

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.



Letter from the President

by Judy Nordstrom, President

First I want to take this opportunity to congratulate one of our junior riders, Jenna Upchurch for her recent success on her horse Greystoke at the NAJYRC in Denver, CO. Congratulations also to her proud coach, Martin Kuhn! Everyone was cheering her on from home and sending good vibes to her and to OZ. She rode her way to a Silver Team Medal, a Gold Individual Medal as well as a Gold Freestyle Medal! We are so proud! Thanks to all who provided financial and/or moral support to Jenna and to all who competed in our Regions. Look for videos of her rides up soon on StarWest's website.

This year's USDF National Convention will be held in St. Louis from November 30 - December 1st. If you would like to nominate someone for GMO Volunteer of the Year to recognize outstanding volunteer effort on the local or national level, please go to this web page: http://www.usdf.org/docs/GMOFlash/web/Forms%5CRegionalGMO_VOYAward.pdf Fill out the form, submit it to me, so I can send it in no later than August 31.

There is also a grant called the Ruth Arvanette Memorial Fund Grant that a deserving CLD member can apply for to receive full convention registration and partial reimbursement for travel expenses. You can find that application here: <http://www.usdf.org/docs/clubs/gmos/RAGrantApplication.pdf> The deadline for this is also August 31.

As you know, I love summer and typically the hot weather. Well... even I, who I consider to be very heat tolerant, have had enough of the extreme heat and humidity over the past several weeks. I will

HEADLINES

- ◆ **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**
- ◆ **MEETING MINUTES**
- ◆ **THE ROAD TO PARKER, NAJYRC**
BY JENNA UPCHURCH
- ◆ **FIRECRACKER RESULTS & WRAPUP**
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CALENDAR

- ◆ **BETSY STEINER CLINIC**
SEPTEMBER 2 - 4
@ PRATENSÉ FARMS
- ◆ **REGION 4 CHAMPIONSHIPS**
SEPTEMBER 8 - 11
@ MASON CITY, IA
- ◆ **CLD EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**
SEPTEMBER 18
@ STARWEST 2PM
- ◆ **REGION 2 CHAMPIONSHIPS**
SEPTEMBER 22 - 26
@ LAMPLIGHT

Letter from the President

.... *concluded*

actually celebrate summer's end this year and welcome autumn's cooler temperatures even though that means cold weather is not far behind. It won't be long before our children will be going back to school and we will be wrapping up our show season. Good luck to all as we chase the last few scores we may need to reach our year end goals! Happy and safe riding,

Judy Nordstrom, president@centerlinedressage.com

June 18, 2016 CLD Executive Board Meeting

@ StarWest; Judy Nordstrom presiding

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm by President Judy Nordstrom. Attendees include Alice Martin, Leslie Burket, Martin Kuhn, Malcolm Kuhn, Kim Jones, Teresa Litchfield and John Simpson.

Meeting Minutes: The April minutes were approved electronically as we did not hold a board meeting in May.

Treasurer Report: Unable to attend, Katie provided the following report updates:

- Current Bank Balance \$3,409.39
- 2016 net loss (\$3,331.75)
- CD Balance \$25,669.83

Membership Report

Kelly reports that with three renewals, we now have 83 members. She received a new member form but is waiting for the check, which was not included with the membership form or in the count.

Webmaster Report

- Martin reported that 2 email newsletters have been sent out since the last meeting. There were 125

subscribers for the first newsletter and 137 for the second newsletter. Average opening rate has increased to almost 60%, up about 10%. Click rate (subscribers who open the email and then click on a link) is still around 30%.

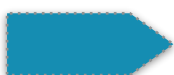
- Traffic on the website continues to increase, with the number of monthly visitors about double from what it was in December 2015.
- CLD Facebook has 534 likes, up from 510.
- Twitter followers have increased from 37 to 39.
- While this has no impact on any of the above statistics, one subscriber opened the newsletter 794 times.

Reader Newsletter

The next newsletter is ready to go out.

CLD Classic I & II

- Kim Jones has several open volunteer positions including a scribe and a Sunday morning Safety Officer. We were reminded that the Safety Officer should be dedicated to that position and will meet with the TD to share our safety plan. An EMT will also be on the show grounds. Alice will fill the Sunday afternoon scribe position.



June 18, 2016 CLD Executive Board Meeting

concluded...

CLD Classic I & II

- John will pick up the arena from StarWest. He has a ring crew to set up the arenas.
- We have 113 scheduled rides for the Saturday show and 114 for Sunday.
- Kim will not be at the horse show. Do we need to find another 'ice cream donor/distributor'?
- The Friday night chicken dinner will be served from 5 until 7pm.
- The 'stall cleaner' has asked that he be paid directly for cleaning stalls after the show as the state is behind on his payments.

Awards

- Teresa brought us up to date on the awards that are in our inventory and potential uses for them.
- Also discussed were some ideas for future awards as well as options for those that win two awards.
- After a discussion about the embroidery for saddle pads, it was decided to secure bids for our next order.

Symposium

- Kate reports that eight riders have been selected for the Lilo Fore clinic that will be held on June 27th and 28th at StarWest. Rider bios will be available.
- Alice will be our 'Lunch Lady' for the clinic.
- Although auditing is encouraged, with an option for lunch, not many have yet committed.

- Kate proposed a flyer be posted at the CLD show. Perhaps it could also go in the packet.
- It has been proposed that we ask Rachel Hill-Jordan to provide an 'article' about her experience riding with Lilo Fore in the clinic.

Director's Reports

- Paula reports that the ring has been rented to the Morgan Jubilee Show in August and the Abu Show in September. Assistance will be needed to set the ring up for these two shows, as well as CLD Classic.
- Rental for the ring is \$50, setup service is \$75 and that info is included on the Rental Form.
- She also needs to know how many stalls (day or overnight) will be needed for FireCracker in July.

New Business

- It was recommended that bios for the new board members be created (John and Jordan).
- Time to start thinking about recommendations for the slate of officers.

Our next meeting will be in the StarWest Lounge at 2:00pm on August 13, 2016.

Leslie moved and Martin seconded to adjourn at 3:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Burket, CLD Secretary

Opportunity is Ringing!

The USDF 2016 Annual Convention is being held in St. Louis this year at the downtown Hyatt Regency. There are a variety of interesting volunteer opportunities at the convention. Available volunteer dates are 11/30, 12/1, 12/2 and 12/3. Contact Leslie Burket at suebob@i1.net or 636 346-1561 for additional information.

Come join us at the Convention!

The Road to Parker - NAJYRC

by Jenna Upchurch

Saturday, July 23

I loaded Greystoke (Oz) onto the trailer and Keegan O'Brien, Region 2 Young Rider, a student of Amanda Johnson (WI), followed behind me with her horse, Foley. The whole barn pitched in throwing bales of hay and bags of feed into the trailer all while wishing us luck and getting in several hugs before we got on the road. Martin and I led off the caravan with the truck and trailer followed by my mom, Diane Upchurch, in one car and Keegan and her mom in another. (My dad, Barry Upchurch, flew in later in the week.) As we turned west for our first stop in Kansas, I felt my stomach twist with anxiety for the seven-hour drive ahead of us. Along the way we stopped and cut up apples for the horses in an attempt to keep them happy and healthy in their little box stalls. When we finally arrived in St. George, KS, the first order of business was fresh water, grass, and a cold hosing for the boys. The group of minorly exhausted and hungry humans stumbled to the hotel only to do it all again in the morning.

Sunday, July 24

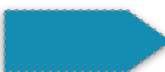
On the road again, we started on another seven-hour trip to an overnight barn just 20 minutes down the road from the Colorado Horse Park (CHP). After getting a little stir crazy sitting in the truck, we finally arrived and got the horses settled. We had meticulously checked over their new stalls and arranged water buckets and hay. We checked into our hotel for the entire week in Parker and were relieved to finally be at our destination.

Monday, July 25

Keegan and I went on a morning visit to hand walk the horses and stretch their legs a little more before the final, but thankfully short, drive to the Colorado Horse Park. Upon arriving at the park a dust storm blew over us. We rushed to unload the horses and tack in the midst of more than enough chaos. Finally settled, we waited as the rest of the Region 4 team slowly trickled in. Together the Team went to the competitors meeting. Jennie Loriston-Clarke, British Olympian, alongside George Williams and Charlotte Bredahl, US Jr/Young Rider coaches, and Roberta Williams, chair of the USDF FEI Jr/YR Committee, gave the opening remarks for the 2016 North American Junior and Young Rider Championships.

Tuesday, July 26

First things first, Oz and I along with some of our team members went to the in-barn inspection for the panel of veterinarians to check FEI passports, microchip numbers, and overall health. Shortly after, Oz and I went for our first schooling round in an arena crowded with dressage riders, hunter/jumpers, and eventers. The Young Riders were the first scheduled event of the week at the jog. Horse after horse passed as each team cheered on their Region's horses. Following the jog, the Young Riders went down to the dressage arenas for ring familiarization where each team was allotted 15 minutes to school in the official competition arena. All competitors, chef d'equipes, parents, trainers, grooms, and officials went to Harmony Equine Center for opening ceremonies including food, a mechanical bull, bounce house, and dunk tank.



The Road to Parker - NAJYRC

by Jenna Upchurch

Wednesday, July 27

The day started off at with the Young Rider Team Test. Our Region 4 Young Rider was paired with riders from Region 5 and 7 on a combined team. As scores started to trickle in, we watched the last few riders and our combined Young Rider Team take the Bronze Medal. Next up was the Junior jog. Our Region 4 Team, dressed in matching outfits, took our perfectly groomed horses down to the holding area and heard horse after horse be accepted. Each region was called up numerically. I walked Oz up to the panel and then jogged down the track, returning with some extra enthusiasm on his part, but we passed the jog. Our team then sat around for what seemed like hours waiting for our Ring Familiarization at 5:10. Oz and I cruised around the arena that even with four horses seemed a little too crowded. Each rider was holding in a small amount of impatience for the first leg of competition to begin tomorrow.

Thursday, July 28

The Junior Team test started off well with each of the Region 4 riders putting their best foot forward in their tests. As last to go in the class, my nerves started to kick in the closer we got to show time. While I was braiding Oz's mane, my hands started to shake. They did not settle until I mounted up. We started in the far open warm-up, worked our way into a secondary dressage arena warm-up, and finally into an arena solely for the rider next up. At 2:04 Oz and I entered the competition arena. As I passed my team, they all cheered me on as I went down centerline for our Junior Team test. Only a few minutes after my final salute, I heard my score announced as a 67.919%. I was pleased knowing what needed to be improved on for the Individual Test on Saturday. Then over the loudspeaker we heard the announcer say that would give Region 4 the silver medal. I couldn't contain my excitement. I looked towards my trainers and parents be be sure I really heard it correctly. Our Team's horses wore the red neck ribbons of the Reserve Champion Team as we cantered our victory lap. Then we dismounted for our medals.

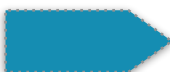
The Bronze Team received their medals and then the announcer invited Region 4 onto the podium. I watched as each rider's medal was placed around her neck and each shook hands with sponsors and officials. We walked up to the VIP Pavilion for a press conference answering questions about our rides and goals for the rest of the week. The team packed up and headed out for a group dinner where we celebrated Region 4's first medal in eight years.

Friday, July 29

The Young Riders kicked off the day with the Individual Test. We got Oz out early for a very light hack as the first rider went down centerline. The Team watched our Young Rider put in a beautiful ride to place fourth among a tough field. In the afternoon, teams from every discipline decorated their golf carts for a parade. The competitors drove around a long path before coming down the main street of the show facility. At this point we were ambushed with water guns, hoses, and buckets of water. After we were sufficiently drenched, we joined a pizza and ice cream party under the pavilion. Finally everyone seemed to relax and enjoy themselves even though this was an intense continental championship.



An International Affair. The author on center podium flanked by the Canadian Silver Individual Medalist on left and Mexico's Bronze Individual Medalist on the right. (photo by Susan Stickle)



The Road to Parker - NAJYRC

by Jenna Upchurch

Saturday, July 30

The Junior Individual Test began as we watched a Region 4 rider canter down the first centerline of the day. The time rolled around to start getting Oz ready for our test. I could feel anxiety slowly building. I remember Oz being more reactive in the warm-up and thinking he was going to be a rocket in our test. As I turned him toward the competition arena, I assured myself that if I trusted Oz and my riding, it would all be worth it. Finally my nerves subsided as we cantered down centerline. The ride was so calculated in my mind and I worked to adjust the flow from movement to movement to avoid the rigid nature of my team test. At my final halt, salute I impatiently looked to my coach, Martin Kuhn, for reassurance of what I felt was a fluid test. After the final rider left the arena, I heard the announcer crackle over the loudspeaker with a 70.632% as my score. Immediately my eyes watered and I started crying tears of joy as Martin and his wife Kate hugged me. Oz and I had earned our first gold medal! My parents came over to celebrate with me as they draped an embroidered scrim sheet over Oz and attached a tri-color ribbon to his bridle. The rest of the top ten gathered for the awards ceremony. I rode into the arena and dismounted to stand behind my podium. The bronze medalist represented Mexico, the silver medalist represented Canada, and the gold medalist represented the United States of America. We were all presented with our medals and turned to the American flag as they played the national anthem. I cried again. I re-mounted Oz for our victory lap, my solo lap, and shortly after was whisked away for another press conference. I didn't want to fall asleep that night. I was afraid I would wake up and it would have all been a dream.

Sunday, July 31

The sound check for the Junior freestyle started at 8 am. We walked around the arena as the announcer played my remix of Coldplay and Fast & Furious songs. As I slowly prepared Oz for our last ride of these incredible championships, I was less anxious than I was

in the first two performances. During our warm-up I could tell Oz was ready. I raised my hand to start my music. We gave everything we had. The further into the freestyle I went, the more excited I was as we successfully made every transition and movement in time with the music. At my final salute, I couldn't help but wonder if we had done it again. Two rides remained and anticipation built while we waited for my score. Then the announcer came over the speaker and made my dreams a reality. He announced a 71.350% putting us once again into the lead. I smiled uncontrollably as George Williams came over to congratulate me and Oz on our second gold medal as the blue scrim sheet was once again draped over Oz and another tri-color ribbon hooked on his bridle. Another round of hugs and I was back on Oz as we walked back in for our third podium ceremony of the week. As the national anthem played, tears once again welled in my eyes. We took our final victory lap and had our final press conference. I felt as though I would never be able to thank every person who has helped me along this journey. As we loaded the trailer that afternoon I still couldn't believe what we had accomplished.

The author aboard Greystoke at her final awards ceremony in Parker, CO at the 2016 NAJYRC.

(photo by Susan Stickle)



FireCracker

by Kim Jones, Manager

2016 CLD FireCracker was a huge success! We had 27 riders with 53 rides in both traditional dressage and western dressage. Intro and Training Level classes were by far the most popular but Western Dressage is still gaining in popularity.

A big thank you to:

Lorna Donahue for judging

Scribes Alice Martin, Sally Briney, and Kim Dresch

Scorers James Jones, Casey Pratt, Nancy Rosse and Jessica Powell

Runners/Parking/Ring stewards Sally Atterberry, Doug Powell, Tanner Powell

Holy Land Dinner for providing food

And to Pratense Farms for hosting

There were a few new faces in attendance and they all reported they had a great time. From an email I received after the show:

**"Thank you for putting on a great show! Thank you for all of your time and hard work and
Thank you to the farm for hosting everyone! Hope you hold another one soon!!"**

Laura Eichorn

Intro Level Test A

Amanda Graham AA	
Rachel	63.400%
Brandi Harland JR	
Rosie	62.500%
Kayla Eichorn JR	
Marschall	60.000%
Madison Iwanicki JR	
A Sensational Prince	51.900%
Alice Ann Bisch JR	
Rosie	51.200%
Anna Pershing JR	
Nick Dun It Bright	50.300%
Nancy Rosse AA	
Sam Adams	46.800%

Intro Level Test B

Brandi Harland JR	
Rosie	64.400%
Amanda Graham AA	
Rachel	64.100%
Kayla Eichorn JR	
Marschall	63.100%
Florence Mathieu-Conner O	
Fleurette	62.800%
Madison Iwanicki JR	
A Sensational Prince	56.900%
Nancy Rosse AA	
Sam Adams	55.600%
Anna Pershing JR	
Nick Dun It Bright	50.000%

Intro Level Test C

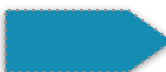
Zoe Eichorn JR	
Marschall	64.000%
Jordan Bender JR	
Cody	60.800%
Bonnie Morton AA	
Maxs Dun Son	59.800%

First Level Test 1

Chrissy Jacobs JR	
Roxana	61.100%
Rachel Powell AA	
H Wineglass Gideon	56.500%

First Level Test 2

Chrissy Jacobs JR	
Roxana	62.000%



FireCracker

results continued...

Training Level Test 1

Erica LeMay JR	
Fortune Cookie	69.100%
Meghan Essig JR	
Rejoice	68.800%
Jordan Bender JR	
Cody	66.100%
Sue Graham AA	
Eve	64.600%
Zoe Eichorn JR	
Marschall	64.300%
Sofia Dietrich JR	
Sir Dow Jones	62.000%
Bonnie Morton AA	
Maxs Dun Son	59.100%
Ellie Mendenhal JR	
Patti	58.700%

Training Level Test 2

Erica LeMay JR	
Fortune Cookie	70.400%
Meghan Essig JR	
Rejoice	63.800%
Mary Clevenger O	
Howboutthat	62.700%
Sue Graham AA	
Eve	62.300%
Rebekka Price AA	
Mitavite Ransom	61.900%
Ellie Mendenhal JR	
Patti	60.000%
Sofia Dietrich JR	
Sir Dow Jones	60.000%
Megan Bishop JR	
Riverdance	58.800%

Training Level Test 3

Mary Clevenger O	
Howboutthat	68.600%
Rebekka Price AA	
Mitavite Ransom	60.000%
Megan Bishop JR	
Riverdance	55.500%

First Level Test 3

Rachel Powell AA	
H Winglass Gideon	62.600%

First Level Pas De Deux

Helena Rosse/Chrissy Jacobs JR	
Riverdance and Roxana	74.000%

Western Dressage Basic Test 1

Caroline Younkin JR	
Whoa	61.800%
Madison Godart JR	
A Sensational Prince	57.800%

Western Dressage Basic Test 3

Caroline Younkin JR	
Whoa	66.100%
Madison Godart JR	
A Sensational Prince	56.700%

West Dressage Level 1 Test 1

Elizabeth George JR	
Jet Jockey	68.300%

West Dressage Level 1 Test 3

Elizabeth George JR	
Jet Jockey	62.600%

Western Dressage Level 2 Test 2

Will Dean O	
RV Still Standing	68.100%
Helena Rosse JR	
New York By Storm	64.200%

Western Dressage Level 2 Test 3

Will Dean O	
RV Still Standing	63.100%

Western Dressage Level 2 Test 4

Susan Rosse O	
New York By Storm	65.800%

Western Dressage Level 3 Test 1

Helena Rosse JR	
New York By Storm	61.600%



High Point Training Level Young Rider Erica LeMay. Sue Graham was High Point Training Level Adult Amateur
(photo by Kim Jones)

Q & A with Jenna Upchurch

by Alice Martin, Editor

Q: How did you learn of the Jr. Rider Championships?

A: After my debut at Second Level in 2012. I wanted to have a large goal to work towards. I went online, searched for dressage championships, and quickly found the North American Junior and Young Rider Championships.



The Region 4 Silver Medal winning team. (Madison Peer, Jenna Upchurch, Cara Fragomeni, & Bianca Schmidt) photo by Diane Upchurch

Q: What was the hardest part of this journey in dressage for you to work on?

A: The hardest part of my journey so far has been making the decision to sell SRC Alejandro. We bought him with the intention of taking him up through the levels as I was the first one to sit on his back. I competed Alejandro for two show seasons earning three national championships and four regional championships. Unfortunately, my goal of making it to NAJYRC meant that I would need a horse that was at least 7 years old before I turned 18. Born in late 2010, Alejandro was always a quick learner but he would always be a year or two behind the FEI Junior and Young Rider level. Letting go of a horse that was so special to me is the

hardest thing I have ever done, but luckily Greystoke's loving personality and fantastic work ethic filled some of the gap that Alejandro left. Oz has allowed me to live my largest dreams.

Q: You have had success with a number of different horses over the years, what did each particular horse teach you?

My first horse Takbosabi and I learned dressage together, so he taught me how to have a partnership with my horse. SRC Alejandro, a horse we bought as a 2 year-old, taught me patience in working with horses and the importance and success of correct training. Paddington, owned by Leslie Burket, showed me the importance of riding accurately and effectively as we navigated my first year in FEI Juniors together. I was able to ride my first Prix St. George on Paddington. Greystoke has taught me the value of riding with feel and being soft yet direct with my aids.



USDF President and US Jr/YR coach George Williams, Jenna Upchurch, Greystoke, & Martin Kuhn. photo by Diane Upchurch

A Look Back - Poulin Clinic September 2015

by Claudia Nissley

With Regional and National Finals coming up in September and November, now is a good time to take a look back at the sage advice Michael Poulin gave in his two-day clinic last fall at StarWest. Both a trainer and an Olympian, Poulin has trained other Olympians and thousands of horses. His love of horses is deep and obvious in his training methods. During his many years of riding, instructing and training, he has become one of our nation's leading experts in dressage.

Poulin is a thinking man with charm who exhibits vast knowledge of diverse experiences including a commercial pilot license, aikido, ballet, and race cars. He is a strong proponent of allowing the horse to learn at his own pace and not to pressure the horse to learn quickly for competition. He aims to make it fun and take away the pressure for the horse by not setting time frames. In the beginning of the clinic, he said, "The older I get, the slower I get, the faster the horse learns."

The emphasis throughout the clinic, first and foremost, is to have the horse forward off the leg and for the horse to have an honest response to the leg. He watches each horse and rider closely when they warm up in the arena without much comment; then he joins the work. His suggestion to warm the horse up is to ride the diagonals for about 8 - 12 minutes in rising trot. When it feels the same on both sides, then the horse is warmed up.

For every rider, he noted two consistent observations: give half halts in rhythm with the horses' movement and limit body movement of the rider. Simply put, he said, "don't wiggle so much" referencing any body part (e.g. hand, leg, foot, bottom) that moved too much in any given moment. The movement interrupts the Circle of Aids. Wolfgang Niggli describes the main difference between a novice rider and a master is that the world's best trainers can ask for a similar action using exactly the same aids and the horse has no difficulty understanding. To do this, the trainer are "...fully in control of their bodies and no voluntary

movement occurs that might confuse the horse...the novice has limited control of his body, limbs and balance and has little appreciation of the horse's sensitivity to minute involuntary actions." Poulin described a master as, "one who has failed many more times than a beginner has tried." To put numbers to practice, he described riding seven days a week, starting with 100 correct strides per day, 3000 correct strides per month - one can begin to capture the concept of development over time of the rider's muscle control and how it is achieved.

Poulin described the "Cube Effect", his analogy of how the rider affects the Circle of Aids. He was adamant about not pulling on the reins likening it to an ice cube tray. If you twist one end, all the cubes begin to fall out. By pulling on the mouth, the force follows to the head, neck, back and so on. It is a vivid image that reinforces his training to have the horse forward off the leg first.

Another concept he uses is puzzle training. What does he mean? He employs three words; association, location and imagination. A well trained horse knows what to do and where to do it in the arena. For example, the horse is trained to do a simple change at M. Maybe the rider is asking for a change at B instead. How does the rider get the horse unstuck from the pattern? By using puzzle training, the rider needs to use imagination to give the horse a different location and association to perform a specific movement. The rider needs to ask in different ways to get the horse to perform in different ways and different places in the arena.

It was a delightful two days of learning from a master. Poulin's observations and ability to watch a horse in a short time period and identify movement that could be improved only comes from minutes, days and years of training. The fortunate riders in this clinic gained a special and unique opportunity. Poulin competes, trains and instructs in Maine and Florida and his time is quite limited. For those of us able to audit, his perceptions and comments are invaluable.

From a Horse Mom's View

by *Diane Upchurch*

Jenna has always loved horses from her preschool years. Her first riding lesson was purchased by my sister Marcia Pease from a charity auction. She was four years old, rode a shetland pony named Sugar, and wore rubber boots, black leggings pants, a little white shirt and a loaned helmet. My mother Maxine Danieley also leased Sugar and another pony at our family farm on weekends for the grandchildren to ride. Jenna attended summer camp at a local hunter/jumper barn when she was five years old and then began lessons the following winter. Her first full summer riding, she was the High Point Winner of the Summer Series of the Barn's schooling shows.



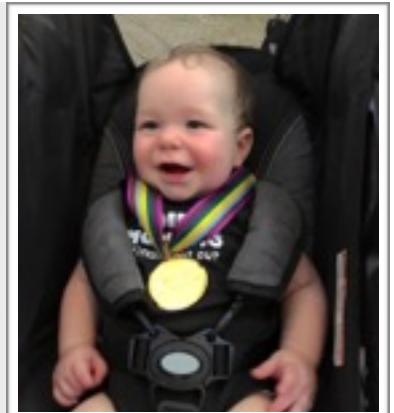
Greystoke, Jenna Upchurch, Diane Upchurch, & Barry Upchurch.
photo by Martin Kuhn

Jenna rode for several years on the hunter/jumper circuit before we discovered dressage, with my high school friends in the Arabian, circuit. We purchased her first horse Takhosabi, an Arabian gelding, who she showed in hunter pleasure. They began with Training Level dressage. She quickly fell in love with the intricacies of dressage and moved up the levels. Later we purchased a yearling, Alejandro, that Jenna broke herself with the assistance of a trainer. She trained him primarily by herself and showed him very successfully from Intro-1st Level in both Arabian and Open, winning three National Championships at Arabian Sport Horse Nationals in 2015, two Region 4 Championships, and qualified for Dressage Equitation finals.

Jenna had a strong desire to compete at NAJYRC which she did in 2015 with a leased horse. Her father and I saw her dedication to her horses, her instinctive talent, and decided that we would begin the process to find a horse to purchase for her to compete in 2016 NAJYRC. After some searching we looked to purchase Greystoke who was owned by her trainers Martin Kuhn and his wife, Kate Fleming-Kuhn. Greystoke and Jenna developed an extremely strong bond quickly. Martin,

who had trained Greystoke since his purchase as a four-year-old, created a dynamic team as coach. Takho, being 22, was retired, and Alejandro was sadly sold to purchase Greystoke. Our family has supported Jenna's journey although it has not always been easy. She graduated high school a semester early to live at StarWest as a working student. My husband Barry and I have traveled to watch her ride at clinics with Olympian Cindy Ishoy, Gerhard Politz, and George Williams. Jenna will attend the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana this fall and continue her training at StarWest with Martin Kuhn. We are looking forward to NAJYRC next year with Jenna competing as a Young Rider.

Jenna's youngest supporter,
Malcolm James Kuhn.



DEADLINE FOR READER ITEMS



CenterLine Dressage

Items for publication or inclusion in the READER should be received by the editor by the 1st 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 Alice Martin
1736 S. Farmingdale Rd.
New Berlin, IL 62670