks, drinks provided

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY NANCY SIMPSON

Hello Everyone,

We enjoyed a delicious dinner, fond memories of our early years, and sharing the congratulations to our 2012 award winners at the 40th Anniversary at Illini Country Club.

By the way, did you know that each year the CLD Treasury subsidizes the dinners for all that attend the banquet? We do this to make the evening less expensive and to encourage family members to join with us. We hope more members join us in 2013.

I received a letter from The Dressage Foundation just a few days ago. They write (in part):

Dear Nancy and Members of CLD:

On behalf of forty recipients of grants from The Dressage Foundation, we would like to express our sincere thanks to you and your group. We were thrilled with your \$4,000.00 donation earlier this year, which you asked us to distribute to forty of our grant recipients. It has been so much fun to be able to provide that “bonus” to each individual and group.

I thought you would like to see a brief summary of who received the \$100.00 checks.

It is wonderful that such a cross-section of riders are represented here:

- *4 Olympic Dream Program recipients*
- *1 Breeder*
- *1 Young Rider*
- *6 Instructors*
- *10 Adult Amateurs*
- *1 High Performance Rider*
- *2 Non-profit Equestrian Organizations*
- *16 GMOs*

You might notice that 41 checks were actually distributed...The Dressage Foundation wanted to be sure that all of the Amateurs received an extra \$100.00 so we were happy to provide the 41st check.

As we enter 2013 I would encourage each of you to try to bring in ONE NEW MEMBER. Our numbers have declined over the past few years. More of us means we can keep providing the schooling shows and Classic.

By the way, we will be revamping the Awards Program this year; comments and suggestions are welcome; you can contact any Board Member (see the end of the newsletter for contact information) with your ideas.

I hope you make CLD a part of your wonderful New Year!

Nancy

Renew or Join CenterLine Dressage Today



Dear Friends,

Your renewal or new membership to CenterLine Dressage is critical. This organization will not survive without both your membership and your participation. Let's not have 40 years of history end with us.

What does this mean to you if CenterLine does not exist?

- I. Classic I and II - two USDF rated shows in our backyard - will no longer exist
- II. No easy access to communication regarding educational opportunities and clinics
- III. No website with easy access to news of events and clinics (29 updates last year)
- IV. No schooling shows (currently three per year with year end awards possible and discounts for members)
- V. No subsidized clinics for Adult Amateurs and Juniors (two last year, three already scheduled for 2013)
- VI. No insurance coverage for clinics and events (currently seven insured events per year)
- VII. No Reader (10 newsletters in 2012)
- VIII. No scholarships (three are available annually, from the price of a clinic to a grant that has been as high as \$3,000)
- IX. No Awards Program (revamped and broadened for 2013)
- X. No social events for all club members (six held in 2012)
- XI. Discounted group rates and transportation for special equine events (like Cavalia, a 2012 trip to St. Louis)

Thank you for returning your membership application and volunteer form today. We cannot function without volunteers.

Sincerely, on behalf of all Board Members

Nancy Simpson, President



CenterLine Dressage

CenterLine Dressage New Member & Renewal Form

(Membership year is December 1 through November 30)

Be sure to fill out the survey on the back and return.

Name: _____ USDF #: _____

Name: _____ USDF #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Birth Date for Youth Members (21 & Under): _____

Reader Preference

<input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal:	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New Member:	<input type="checkbox"/>

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paper Copy:	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Digital Copy:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Membership Type	Details	Totals
Individual Membership	<p>\$45</p> <p>Includes 1 Reader, 1 Vote, USDF Membership, Discounts at CLD Shows, Discounts on Advertising, Horse Nomination (requires separate form)</p>	\$ _____
Junior Membership (21 & under)	<p>\$25</p> <p>Includes 1 Reader, 1 Vote, USDF Membership, Discounts at CLD Shows, Discounts on Advertising, Horse Nomination (requires separate form)</p>	\$ _____
Family Membership	<p>\$65</p> <p>Includes 1 Reader, 2 Vote, 2 USDF Membership, Discounts at CLD Shows, Discounts on Advertising, Horse Nomination (requires separate form)</p>	\$ _____
Total Dues:		\$ _____

Please send to:

Kelly Griffith
 CLD Membership Secretary
 membershipsecretary@centerlinedressage.com
 1736 South Farmingdale Road
 New Berlin, IL 62670

Revised: 1.23.13



CenterLine Dressage Member Survey

(Please return with your filled out membership form to Kelly Griffith or fill out online)

YES	?
	How long have you been a member of CLD? (in years)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am willing to volunteer at Classic I & II (August 24 - 25, 2013)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am willing to be trained this year and be Assistant manager for Classic and to move into the Manager position for 2014 (This position will need to be filled - please consider sharing your talents)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am willing to be trained this year as part of the ring setter team for Classic and to be part of the team in 2014 (The current team is retiring at the 2013 show)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am willing to volunteer at IceBreaker (April 20, 2013)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am willing to volunteer at FireCracker (July 6, 2013)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am willing to present an educational talk at a CLD gathering
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am willing to host a clinic
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am willing to do a demonstration (braiding, grooming, horse care, safety etc.)
	Tell us your skill that you are willing to share
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am willing to host a social event
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am willing to host a demonstration event.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am willing to sell sponsorships for Classic I & II
<input type="checkbox"/>	I cannot volunteer at this time

Please tell us, being as specific as possible, what would make CLD a stronger, more active club:

DRESSAGE AND DOLLARS BY ALICE MARTIN

Dressage is a high dollar sport. How many times have each of us heard that, maybe said it, and believed it? Well, here is the truth. It depends on where you want to play the game.

Years ago as the delegate from CenterLine, I listened to a profound speech at the USDF Convention by then President of the USEF, Alan Balch. His premise was this (shades of today's Wall Street occupiers): There will always be the problem of the 98% of the membership pyramid supporting the elite horsemen, the two per cent at the top of the game.

If you aspire to be in the 2%, (and who among us has not had a little Olympic dream?), it is difficult not to think bad thoughts about the 2 percent sometimes. There are always a million reasons why you are not in the 2%. Money comes up a lot. Because Ann Romney, wife of the Republican nominee for President of the United States in 2012, was a dressage rider and owner of a horse who went to the Olympic Games representing the U.S. last year in London, many high figures were tossed around in the press about the expense of the sport at that level.

This point of view from Rafalca, Ann Romney's horse, came from the well named *Paper Machete*, a weekly live magazine at the Horseshoe, a Chicago comedy club:

"Everyone picks on Ann's hobby, but dressage saved her life. Yes, I cost \$77,000 a

year, but Ann said that riding me has helped combat the effects of her multiple sclerosis by providing "joy therapy." I'm not just some pampered beast who costs \$50,000 more than the nation's per capita yearly income; I'm a joy therapist. So, if any of you are suffering from or a loved one is suffering from MS, buy a dressage horse. And, you're welcome."

I have read that Anne Romney's guesstimated annual maintenance amount for Rafalca is as high as \$120,000 including showing costs and a trip across the pond. Any way you stack it, that's a lot of money and out of the reach of ordinary folks' pocketbooks. Does that make you sad or proud that Rafalca is part of American dressage?

Not everyone has the chance to ride 6-8 horses a day, six days a week. Not everyone would choose that chance if it were offered to them at the right time in their lives. CenterLine Dressage has a diverse set of members, just like the rest of the world. There are professional dressage trainers that do ride 6-8 horses per day, there are members who do not own a horse, there are members who own horses but do not ride, there are members who compete, there are members who will never compete. There is a member who successfully competes at the local championship level on a borrowed \$500 horse, there are members who are not competitive on very expensive horses. There are members who cut out eating in a restaurant for a few lessons per year. There

are members who work cleaning stalls for their lessons.

What binds them together in this strange connection called CenterLine Dressage? The love of the horse and this ancient system of training called dressage is their common ground.

Years ago when I was Chairman of the USDF All-Breeds Committee and Lincoln, NE was still the home of USDF, my staff liaison was Janet Ball. A wise and wonderful young woman who worked like a dog at every convention, she and I became good friends over the years I served as Chair. Janet was also the staff liaison to the Awards Committee for USDF. One evening after a long, long day in committee meetings, she wearily confided to me, “No matter what they say, no matter how noble the rhetoric, what they all want is an award. There are no arguments at convention like those in the Awards Committee.”

Call me naive, you would not be the first to do so, but I believe we can transcend that. Maybe not every day, maybe not every moment of every day, but there is this creature, the horse, that has called to some of us since birth. How many times has there been a sublime moment that has nothing to do with competition, has nothing to do with awards, that has spoken to us profoundly through our horses and has bound us to all other horsemen?

I will never forget a glorious early spring day that I rode my (\$500) stallion Far Raf to the Little Wabash River bottom, about a mile from my home farm, Star M Stables in Watson, IL. My uncle’s field looked like a rice paddy, little tufts of last year’s corn stalks rising a couple of inches above the river spread out over his 80 acres. By some miracle the ground under the water was very firm. So we began our walk across that drowned field. An Arabian, Far Raf did not care for the water. He lifted himself up into passage to avoid, as much as possible, the feel of water on his legs. We were alone in a glassy sea, passaging down the corn rows, blue sky overhead, sunlight dancing on the water. I could watch his elegant movement in the mirror of the Little Wabash River. I would not have that memory without our friend, the horse.

Sometimes miracles do happen in dressage that can be savored by all of us, not just our personal moments.

Who would expect to see a 26-year-old blind horse get 65.78% at PSG at Wellington?

<http://www.valiantdocumentary.com> You, no doubt, have had your own moment of pure joy that had nothing to do with the show ring, hours of instruction, thousands of dollars in maintenance, clinicians by the dozen, and daily riding, fair weather or foul.

Tell us about it.

Alice Martin, 217-546-9400 or alice.martin@mac.com

2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS*CLD events in bold see also page 1***March**

- 1 - 3 Illinois Horse Fair
- 8 - 10 Gerhard Politz Clinic at StarWest.
Contact: Kate Fleming-Kuhn at kate@starwestonline.net

April

- 20 CLD IceBreaker Schooling Show at StarWest**
Judge: Melanie Michalak, "L"
Contact: Sue Graham, Manager at sgraham6@hotmail.com
- 21 CLD AA/Youth Clinic with Melanie Michalak, "L"**
@ Pratense Farms
CLD Subsidized
Contact: Paula Briney at paulabriney@aol.com

May

- 4 - 5 Carrousel Connection Dressage I & II
@ Illinois State Fairgrounds
Contact: Lorna Donahue, calv96@aol.com
- 10 - 12 Gerhard Politz Clinic at StarWest.
Contact: Kate Fleming-Kuhn at kate@starwestonline.net
- 29 - June 2 ARAB, Inc. All-Arabian Dressage
@ Illinois State Fairgrounds.
John Simpson, Mgr.
- 31 - June 2 SLADS Dressage Classic I & II
@ Lake St. Louis, MO
slads.org

July

- 6 CLD FireCracker Shooling Show**
Contact: Judy Nordstrom, Manager vice-pres@centerlinedressage.com

Club Officers & Personnel (Full list and mailing addresses online)			
President	Nancy Simpson	217/793-6810	president@centerlinedressage.com
Vice-President	Judy Nordstrom	217/626-1518	vice-pres@centerlinedressage.com
Treasurer	Katie Keim	217/652-1855	treasurer@centerlinedressage.com
Secretary	Kate Fleming-Kuhn	217/972-0451	secretary@centerlinedressage.com
Newsletter Editor	Kathi Cannon	217/756-8294	reader1@centerlinedressage.com
Membership Secretary	Kelly Griffith	217/637-0884	membershipsecretary@centerlinedressage.com
Awards Chair	Marilyn Weber	618/753-3446	awards_chair@centerlinedressage.com
Web Site	Moiety Design		kuhn@moietyenterprises.com

CLD Advertising Rates
(see detailed info & photo policy online www.centerlinedressage.com/advertising)

Reader Page Ads	Full Page	\$50 Non-Member	\$25 Member
	Half Page	\$25 Non-Member	\$12.50 Member
	¼ Page or Less	\$12 Non-Member	\$6 Member

**Photographs (original preferred) can be included in your ad. They can be black and white or color, but they will be black and white in the printed READER.
Page Ads Up for 1 Month**

Reader Classified Ads	50 words or less	\$5 Non-Member	\$3 Member
	Additional 25 words	\$2 Non-Member	\$1 Member

**No Photographs
Classified Ads Up for 1 Month**

Web Advertising Basic Classified Web Ad included in any Reader Package! See online for more details.

DEADLINE FOR READER ITEMS



Items for publication or inclusion in the READER should be received by the editor by the 15th of the month. Items for THE READER, activity forms, etc should be sent with a check for the charges, if any, to:

THE READER
c/o Kathi Cannon
1736 S. Farmingdale Rd.
New Berlin, IL 62670

