

# THE READER



CenterLine Dressage is a Group Member Organization of USDF founded in 1972. CLD members are automatically members of the United States Dressage Federation.

## HEADLINES

- ✦ PRESIDENT'S LETTER
- ✦ USDF PRESIDENT LETTER REGARDING 2016 US FINALS
- ✦ MARCH 14, CLD BOARD MINUTES
- ✦ ADULT AMATEUR SHAME REPRINT FROM DRESSAGE DIFFERENT
- ✦ SADDLE PAD LOGOS IN COMPETITION

## CALENDAR

- ✦ BRIDLESPUR OPEN & WESTERN DRESSAGE SHOW  
APRIL 10, 2015 @ NATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTER, LAKE ST. LOUIS - .COM/CALENDAR
- ✦ ICEBREAKER SCHOOLING SHOW  
APRIL 25 @ STARWEST
- ✦ CAROUSEL CONNECTION  
MAY 2 & 3 @ ILLINOIS STATE FAIRGROUNDS
- ✦ BETSY STEINER CLINIC  
MAY 29 - 31 @ PRATENSE FARMS - .COM/CALENDAR
- ✦ SLADS SUMMER FESTIVAL  
JUNE 5 - 7 @ NATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTER - [SLADS.ORG](http://SLADS.ORG)
- ✦ CLD CLASSIC I & II  
JUNE 27 & 28 @ ILLINOIS STATE FAIRGROUNDS

## Letter from the President

*by Judy Nordstrom, President*

Dear CLD members and friends,

Signs of spring are popping up all around us. The trees are beginning to bud and the days are getting longer. I'm hoping that I have hung up my winter coat in the closet where it is going to stay until next winter! Next up we'll be dealing with the mud, which just happens to be the price we have to pay for warmer weather and those much needed spring showers. Speaking of spring, we are currently preparing for our upcoming schooling show, IceBreaker, which will be held on April 25th. This is also a great time to renew your CLD memberships and get your nomination forms in. As we look ahead to the approaching show season, I wish everyone their most successful year yet! Last year CLD had a record number of horse and rider combinations participate in our year end awards. This year we are expanding our program even more to include a new division of Western Dressage awards as well. I hope to see even more participants this year!

The 2015 FEI World Cup Dressage Final is coming to Las Vegas April 15-19. There are several people from our membership that will be going and I am very excited to live vicariously through them as they experience seeing the world's top dressage riders and horses!

In closing, I'd like to thank our CLD board and its members for all they do for our club. Without your membership and all the wonderful volunteers we have, we wouldn't be able to offer the many benefits our club offers. We currently offer two schooling shows and a rated show right here in our back yards, mountains of educational opportunities, clinics, our monthly newsletter, and lots of social occasions throughout the year to share our love of dressage with other members. Please share what you feel is CLD's greatest need or what gives you the most joy that our club offers. I would love to hear what you think! Please share your thoughts in a letter to our editor or send me an email. Have a great spring!

Judy Nordstrom, President [president@centerlinedressage.com](mailto:president@centerlinedressage.com)

# USDF President Letter to the Board of Governors Regarding 2016 US Dressage Finals

*by George Williams*

In 2011, the BOG approved a motion that the US Dressage Finals are proposed to rotate from the east to the west at least every three years. Accordingly, bids from facilities with a westerly location were solicited for 2016-2018. In 2014, the BOG approved moving the Finals one week earlier from its current date, starting in 2016 (November 3-6, 2016) so that the last regional championship would be held no later than the weekend of October 14-16. A diverse Site Selection Task Force, including competitors and regional representation, was created to review the bids submitted. In that evaluation process, the field was narrowed and subsequent site visits to the preferred locations and facilities were conducted by the USDF President and the Chair of the US Dressage Finals Organizing Committee.

The findings presented some significant challenges. The only available date at the 2016 location recommended by the Site Selection Committee would require the 2016 Regional Championships to be held no later than October 7-9. With 2016 being a USEF Competition Calendar date rotation year, and competitions generally shifting to a later date on the calendar, we ran into a challenge in scheduling all of the USDF Regional Championship qualifiers, to be in line with the available dates of the preferred facilities and locations within several regions. After careful review, the Executive Board concluded that to move a week earlier starting in 2016 would potentially compromise the success of the well-established Regional Championship system.

In addition to the dates, location is also a concern in terms of travel logistics, weather, and ultimately attendance, which impacts financial viability. USDF's goal is the operation of the US Dressage Finals in a financially self-sustaining manner over the long term. Currently, we are achieving that goal, but a premature relocation presents significant risk in its sustainability.

The USDF Executive Board, after evaluating current options, has decided that more research and time is needed to evaluate facility options, the regional championship time line, impact of attendance on location, and financial impact. While the goal is to move west, the US Dressage Finals needs to be at a practical location for competitors and at a facility that can provide the international standards established at the Kentucky Horse Park, while maintaining financial viability for USDF. The Executive Board feels more lead time is needed and has voted to delay the move from the Kentucky Horse Park to 2017. Researching a viable solution for 2017 is ongoing.

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## **New Rule Regarding Regional Championship Program**

Effective for the 2015 Regional Championship Program year a horse/rider combination is allowed to win up to three times at a level before being disallowed to compete at that level or a lower level (Grand Prix excepted) at the Regional Championship competition.

# March 14, 2014 CLD Executive Board Meeting

@ StarWest; Judy Nordstrom presiding

The meeting was called to order by President Judy Nordstrom at 2:07p. Also attending were Leslie Burket, Alice Martin, Katie Keim, Teresa Litchfield, Jordan Wilton, Kate Fleming-Kuhn, Sue Graham and John Simpson. Martin joined us near the end of the meeting.

## President's Report

- February minutes were reviewed. Jordan moved to accept and Kate seconded. The minutes were approved.
- Judy will be sending in our insurance renewal.
- Last month we discussed using the Voting Box tool to insure electronic voting is correctly tallied. After a trial, it was decided we will not be using this tool and we will be approving minutes at the next board meeting.

## Treasurer's Report

Katie Keim reported that our current bank balance is \$3,682.56. Current net loss is \$1,635.57 and the CD balance is \$25,366.20.

## VP/Membership Report

Kelly reported that we have a total of 52 members as we continue to grow. Kelly will update membership with USDF.

## Web Master Report

Martin published two e-mail update newsletters. We have 126 subscribers. The opening rate is still approximately 60%.

## Social Media

Lisa reports we have 318 likes and IceBreaker and Classic have been posted to FaceBook. You can invite people to a horse show from FaceBook.

## Interclub Liaison Report:

Leslie explained that as a club, we continue to reach out to our 'neighbors' to encourage the sharing of calendar events (shows and educational events) without incurring advertising expenses. The program is called Cooperate and Reciprocate. This year, with new leadership, four GMOs responded and want to participate: Illinois Dressage & Combined Training (IDCTA), Indiana Dressage Society (IDS), The Dressage Company (TDC) and Great River Classical Horsemanship (GRCH). Each club will post our items to their calendars and CLD will post their shows and educational events to our calendar. We will also add a link to each website on our Link page.

## Symposium

Kate reports that Susanne von Dietze has committed to do a clinic in June this year but a specific date has not yet been set. She will let Kate know when she has a date.

## Schooling Shows

- Holy Land Food Diner has agreed to cater lunch for both schooling shows.
- Ken Borden will be the IceBreaker judge and Lisa Holderle will officiate at FireCracker.
- The Horse Nomination form is on the website ([www.centerlinedressage.com](http://www.centerlinedressage.com)) and needs to be **filled out each and every year** before your first show.

## Director's Reports

### Horse Fair

Although not present, Marilyn reported that attendance at Horse Fair was good and people were asking lots of questions. All attendees learned



# March 14, 2014 CLD Executive Board Meeting

a great deal and both horses and riders saw improvements. CLD volunteers were there to answer questions and share a variety of brochures.

## Classic I & II

- John Simpson reports that the show, with the new dates, is in the 2015 Region 2/Region 4 Omnibus. Jeanne Craver sent an email to remind everyone of the new show dates. She included all riders who had attended our shows for the last three years.
- We discussed options for our Friday night dinner that is complimentary to all competitors. Although well attended, we always have a great deal of left over food. We will investigate ordering for fewer folks which should reduce amount of left over food as well as decrease the expense. Also, as we handle the serving and cleanup, the caterer will not need to provide attendants. We agreed on a menu of fried chicken, coleslaw, chips and cookies.
- Kim and her husband will provide the ice cream at the show.
- We will, again, participate in The Dressage Foundation Benefit Class. TDF provides striking Black & Gold Benefit Class Ribbons for the first through sixth places. There is also a beautiful wall clock, mounted on a 9"X12" walnut base, for a 'special award' presentation. The TDF Benefit class is First Level Test 1 - Open.
- Jordan will coordinate the Friday night 'All Things Horse Related Garage Sale'. She will prepare a flyer to go in the Reader and to be circulated

manually. It will include information to drop off sale items as well as location and time of sale. She will also include a flyer and prepare a short article about the garage sale for the Reader. Items will be displayed Friday afternoon and early evening.

## Scholarship Committee

Jordan will review the scholarship information provided by Alice. Judy and Katie are also members of the scholarship committee.

## New Business

- Awards Banquet: We are researching options for a new location, as well as a new date, for the banquet this year. We are considering Sunday mid-afternoon on 11/15 (backup date 11/22). John will check with Carol Fraase, a local caterer known for her culinary talents, to see if she would be able to cater our dinner.
- Christmas Party: Deb Klamen has generously offered her home for our Christmas party. We will confirm with her and secure a date.

It was 3:12 pm when Martin motioned, and Kate seconded, that we adjourn. Next meeting will be at 2pm on Saturday, April 4th in the StarWest Lounge.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Leslie Burket, Secretary

one-horse town  
July 18, 2014 by Wrong Hands



## Region 2 News

It is time again to send in any news worthy items that you would want to share with the region. Please don't send in show information as this is posted in many places for region 2 members to find. Rather, please consider sending in information on clinics or other key items of interest for our members.

Please remember your submissions should be in pdf or word format. Must be submitted to USDF no later than April 13. Submissions to Region 2 Director, Ken Levy, [kenl330@yahoo.com](mailto:kenl330@yahoo.com).

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## Adult Amateur Dressage Shame: The School Master

*by Bonnie Walker - - Dressage Different <http://dressagedifferent.com/2013/10/07/the-school-master>*

Dressage tends to attract a certain personality type. Of course this is a generalization but I am ignoring that fact because it does not suit my overall point. The bulk of dressage riders tend to be of a controlling ilk - perfectionists, hard workers, a little anal retentive. That is where the real irony of dressage comes to play - there is no such thing as perfection. We poor saps are going to forever be chasing a standard that is unattainable, and just when we feel we have mastered it, lo, there is another level that confounds us or another horse that throws a new set of issues our way. It is a cycle, but hopefully one that is shaped in a sort of upwardly sloping spiral.

Everyone who is attracted to dressage yearns for the beauty, the elegance and the harmony that one sees in the highest levels of competition (not necessarily Grand Prix - I am referring to any dressage test done truly well).

The beauty of these rides is that the combination makes the test look so effortless. Horse and rider flow from one movement to another and the onlookers barely see a thing. With that appearance of effortless comes the idea that dressage is easy, an idea that is a dirty lie and not to be acknowledged. But truly, dressage is filled with converts from other disciplines who initially entered the ring with the idea that it would be somewhat similar to riding the flat spaces between fences or like trail in a little square box.

Also dressage is attractive to those new to riding altogether. A new dressage rider - let's call her Annie - has had her children move out of the house and found herself with some disposable income. She literally has a little more time and money and remembers back to those summers she used to take riding lessons as a little girl. She loved them and thinks to herself, "Now is the perfect time to pick up that hobby once again." Annie finds a local dressage trainer because she wants to ride english but does not want to jump.



HAHA! YES, ENTER MY LAIR NEWEST VICTIM!, thinks the dressage gods. After a few months on old Dobbin the school horse Annie feels ready for a horse of her own. She can walk, trot and sometimes canter in both directions, so she has a handle on all her basics, right? Her trainer suggests that Annie purchase a schoolmaster that she might learn on, to teach her the movements. Annie agrees and out they go. After an exhaustive search and a substantial chunk of change the wonderful day arrives when Xavier, her silver palomino unicorn, steps off the trailer. He is beautiful! He is wonderful! And underneath that perfect white star on his forehead sits all the information to guide Annie to her top hat and tails.

Cut to a year or so later. Annie is despondent - she can barely hold the canter and Xavier is constantly changing leads. Annie secretly thinks he might be doing this on purpose. And his trot is so hard to sit! She feels like she has been beaten with a sock full of oranges after each lesson. A couple of weeks ago a friend came and filmed her lesson. With mounting (no pun intended) horror she watched herself on the camera screen bounce around like a sack of potatoes, arms in the air, looking less elegant and more like she was in the middle of some sort of seizure. Then her instructor gets on Xavier and around the ring they trot, like a centaur, beautiful, powerful, everything she aspires toward. Annie is frustrated, angry with herself and a bit embarrassed.

This, my friends, is the true beginnings of dressage shame. Annie begins to feel guilty about Xavier, limiting his full potential, not being worthy of such a beautiful silver palomino.

Now here is the essence of a schoolmaster - they do have knowledge of the movements stored away between their ears. They are the best way to learn to ride correctly within dressage, or any discipline for that matter, because when you put the correct aid on, there is a greater chance they will respond to what you are asking. I say greater chance because they are not machines. What also lies between their ears are all the bits that make them Xavier or Dobbin or your particular pony. There are some nice parts and some sneaky or lazy parts as well. Quickly they will discover the holes in your seat and take advantage of them. Even if they are kind hearted and would never do such a thing, you might be using an inappropriate part of your body to ask for a movement. And so you are not ever able to pick up the right lead canter even though you always get the left. Or can only get shoulder in one direction.

I often equate riding to dancing - you and a partner go through a coordinated series of movements indicating the upcoming steps using physical cues. But there are some huge differences - first we are going to take away the male dancer, the lead in almost all dances, and replace him with you. Great, that is still fine. The partner you are dancing with is very good and explains the steps to you, still sort of "sub leading". Nope, sorry, that is not close enough to riding. So now we are going to make your partner a mute. She can no longer tell you what she is going to do or what is correct. She stands there blinking at you and occasionally swatting at flies. The knowledge is still in the female dancer's head but she cannot communicate and YOU are the one leading the dance. So you grab her and attempt to waltz across the floor. What results is a painful parade of stepped-on feet, some stumbling and perhaps a torn dress. You end up on the other side of the ballroom, but what you have just done is far from the waltz. Enter your



instructor. Using his or her experience they must describe to you first how to hold your body as the leader and then how to take her hand. Then they must describe where you put your feet and how to dance across the floor. Sometimes you will move your body and there will be unintended responses; you are hitting on moves that your partner knows and you do not, just by accident. Your mind is brimming full but you manage to do one or two of the four things your instructor is prompting. And the one of the two things you execute correctly the female dancer does not respond to because she is also confused at this point. And so you end the lesson having learned one piece of the huge puzzle. This is learning under the tutelage of a schoolmaster. With a green, or unschooled horse, you have a greater challenge because you have a mute who will not react. It takes a dedicated rider with much patience to teach themselves and the horse and without an instructor this task becomes monumental.

So what is my overall point in this rant? Horses live in the moment. They have no angst, they do not brood or sulk, not in the way that we humans have honed. This is not to say that horses do not get frustrated, or angry, or surly, but they are creatures that live in the 'now'. Though you might go home and cry into your pillow after a bad ride I can assure you that your horse is not doing the same in his stall. Horses crave security, structure and carrots. They are extremely claustrophobic. They will constantly be checking in with the hierarchy in their herd of two (you and him). No horse dreams of greater things. No horse has ambitions. Now is what is important to them- the state of every single moment.

So stop placing meaning onto your horse that exists only in your head. If you care for your horse well, treat him with respect and when you make mistakes under saddle, acknowledge them, you are holding up your end of the bargain. His job is to allow you to dance with him until you grow out of your two left feet. The bulk of dressage riders are adult amateurs so if you did not own your horse, odds are it would be another woman (or man) in a very similar position as you, thinking the exact same thing. Stop looking at the top hats and tail, only thinking of being happy at FEI, and start to enjoy the process of learning how to dance. That growth of communication between horse and rider is what makes dressage so special, and why I have dedicated my life to the sport.

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## Regarding the Use of Saddle Pad Logos in Competition

Beyond the permitted maximum size (200cm square), competitors need to be aware of limitations on the types of logos allowed in competition: "...Breed logos (for horses registered with that breed), national flags (for citizens of that country), riding club/business/farm names or logos (used with permission of USEF or USDF, respectively), are also permitted and must have the same specifications as sponsor logos. No other advertisement or publicity is permitted on saddle cloths or horses" (DR121.1). Competitors should also be aware of GR1307 Professional/Amateur Status rules that apply to the use of logos, as well as potential eliminations that may result from dress code violations per DR123.1.b.



# Prize Money Announced for Great American/USDF Regional Dressage Championships

Lexington, KY (January 29, 2015) - The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) and Great American Insurance Group are pleased to announce the prize money for the 2015 Great American/USDF Regional Dressage Championships Series, presented by SmartPak and supported by Merial. Prize money totaling over \$160,000 will be awarded at the 2015 Great American/USDF Regional Championships, divided evenly among the nine regions and 35 divisions that are offered, allowing each region to present competitors with over \$18,000 in prize money and awards. Champions in each region and division will receive \$306 in prize money and an embroidered jacket and gift certificate provided by SmartPak, official supplement feeding system of USDF. Reserve champions in each region and division will receive \$204 in prize money, along with a saddle pad provided by the Great American Insurance Group, title sponsor of the championships.

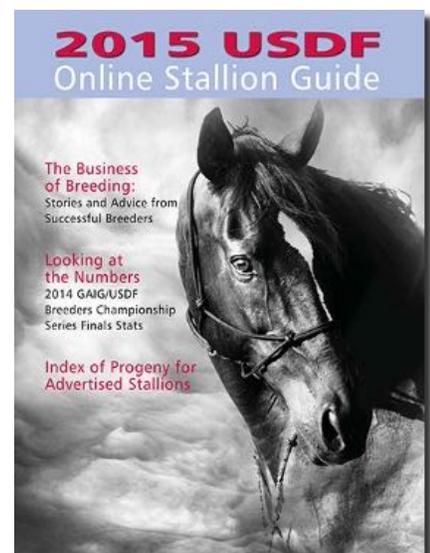
"It is with great pleasure that we continue to provide recognition to these outstanding competitors through our sponsorship of the regional championship program," stated Kathy Sedlak, Great American Insurance Group Assistant Vice President of the Equine Division.

"We're so pleased that through the generous support of our sponsors, we are able to see this program continue to grow and be so well received by USDF members," adds Stephan Hienzsch, USDF Executive Director.

## The 2015 USDF Online Stallion Guide is Available Now

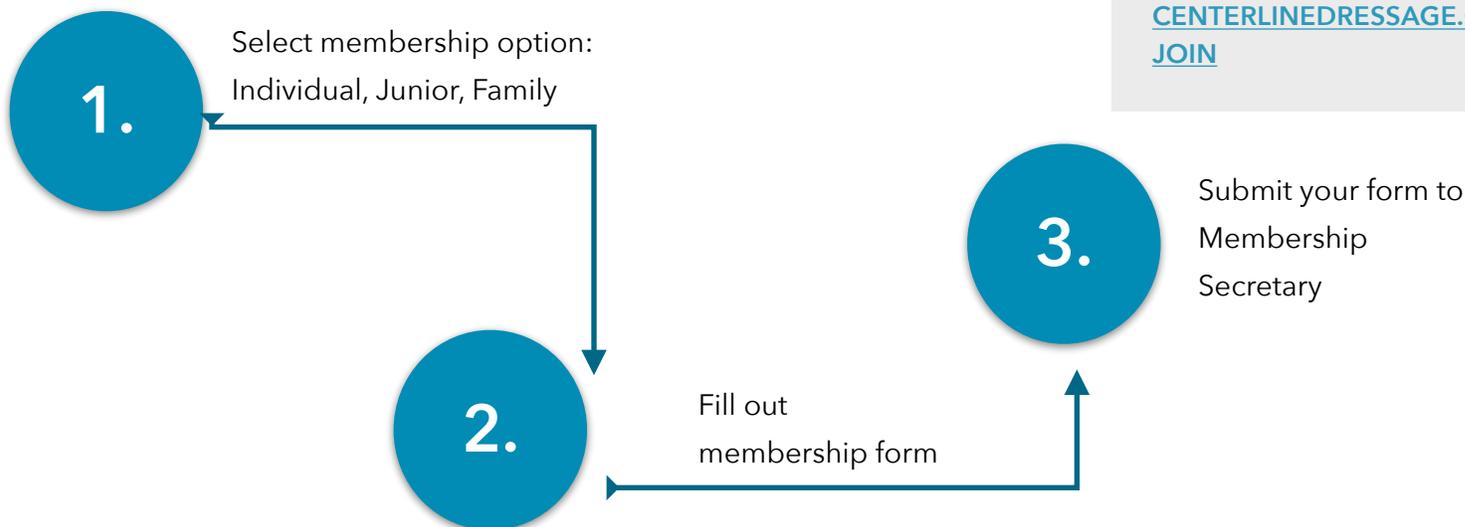
This annual online stallion guide is released by the United States Dressage Federation for the dressage community.

New for this year: Two feature articles, "The Business of Breeding" gives advice from successful breeders and "Looking at the Numbers" gives statistics from the 2014 GAIG/USDF Breeders Championship Series Finals. Another new addition is the "Index of Progeny for Advertised Stallions," which includes progeny that have ranked 1-100 in Adequan/USDF Year-End Awards. It also includes horses that have placed in US Dressage Finals, GAIG/USDF Regional Championships, and GAIG/USDF Breeders Championships from 2009-2014.



This guide contains interactive links to give you all the information you need to make a favorable breeding decision. Whether interested in breeding, or looking for a breeder with offspring already on the ground, this is a great way to learn more about dressage breeders throughout North America.

# CLD Membership Renewals & Nominations Due!



♦ FULL DETAILS AT  
[CENTERLINEDRESSAGE.COM/JOIN](http://CENTERLINEDRESSAGE.COM/JOIN)

Club Officers & Personnel (Full list and mailing addresses online) all emails - @centerlinedressage.com			
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# DEADLINE FOR READER ITEMS



Items for publication or inclusion in the READER should be received by the editor by the 10th of the month. Items for THE READER, activity forms, ads, etc should be sent with a check for the charges, if any, to:

THE READER  
c/o Kim Jones  
1736 S. Farmingdale Rd.  
New Berlin, IL 62670

CenterLine Dressage