

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 CLD EVENTS

(For full calendar of events, see page 9 or the online calendar at centerlinedressage.com)

February 20

CLD Board of Directors meeting
2pm, @ StarWest, New Berlin
Contact: Alice Martin, President

April 24

CLD IceBreaker Schooling Show
@ StarWest, New Berlin
judge: Brenda Zeitler

July 10

CLD FireCracker Schooling Show
@ StarWest, New Berlin
judge: Melanie Michalak

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The purposes of CenterLine Dressage: "to promote interest in and further the knowledge of dressage; to conduct dressage events and activities; to provide educational forums" from the Bylaws of CenterLine Dressage, adopted August 1983.

Dear Member and Friend of CLD,

Resolutions, resolutions. As we embark on a new year, we always have hope for the future. Certainly there was hope in March 1972 when CenterLine Dressage was first organized at Elaine Powell's Golden Miss Stables in Fisher, IL. (Elaine is now Gibala, an "R" judge living in Winchester, KY.) At one point, not so many years ago, CLD had over 200 members. That number is important because our delegate to the USDF Convention receives one vote for every 25 members in our GMO (Group Member

Organization). Currently, CLD has 80 members, at a time when dressage is a growing sport in the U.S.

Obviously the first order of business in 2010 is how to grow the membership of CLD. Your ideas and help are needed. If each member recruits a new member this year, we would double our membership. If CLD is not serving your needs as your local dressage organization, we need to know how we can serve you better.

Take a look at the Calendar of Events to get an idea of what is currently planned for this year. It can be found on page 9 of The Reader, as well as online at www.centerlinedressage.com. Is there something there that you would like to help

with? We can certainly use volunteers. Is there something that you would like to see added to the calendar? Can you help put it on the calendar?

Finally here is a list of some items that we already do and some items that we have as possibilities:

1. Charity - Hooved Animal Rescue and Protection Society (HARPS)? Salem Children's Home?
2. Inter club liaison to get addresses for each club president and newsletter editor of adjoining GMO's to receive our newsletter
3. By-Laws
4. Member Handbook
5. New Safety Coordinator - Anne Scrivner
6. Growing CLD
 - Youth Members: YR's, activities, education, scholarships
7. Symposium Education Coordinator - Kate Fleming-Kuhn
8. Grassroots Education Coordinator
9. Awards Banquet
10. USDF Convention - Paula Briney
11. Sponsorships - coordinate sales for event programs
12. Annual Audit of Books
13. Guidelines for Board procedures
14. IceBreaker Manager
15. FireCracker Manager
16. Classic I & II Manager, John Simpson
17. Parliamentarian
18. Scribing/Judging Clinic
19. Farm Tours - Thus far we have received invitations from Tony Correa, Cobblestone, and Monfort & Associates, DVM
20. AA and/or Jr. Scholarship for three slots in a three-day CLD clinic
21. Equine Wellness Presentation
22. Volunteer Coordinator to help secure volunteers for events and keep track of volunteer hours for awards

Do any of these strike your fancy as an area you would like to help with? Do you have other ideas? I would love to hear them. I am just a phone call or an e-mail away.

Please get in touch.

Alice E. Martin
 217-546-9400
 president@centerlinedressage.com

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NEW 2010 BOARD MEMBERS

CLD Board members were elected at the Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet on November 14, 2009. At the next meeting of the Board, on January 20, 2010, officers were elected.

Thank you to Tracey Walker, Kate Fleming-Kuhn, and Janet Fitch for their years of service to CLD as President, Treasurer, and Secretary, respectively.

Congratulations to the following officers, all of whom were approved by unanimous vote:

Alice Martin, President

Elena Voigt, Vice-President

Nancy Simpson, Secretary

Marie Meadows, Treasurer

Following is a short bio of new Board Member and CLD Secretary Nancy Simpson. Bios of other Board members will follow in subsequent editions of The Reader.

.....
Nancy Simpson is a Springfield native, and learned to ride while attending Springfield College in Illinois. In 1969-71, the State Fairgrounds still rented out the series 18 barns (the old, tall, brick buildings), and SCI allowed students to choose from a wide variety of PE programs.

Nancy and her husband John, longtime manager of CLD Classic shows, were among the first members of what was the Springfield Chapter of Centerline Dressage, and participated in the first Ice Breaker and the first Firecracker shows. Their daughter, Chrissie, shows her horse Gold Diggerr+++ in Fourth Level classes and is beginning to show in Prix St. Georges.

Nancy's "day job" is librarian for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

.....
Welcome to the Board, Nancy! Thank you for volunteering your services to CLD.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

November 16, 2009

I wanted to let you know that I thought the banquet was just wonderful. I thought the facility and the service were top notch and the food was excellent. Megan even remarked that they were treated like they were "movie stars." We are off to find a plate hanger tonight for her first plate!

Mary Godart

We welcome letters to the editor. Would you would like to comment on a CLD activity, send in a clinic report, or make a suggestion for future activities? Anything is welcome! Feel free to contact Newsletter Editor Kelley Clausing by email at reader1@centerlinedressage.com. Paper submissions are welcome as well, to 1736 S. Farmingdale Rd., New Berlin IL, 62670.

NOTES FROM THE COL. CHRISTIAN CARDE CLINIC

Past CLD Secretary Janet Fitch graciously shares her notes from a series of clinics with Col. Christian Carde held at StarWest in New Berlin, IL. II of a seven-part series, to be published in upcoming editions of *The Reader*.

Throughness

The better the throughness, the easier the movements. “Throughness must be trained every day of our lives.” The way to do this training is to slow the tempo while maintaining the activity of the horse. This training should begin in the walk because the walk does not have the natural impulsion of the trot or canter. (It is very important to do exercises in the walk, although such training is unfashionable in today’s dressage).

To develop throughness, the rider should begin with a low, more open angle of the neck. Then when the horse is though and active, the rider can try raising her hands a little bit to improve the horse’s vertical balance and move to a little bit of collection. Even while creating the resistance for the horse, the rider must continue to let the hands follow the head forward in the walk. To begin, the rider resists on the inside rein and lightly vibrates the outside rein while stretching out the neck. It is imperative that the rider not allow the horse to over bend so that the head is too close to the neck. Such over bending allows the horse to escape the effects of the rein aids so that correct work is impossible. The rider should be sure to resist only until she obtains a result. The moment the horse yields even a small amount, the rider must give and allow the hand to move forward. It is this moment of giving that creates the stretch of the neck out of the withers that constitutes *throughness*. At this point, the rider should push the horse’s croup to the outside for a few steps and then allow the horse to stretch forward. With progressive training, true throughness is accomplished. The rider must avoid too much lateral flexion because this allows the horse’s shoulder to pop out blocking throughness.

Exercise for throughness:

One way of creating throughness is to keep the horse forward in the downward transitions without changing the height or angle of the neck, then stretching. One must remember that the quality of the throughness comes from the quality of the downward transitions. This is because the horse begins to anticipate the downward transitions and begins to adjust his balance a bit back toward the haunches. Start on circles and then progress to the straight line.

Flexion helps to keep the head in position. Do not allow the horse to stop or lose activity. The rider can sometimes aid the flexion by carrying both hands to the inside of the bend and forward. We should not hesitate to move the hands a bit forward to keep the horse’s head as far forward as possible. Although this requires coordination between the rider’s legs and hands, the rider can give activity, while collecting a bit momentarily, using the leg without the hand and the hand without the leg.

In the transition from trot to halt, we can use flexion to help keep the head a bit low and the neck stretched.

Step by step training for flexion and throughness:

When the rider resists on the inside rein to get flexion, she must never resist more than the horse is resisting. She controls the height of the horse's head and the angle of his neck. To do this, the rider must use each hand and each rein systematically. In this work and always, the horse's poll must be the highest point of the neck.

Step 1.

On the ground, the rider stands in front of the horse grasping the reins in each hand to control the bend and the height of the horse's head. She flexes the neck to one side and then the other maintaining the height of the head. When the horse gives the flexion, even a little bit, the rider must reward him with an easing of tension on the bending rein and generous praise.

Step 2

The rider mounts and in halt does the same flexion of the head from one side to the other moving the hand and rein away from the horse's neck. The rider must not pull back on the rein. She should use the rein in the direction of the desired flexion and maintain the height of the head with the other hand. When using the outside hand to raise the horse's neck, the rider *should not use* the curb bit. This action creates an effect opposite of the one we want. When the horse yields to the pressure, the rider must release the pressure and allow the horse to stretch a bit. On the rail the inside hand is used for the flexion and the outside to control the height of the horse's head. This process takes patience. Forcing the horse does not work, it produces incorrect flexion.

Steps 3 & 4

In the next steps the rider moves on to doing the same flexion at the walk and then the trot, waiting until the horse has mastered the flexion at the walk before proceeding to the trot. If there is any problem at the walk or trot, the rider must go back one step to establish the flexion before proceeding again to the next gait. After the flexion is established, the horse's haunches are moved to the outside (away from the direction of the flexion). This is first done in walk and then in trot.

Lightness: Soft elastic contact with the reins

The lighter the contact, the better the work. We must feel a better connection with the horse's mouth day by day in our training. In order to create the essential element of lightness, the rider needs to keep the horse's neck stretching out of the withers. The rider must be slow in the way she uses her hands. Ask and wait for the horse. We must be careful not to use a side-to-side movement of the hands because that can cause the horse to hollow his back. We want to encourage the horse to stretch over the top and out of the wither, which allows the back to come up. Engagement must come in conjunction with lightness.

“Dare to give.” If the horse is going with the neck stiff and/or over bent, the rider can combat this by opening the angle of the neck a bit. This is easy for the rider to do and helps the horse to stretch through the neck. To preserve lightness and engagement the rider should only use the curb bit when it is really needed, maintaining light contact with the snaffle rein. “When I arrive at a lesson, often the first thing I do is loosen the noseband of the horse and ask the rider to open the angle of the neck. The rider should

not hesitate to open the neck angle. However, the horse is not allowed to decide the height of his own head. The horse is in a good frame when the angle of the neck to the mouth is not too open.

With a horse that has difficulty with throughness, the rider should begin with her hands half way up the neck resisting (not too hard) with both reins, following the walk with the hands. When the horse gives, the rider must give immediately. Throughout the process the rider must keep the horse active. Then she moves on to a circle and continues. When the horse is giving, the rider should always give immediately whenever he yields. The rider must not miss the moment of yield. This process unlocks the neck so that throughness can happen. The next step is to ask for a slow, active walk while pushing the shoulders to the outside. Repeat the lateral suppling exercises in trot.

The goal is a soft elastic contact with the horse's mouth. When the horse achieves throughness, the rider will feel that as soon as she closes her fingers, the horse should respond, but not in a big way. Then the rider can ask for some collection, always followed by stretching.

MINUTES OF THE CLD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, JANUARY 20, 2010

Centerline Dressage Board Meeting

January 20, 2010

DiCarlo's, Virden

[Approved by electronic vote January 28, 2010]

Members present:

Tracey Walker, Pinky Noll, Kate Fleming-Kuhn, Martin Kuhn, Marie Meadows, Alice Martin, Marilyn Weber, Kelly Clausing, Nancy Simpson, John Simpson.

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Tracey Walker.

Old Business:

No written copy of minutes from the Annual Meeting Nov. 14 was available; Tracey presented verbal minutes. She reported the results of the election for board directors (held on 11/14):

Marie Meadows and Nancy Simpson were elected; Paula Briney and Elena Voight were re-elected.

Alice Martin distributed copies of the StarWest 2010 Calendar of Events which included some Centerline Dressage events with both 2009 and 2010 dates.

Kate Fleming Kuhn presented the Treasurer's Report for the period January through December 2009.

Discussion followed:

Cost of Classic: the show lost money but one reason was no class sponsorships;

Cost of the Award Banquet: the Club picked up the cost of tickets for those members who did not get show pictures. The Banquet cost included the Awards.

Tax Preparation: a one-time expense to review 2005-2008.

Insurance: Alice asked about getting a breakdown on the cost of insurance and whether or not we should request bids for 2010 insurance. In 2009 Paula Briney was the insurance agent but is no longer affiliated with the company. The number of events covered was discussed.

Horse Fair: CLD is not participating in 2010.

Funds on hand: current balance in checking accounts is \$6,304.99. The club has additional funds in Certificates of Deposit. No exact total was presented but it is at least \$20,000.

Marie moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; Marilyn Weber seconded; motion was approved.

The Bylaws revision and other Bylaws issues were discussed:

Ballots are to be tallied by the Secretary of the Board.

Proxy votes: can proxy votes be accepted electronically?

Quorum: 5 of the 8 members of the Board are required for a quorum.

Meetings: whether or not the Board should conduct electronic meetings; complete discussion of agenda items may be more difficult in electronic meetings.

Bylaws: Board members should receive a copy of draft Bylaws prior to any meeting with a Bylaws vote on the agenda.

Tracey Walker said that once the Bylaws revision is final, each CLD member would receive a printed copy of the CLD Handbook, as would all new members.

John Simpson will check to see if electronic voting is allowed under Illinois statutory provisions

No vote was taken.

New Business:

Secretary for CLD Classic: Marilyn moved, and Kate seconded, a motion to hire Jeanne Craver.

Motion passed.

CLD 2010 Calendar was presented by Tracey. At the present time, it includes Ice Breaker (April 24, Brenda Zeitler judging), FireCracker (July 10, Melanie Michalak judging and clinicing the next day), Classic (Aug. 28-29) and the Awards Banquet /Annual Meeting (Nov. 13).

Tracey Walker pointed out that the emphasis is once again on Shows.

Discussion followed:

CLD will not participate in the 2011 Horse Fair.

How to involve more young people; how to have events other than shows for both the upper level riders and the less experienced riders; people may hesitate to offer suggestions because they fear being asked to organize the suggested event; the need for tiers of education; where to hold a lower level clinic (perhaps Tower Hill); should we include a lead-line class for shows; should CLD sponsor a lower levels only schooling show; the Jennifer Kotylo clinics do not attract only dressage riders – Western and endurance riders also attend; the importance of adding a 'big name' clinician who would draw in members of other clubs; should we sponsor a clinic in the Champaign area with David Blake.

Kate suggested we tap into the Instructor Certification Program when looking for someone to judge or work with young people.

Discussion concluded with Marilyn volunteering to work with Tracey to organize an event which would reach out to young people.

Awards Banquet: Nancy moved and Marilyn seconded that the Awards Banquet be held on November 13, 2010.

Motion passed.

Col. Carde clinics: Alice proposed that CLD sponsor two clinics with Col. Carde during 2010. Because Alice will be applying to the Dressage Foundation for a monetary grant to cover some of the expenses, sponsorship by a GMO is needed. StarWest will guarantee that CLD will not lose any money. A fee will be charged to auditors.

A dinner with Col. Carde speaking to club members and clinic participants may be included.

Marie moved and Marilyn seconded that CLD sponsor two Col. Carde clinics.

Motion passed.

Election of Officers:

Alice Martin, President, by unanimous vote.

Vice-President, Elena Voigt, by unanimous vote.

Secretary, Nancy Simpson, by unanimous vote.

Treasurer, Marie Meadows, by unanimous vote.

CLD Auction: Martin Kuhn requested that CLD resume the Auction at the Christmas Party, with proceeds to be used for Scholarship funds. Pinky offered to host the event, to be held Dec. 11, 2010.

Most Improved Rider: This award was neglected for 2009. In 2010 the Board will send out a reminder to those who vote on this award.

Thank You: Tracey Walker, Kate Fleming-Kuhn, and Janet Fitch were thanked for their years of service to CLD as President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Board meetings: the number of meetings per year was discussed. It was decided that the Board should meet monthly. Alice distributed a form asking for best time of the day and best day of the week.

Next Meeting: The Board will meet at 2:00 pm at StarWest on Saturday, February 20, 2010.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Simpson, Secretary

[note: 8 members voted to approve; 0 members voted to disapprove]

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS*CLD events italicized*

February

- 20** *CLD Board of Directors meeting, 2pm, StarWest, New Berlin. Contact: Alice Martin, president@centerlinedressage.com*

March

- 5-7 Illinois Horse Fair, Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield. For more information, see www.horsemenscouncil.net
- 19-21 Gerhard Politz Clinic, StarWest, New Berlin. Free to auditors. Contact: Alice Martin, alice.martin@mac.com
- 20** *CLD general meeting with Gerhard Politz to lecture on dressage education in the United States; time and place TBA.*

April

- 24** *CLD IceBreaker Schooling Show, StarWest, New Berlin. Judge: Brenda Zeitler. Contact: Alice Martin.*

May

- 1 Currier & Ives lithograph exhibit opens at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield. Runs through August 2010.
- 7-9 Gerhard Politz Clinic, StarWest, New Berlin. Free to auditors. Contact: Alice Martin.
- 8-9 Dressage at Lamplight, Wayne, IL. Judges: Berrey, Solyntjes. For more information, see www.lamplightequestriancenter.com.
- 15-16 Silverwood Dressage, Camp Lake, WI. Judges: Fore, Gurney, Schneider. For more information, see www.silverwoodfarm.net.
- 21-22 CDI Lamplight, Wayne, IL. Judges: Clark, Ernes, Rockwell, Armando, McDonald.

June

- 2-4 ARAB Inc. All-Arabian Dressage, Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield. Judges: Curtis, Winn.
- 5-6 Region XI All-Arabian Dressage, Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield. Judges: Lindberg, Cox.
- 4-6 Dressage at Tempel Farms, Wadsworth, IL. Judges: Koch, T. Poulin.
- 11-13 SLADS Summer Festival I & II, Lake St. Louis, MO. Judges: Rigdon, Babcock, Humphrey, TBA. For more information, see www.slads.org.
- 19 34th Annual Al Khamsa Dressage, StarWest, New Berlin. Judge: Geikie. Contact: Debbie Mackie, dmmackie@gmail.com.
- 20 Sarah Geikie Clinic, StarWest, New Berlin. Free to auditors. Contact: Alice Martin.
- 25-27 IDCTA Summer Kickoff, Lamplight Eq. Center, Wayne. Judges: Barnet, Hannon, Madden-Mandas, Wysocki.

July

- 10** *CLD FireCracker Schooling Show, StarWest, New Berlin. Judge: Melanie Michalak.*
- 11 Freestyle clinic with Melanie Michalak, StarWest, New Berlin. Free to auditors. Contact: Alice Martin.
- 22-25 Dressage at Lamplight July I & II, Wayne, IL. Judges: Gribbons, Yukins, Lamping, Fore, Steiner, Trentelman, Creswick, Ayers.
- 31 Sir Celebration, StarWest, New Berlin. Contact: Alice Martin.

Club Officers & Personnel (Full list and mailing addresses online)			
President	Alice Martin	217/546-9400	president@centerlinedressage.com
Vice-President	Elena Voigt	618/995-2720	vice-pres@centerlinedressage.com
Treasurer	Marie Meadows	217/414-5707	treasurer@centerlinedressage.com
Secretary	Nancy Simpson	217/793-6810	secretary@centerlinedressage.com
Newsletter Editor	Kelley Clausing	217/891-1985	reader1@centerlinedressage.com
Membership Secretary	Pinky Noll	217/544-8441	membershipsecretary@centerlinedressage.com
Awards Chair	Marilyn Weber	618/753-3446	awards_chair@centerlinedressage.com
Web Site	Moiety Design		moietyenterprises@mac.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
<p>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.</p> <p>Page Ads Up for 1 Month</p>			
Reader Classified Ads	50 words or less	\$5 Non-Member	\$3 Member
	Additional 25 words	\$2 Non-Member	\$1 Member
<p>No Photographs</p> <p>Classified Ads Up for 1 Month</p>			
Web Advertising	Basic Classified Web Ad included in any Reader Package! See online for more details.		

2009 TREASURER'S REPORT

Miscellaneous Income			
Apparel Income	\$674.00		
Mailing Labels	\$10.00		
Membership Income	\$2,498.00		
Ring Rental	\$550.00		
Test Income	\$70.00		
		\$3,802.00	Total Miscellaneous Income
Show/Event Income			
Awards Banquet Income	\$630.00		
Pilates Clinic Income	\$6,459.30		
Classic Income	\$19,772.00		
FireCracker Income	\$537.00		
IceBreaker Income	\$976.00		
		\$28,374.30	Total Show/Event Income
		\$32,176.30	Total Income
Show/Event Expenses			
Awards Banquet Expenses	\$2,397.43		
Pilates Clinic Expenses	\$6,375.00		
Classic Expenses	\$20,044.01		
Horse Fair Expenses	\$733.66		
FireCracker Expenses	\$284.25		
IceBreaker Expenses	\$365.50		
		\$30,199.85	Total Show Expenses
Membership/Other Expenses			
Donation to Dressage Foundation	\$2,000.00		
Insurance Expenses	\$818.00		
Other Membership Expenses	\$244.19		
Postage Expenses	\$42.00		
Reader Expenses	\$14.90		
Ring Rental Expenses	\$250.00		
Scholarship Expenses	\$500.00		
Sweatshirt Expenses	\$496.30		
Tax Preparation Expenses	\$650.00		
USDF Expenses	\$1,537.00		
Website Expenses	\$426.50		
		\$6,978.89	Total Membership/Other Expenses
		\$37,178.74	Total Expenses
Totals	-\$5,002.44		

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 Kelley Clausing
1736 S. Farmingdale Rd.
New Berlin, IL 62670

