



UDS NEWSLETTER APRIL/MAY 2011

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Official Newsletter of the Utah Dressage Society

We are on the web:
Utahdressagesociety.net

We are also on Facebook—type in Utah Dressage Society for more pictures and info.

RENEWAL FOR UDS

Reminder: UDS Membership year ends November 30, 2010. Renewal for 2011 begins December 1, 2010.

See our website to renew online

<http://utahdressagesociety.net> or print a form and mail to

UDS

P.O. Box 562

Draper, Utah 84020

MELISSA CRESWICK MEET-THE-TESTS

The Meet-the-Tests Symposium was held on April 16th at the Wasatch Event Center with Melissa Creswick. Melissa is an "S" judge who is insightful, honest, helpful, kind, and spot on with her comments. She gave each demo rider advice and direction on how to improve their own riding and their horse's performance as well as tips for improving their test scores. She is amazing! Melissa was willing to come right down in the dirt to help where she could. Here are a few photos from the



clinic. There were so many lovely horses and riders, it was hard to choose the photos. More photos are on Facebook—Utah Dressage Society.



President's Message

Dear Members,

In spite of the chilly temperatures and falling snowflakes, it is Spring—a time of Ch-Ch-CHANGES. And UDS is no different. Read this edition of the Newsletter CAREFULLY. There are new policies, new programs, new deadlines liberally sprinkled throughout. They WILL affect you, your riding, the shows, and the Awards Banquet.

The biggest change I would like to share is that beginning THIS YEAR the way score information for year-end awards is collected is different. It is now the RIDER'S RESPONSIBILITY to ensure their scores earned at USEF/USDF competitions are provided to Sue Jero NO LATER THAN Oct 1st. We believe that this will help alleviate the human error side of score tabulation and ease the Score Tabulator's daunting task. You all know how well you have done at the shows far better than any one person cross-referencing all members' scores. So please take part in this process, even if you believe that you won't be getting an award! If nothing else, this will help you mark your own growth as a rider and your horse's training process.

Continued on page 6

UpComing Events

Clinics

April 29-May 1 Sandy Howard at Kimball Ranch—contact Stephanie Brown-Beamer

April—May Show Schedule

Rose Ranch Spring Dressage Show, Contact Allison Wicks, 801-573-7433—Draper, UT	UDS Short Tour Program	April 23	Open: 3-15 Close: 4-12
2011 Schooling Dressage Series—Pegasus Event Center, Contact Carol 435-830-7365, Grantsville, Utah UDS Newsletter April/May 2011	Schooling	Apr 30	2 days PTE
Hoofprints Schooling Series, Lynnleigh Farms, Contact: Nance Allen 801-274-1288, Sandy, Utah	Schooling	May 11	Open 30 days PTE, Close 7 days PTE
Idaho Dressage Festival I & II, Contact Nancy Roche, 208-340-1352, Nampa, Idaho	USEF/USDF/UDS/IDEA/ODS	May 7-8	Open: 3-13 Close 4-13
Lynnleigh Farm Dressage Show, Contact Nancy 801-571-5592, Sandy, Utah	UDS Short Tour Program	May 14	Open 4-1 Close: 4-13

Send articles, pictures, ads, items of interest to

Vicki May
UDS Newsletter Editor, also Web Master
dressage-lady@gmail.com

Deadline for Newsletter is **1st** of each month.

Visit the UDS on Facebook—Utah Dressage Society



For more photos, go to Facebook Utah Dressage Society

CLASSIFIED AD RATES—UPDATED

Newsletter Ads will also be run on the UDS website for no additional charge.

UDS Members receive 20 words or less, free per year per member in the classifieds, no photo. 50 words or less, no photo—is \$10.00

Make checks payable to
Utah Dressage Society
P. O. Box 562
Draper, Utah 84020 or

Rates for Display Ads: (includes a photo)

Full Page \$50.00 per issue
Half Page \$35.00 per issue
Quarter Page \$20.00 per issue
Business Card \$15 per issue

Use PayPal to pay for your ads. Be sure to notate on check or PayPal that the payment is for a Newsletter Ad.

Deadline for Newsletters is the 1st of each month. Ads must be paid for before this time.

If ad is to be run for more than one month, invoicing and net 30 is available

Talent Search**VICE PRESIDENT**

The UDS is seeking someone with a variety of skills, e.g. marketing, young adult or adult education, or volunteer program development and a flexible time schedule to fill the Vice-President position. Ideally, this person would have prior volunteer experience, or experience in the not-for-profit sector, or have served on a Board in the past and a WONDERFUL SENSE OF HUMOR.

The UDS Board is looking ahead with a renewed sense of energy bolstered by the prospect of becoming a tax-deductible not-for-profit, the addition of the innovative Short Tour Dressage Program, the April Presentation of the new 2011 Dressage tests and in April 2012, Lilo Fore will be here for a 2-day clinic. We are irresistible. Won't you join us?!

Please call or e-mail Nance Allen, UDS President (801.274.1288 nance@xmission.com) if you have any interest in this position or know of someone who would be a GREAT addition to the board.

The UDS will combine the Annual Meeting and Annual Banquet beginning this Year—2011

This year the UDS will combine it's Annual Meeting with the Annual Banquet. AND the banquet will be this fall!!!

Mark your calendars, the Annual Banquet/Annual Meeting will be on November 9, 2011. More details to be coming soon.

Your SCORES for the Annual Awards Banquet must be in to Sue Jero by October 1, 2011. You can submit your scores by email or regular mail. Get your Score Password from the USDF at www.usdf.org/scorecheck/scorecheck.asp to help you keep track of your scores. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Jero.

THANK YOU!

The UDS Board is grateful to the Sponsors, Demo Riders, Wasatch Event Center Staff, Walker Family Foods, Alison Child, Dee McCarthy, Nance Allen, and Vicki May-photographer for the Success of the recent "MEET THE TESTS" clinic with Melissa Creswick, "R" judge.

Sponsors: Sage Creek Equestrian, Sage Creek Catalogue, Hilltop Dressage, The Collectives, Alison Child, Mountain Horse Medical, Eva Adolphi, & Premier Equestrian

Demo Riders: Emily McManus, Katherine Borrett-Capell, Timmie Kent, Mary Morgan, Madison Bigler, Heather Krebs, Madeline Birch, Barbara Progress, Bethany Wilhelmsen, Kelli Brown, Katherine Scott, Lindsay Wagner, & Lisa Stugelmayer and Elree Harris, scribe.

Classified Ads

Improve your test scores! Lessons on riding tests correctly! Also Dressage lessons. Call Eva [801-913-6054](tel:801-913-6054)

Contact and Connection Acceptance of the Bit Thru Acceptance of the Aids—Tisha Green

I'm looking for a horse that has naturally already a certain amount of suppleness," said Peters. "My first thing is suppleness. My second thing is suppleness, and guess what my third thing is? That's how I really look at the horse—the elasticity."

On the Rail at a Champion's Schooling Session. How Steffen Peters rides World Cup and Aachen champion Ravel USDF Connection, September 2009

Without proper connection, all is lost in our work attempting the gymnastic training with our horse. Yet, when teaching, I find that connection is the most difficult concept for students to grasp and apply while riding. Connection requires a subtle feeling with the reins in our hands to the bit while we communicate to our horse so that, "[o]nly if the horse is letting the aids through and working through its back can the action of the rein aids pass through the mouth, poll, neck and back and reach the hindquarters." (*Rider's rein Aids, USDF Training Manual, Classical Training of the horse, Pg 13*). To accomplish the movements well, we must have suppleness. However, our connection to our horses precedes that suppleness. Therefore, the primary concept of contact needs to be fully understood by the rider.

Contact and connection can be as variable as the weather when we are training our horse. It requires solid balance of the rider and a good position with your seat with proper and timely use of your aids. It requires a command of our upper body, our wrists, hands, fingers and the seat to perform properly. Connection with our horse is elusive and definitely worth a study to improve our riding. There are numerous great books about proper riding. The selections in this article about connection are taken straight from the *USDF Training Manual* and USDF's glossary of terms for judging. Since we compete under the rules of USDF, they provide a good place, outside of lessons, for an initial discussion about contact.

Pyramid of Training-Connection

Acceptance of the bit through the Acceptance of the Aids.

Definition

The energy generated in the hindquarters by the driving aids must flow through the whole body of the horse and is received in the rider's hands. The contact to the bit must be elastic and adjustable, creating fluent interaction between horse and rider with the appropriate changes in the horse's outline.

Contact is a soft and steady connection between the rider's hand and the horse's mouth. The horse should go rhythmically forward from the rider's driving aids and 'seek' a contact with the rider's hand, thus 'going into' the contact. The horse seeks the contact and the rider provides it. (*Principles of riding pg 156.*)

In contact, "the reins are stretched such that they form a straight line, not a loop. 'Correct contact', or 'acceptance of contact', is determined by the elasticity of the connection between horse and rider." (*USDF Glossary of Judging Terms.*)

In Connection or when connected, there is a "state in which there is not a blockage, break, or slack in the circuit that joins horse and rider into a single, harmonious, elastic unit. *A Prerequisite for Throughness.*" (*USDF Glossary of Judging terms.*)

The driving aids of the rider cause the horse to step into the rider's hands with confidence.

Using pushing aids, the horse must be urged up to the hand, through which the quarters and forehand can become connected to one another.

Purpose

Steady contact is closely connected with the development of rhythm and looseness. Contact gives the horse the necessary confidence to rebalance himself under the additional weight of the rider, and find the rhythm of the various gaits.

When the horse is losgelassen (loose) the energy generated by the quarters can be transferred over the swinging back through a giving flexion into the calm restraining hand. The rider has an even contact on both hands. This contact can only be developed out of pushing leg and back aids, not solely with a rein aid. (*The Dressage Horse, pg 114.*)

Qualities

The acceptance of the bit is characterized by the horse's softly chewing the bit.

"In all of his work even at the halt the horse must be on the bit. A horse is said to be on the bit when the neck is more or less raised and arched according to the stage of training and the extension or collection of the gait and he accepts the bridle with a light and soft contact and submissiveness throughout. The head should remain in a steady position as a rule slightly in front of the vertical with a supple poll as the highest point of the neck and no resistance should be offered to the rider." (*USDF Rule Book DR101.*)

How to Achieve

To establish contact the rider must bring the horse's hind legs further underneath his body. This stretches and elasticized the neck and the back band muscles [longissimus dorsi]. The rider can feel clearly in both hands and under his seat how the forehand and quarters are connected by the back muscle [s]. He can feel how the activity of the quarters causes the back to swing with suppleness and elasticity, resulting in powerful yet relaxed and regular strides.

Through this swinging back the propulsive force generated by the quarters can now be transmitted forward to the horse's mouth. The horse submits to the energy coming from behind: he flexes in the poll and chomps the bit—in other words he is on the bit. This situation also provides an opportunity to influence the hindquarters with the reins. (*USDF Training Manual Classical Training of the horse.*)

When ridden on contact, the horse's outline is determined by his balance. At first he will carry his neck rather low and his mouth in line with the point of the shoulder, to allow the neck and the back muscles to relax and stretch. (*USDF Training Manual Classical Training of the Horse.*)

Take note, in the quotes from the manual above we can find a few key words for our thinking riders mind—all in the hopes of a happier, better trained horse.

Gaits are the first word for me and are an integral part of the discussion about contact and connection. In dressage we want to improve the horse's gaits. We do this with an elastic and supple horse. However, we cannot have an elastic and supple horse if we don't have adjustability in our horse. One aspect of adjustability for me means that I can use the contact with my horse to place his neck down into a stretching circle then back up again into the balance and the outline that my horse is capable of. The horse's back plays an essential role in the development of gaits. Without a swinging back, we have no gaits. If the back is not relaxed and the horse is not moving with his back we are not improving the gaits, which brings us back to contact and connection.

We can not influence the hind quarters without the proper contact and connection. We must think of what is behind us, not what is in front of us. It is the impulsion that creates the connection through us to the horse. We have to find and feel the union with the hindquarters working well for us to create the delicate contact with our horse's mouth. The most difficult aspect in teaching this is that students must have so much in place with their own position to have good contact with their horse. They must understand *when* to drive their horse with their seat and leg aids, and receive the energy of that motor in their hands.

Every horse is different. Some horses are born on the bit. Some horses are compromised by their confirmation and breeding. Some are just plain stiff. Some have had bad training. Some have bad attitudes and don't want to do any of the above. Some horses do not move forward to the bit and they avoid the connection. This applies to the rider as well. Suppleness on the part of the human must be present for horse and rider to create a good connection.

I read somewhere that good contact while working is like holding two birds in your hand. At that point in time I scratched my head. I do understand how intricate the connection must become, but what about my reins? When I am riding, I have my horse's mouth in my hands. My explanation to my students is a silly thought, but it conveys the feeling. Silly thoughts can help us to remember. So, when all is going well with impulsion, connection, and suppleness, I like to think there are two, snow-white, toy poodles prancing along under control in front of me, one on each rein. Contact and connection is a delicate and thoughtful activity with our horse. If it feels like two wild elephants stampeding forward, my contact—my connection is not so good. Contact and the connection can change while in the process of training. It is our skill set and our timing that helps our horse stay in the self carriage that he is trained to and work on the requests of our aids.

In our daily training we will encounter the issue of not having the elastic contact we should have when we ask for a change of direction, a transition, a shoulder-in, or the half pass. Asking more of our horse can cause resistance in our contact, losing our suppleness and forward motion. It has become harder for our horse to comply with our aids because of our requests for movements and figures, so he offers resistance in our connection. Again, we must look at ourselves. How is my position on my horse? Am I just holding my reins statically, am I am thinking rider? Am I communicating with my horse through my aids? Am I communicating with my seat, my legs and my hands? If your hands are static and not sensitive to all the activity with you and your horse, your horse is bumping up against you, constantly in hand and seat.

When warming up, I like to walk the horse I am riding out on a long rein. After a few minutes I pick up the reins and ask how the contact feels on that day. For me, the properly schooled horse gently takes that contact and marches forward at the walk with available flexion in the lower jaw on both reins. He is not pulling or fighting when I ask for contact. I can gather him up, ask for circles and change of direction, transitions down to the walk and out to the trot with agreeable contact. While continuing the warm-up, I gather my reins up to ride at the ideal self-carriage this horse is capable of in his training with relaxation and rhythm. If I encounter resistance on one rein or the other I squeeze my hand, which ever rein is pulling and stiff, and I ask for the soft feel from him on that rein, I ask his lower jaw to yield. When he gives, then I release the squeezing hand when the horse complies. I have a good feeling on that rein. This action is a communicating hand. During this warm-up I keep checking my position, the placement of my hands, where my leg is laying on my horse's side to aid my horse. We are warming up together.

The quality of the connection and balance can be evaluated by "Uberstreichen", releasing the reins (to demonstrate self-carriage) or by allowing the horse to chew the reins out of the hands (to demonstrate relaxation). (*USDF glossary of judging terms*.)

I have a five-year-old gelding that is such a pleasure and he learns so quickly. When we are executing serpentines in the arena that is just about ménage size, I can release his inside rein and he trots along in self carriage, with rhythm. He knows his job and is giving back to me. He is on my aids. The change of direction is up to my skills and my timing. The idea here is that nothing changes in the change of direction; we are performing the figure without a fight or change of contact. We have a good connection, and my horse is on my outside rein. We are harmonious together.

I also have a stallion that is FEI level. During the movement of our pirouette, I give the aids to collect at the canter heading on my diagonal line and he comes back underneath himself. He is complying and asking me what I want next. He collects himself up, and there is a whisper in my hands when it all goes well, with two snow-white poodles out front, ready to be directed.

I just started with client's horse that drops the bit, or goes behind the bit as soon as I take up the reins. He goes so tensely and anxiously into his work. His neck braced, his hindquarters are everywhere, but not behind us. He has used spooking and going sideways to avoid the work, and he uses this as an evasion. He lacks trust. The first thing I do is to engage this horse's mind by putting him to work into the bridle; the contact to make the connection, with his hind coming forward to his front. I start with circles, asking him to stretch into the contact and to go from my inside leg to the outside rein. I ask him to take the bit and to trust the bit while he works over his back. He has to reach with his inside hind leg to connect his hind end to his front end through the contact, and be over his back to get everything moving in a relaxing way. He is not straight, and riding him to the right and left is very different. As our rides progress, and he relaxes and reaches for the contact, I keep rewarding him, talking softly and a nice stoke on the neck when I can feel his back come up under my seat. He has to accept the contact, through the accepting rein and my aids in order for him to engage his hindquarters and be connected back to front. This feeling is not consistently present, but he keeps trying. After he settles down and becomes more relaxed we start riding shoulder-in and transitions. I persuade him to drop his poll equal to his withers. I ask for adjustability of his outline with his neck, the ever so tense neck. His neck has to be relaxed, supple, stretching and adjustable for me. This is the only way we can connect the hind to the front and for him to become supple and moving through his whole body. He continues to make progress and I am pleased with his desire to relax, and his increasing impulsion. His fearfulness continues to disappear.

Continued on page 8

President's Message—Continued

Currently, UDS has 6 Educational Scholarships of \$250 each, available: 2-AA, 2-Open and 2-Jr/Yr. They are all awarded in the fall/early winter with a notification date of December 15. In 2010, as in many prior years, few applications were received. As of THIS spring, the application deadlines have changed to a spring (March 15) and fall (October 15) deadline with one of each award available, i.e. 1-AA, 1-Open and 1-Jr/Yr award is available in the spring and 1-AA, 1-Open and 1-Jr/Yr award is available in the fall. Obviously the March 15 deadline has gone by. So for this year and this year ONLY, we're soliciting applications until May 15 with notification after the June Board meeting. All the same application rules remain and are spelled out on page 30 and 31 in this year's Omnibus.

Finally, we're combining the Awards Banquet with the Annual Meeting to be held in November. More can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Nance Allen
President

Prize List Change for Millbrook Farms

The Dover Medal class will be 209 on Sunday, June 12th and not a combined 109/209 class as it was listed in the prize list previously.

Please be sure download and use the most current version of the 2011 UDS entry form available on this website and not the one in the UDS omnibus. The correct version is also available on the Millbrook Farms website.

If you are requesting stabling, please send a quick email to Jan Lawrence at millbrk@xmission.com to be placed on the stabling list.

Jan Lawrence
Millbrook Farms
millbrk@xmission.com
[\(801\) 631-2516](tel:(801)631-2516)
www.Millbrookfarms.com

REGION 5 NEWS

Spring is finally here! Show season is coming to full swing around the country and there are plenty of clinics and educational events to choose from in most areas. Please be sure to let me know if your barn, GMO, club, chapter or other groups are hosting events and we'll get them in our monthly USDF newsletter and on the Region 5 website.

The deadline for Participating Member Delegate nominations is April 15. Our region will have 5 PM delegates. You can check the status of our delegate nominees by going to the link below. Please check your status to make sure your acceptance is there if you would like to be a PM delegate candidate. If you are not listed and you would like to be a PM delegate, please contact Kay Lorenzen at kaylorenz@cox.net.

<http://www.usdf.org/about/about-usdf/governance/nominating/accepted.asp>

As of April 1st, our potential candidates for the 2011 FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships will be finalized. As I write this in early March, we have 13 folks who have declared, so hopefully Region 5 will field two full teams. If you would like to contribute or help with their fundraising efforts, please contact Kathleen Donnelly, our Region 5 Jr/YR FEI coordinator at kathleendonnely20@hotmail.com or 970-310-8729.

We are looking for nominations for our 2011 Region 5 Lifetime Achievement Award. This award was started in 2009 by our then Regional Director Theresa Hunt and recognizes folks who have made significant contributions to dressage in our region. If you have someone you feel has made a contribution to our dressage community, please send me their name and a brief nomination letter. We will award one or more recipients this year and we would love input from folks throughout the region. Please email me nominations at slush@drqw.net. Our previous winners are Barbara Stine and Dr. Rudolf Vlaten.

Till next month!
Heather Petersen
Region 5 Director



Utah Dressage Society

A tax exempt, not for profit organization IRS-501(c)(7)

PO Box 562 Draper, Utah 84020 www.utahdressagesociety.net

Utah Dressage Society Membership Application

Membership Year: _____
First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____
ZIP: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

The information entered above will be published in the UDS Omnibus. Personal information is for UDS purposes only and will not be sold.

Check here for an "unlisted" phone number and email in the omnibus

Division: **\$40** Junior/YoungRider _____
\$50 Adult Amateur _____ Open _____ Owner _____

USEF Number: _____ Required for AA Riders (or enter "none")

Rider's Date of Birth: _____ mm/dd/yy if < age 22 otherwise enter Adult

Name on check: _____ if different from Member Name

Check Number: _____

If you are the OWNER of a horse, fill in the information below. Otherwise, you are done!

Horse's Show name: _____

Horse's USDF or HID number: _____

Send Payment to: UDS, PO Box 562, Draper, UT 84020

SHORT TOUR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Short Tour?

The Short Tour Program (STP) was developed by the Utah Dressage Society (UDS) & is offered only in Utah. Anyone, regardless of UDS membership status, may compete in these shows which start at the Introductory Level and go through the Second Level. This series of shows is for the horse and rider who would like to gain experience and confidence by riding at different venues in front of different judges before going to the USEF/USDF recognized competitions.

Do I or my horse have to belong to any special organizations?

No.

Are there any breed restrictions?

No. Any horse/rider combination can enter. Ponies are encouraged though there are unlikely to be any special "pony" classes.

I've never shown before, can someone help me?

Yes. However, if neither you nor your horse have ever shown, you may want to consider attending a few "schooling" shows first. This will give you an idea of how your horse will respond to trailering or act when in a new place with lots of other horses and distractions.

The dress requirements for a schooling show for you and your horse are more relaxed and the cost is lower. Schooling shows are listed on the UDS web-site.

What are the Dress Requirements for me and my horse?

ALL MOUNTED RIDERS MUST WEAR AN APPROVED ASTM/SEI HELMET WITH THE CHIN STRAP SECURED.

Appropriate presentation of the horse/rider combination depends on whether you are showing Western Dressage or European Dressage. If you have specific questions, speak with the Show Manager PRIOR to the show or to the UDS representative who will be available at the show. Otherwise, the information below will help. European Dressage Rider-black or blue coat, pants-light in color (white, beige, light gray), shirt-mock collar, light in color-white preferred, white stock tie with tie pin, white or black gloves. Riders may wear half-chaps, gaiters or leggings in solid black or brown, without fringe, matching the color of their boots, and made of smooth leather or leather-like material. Dressage tall boots are preferred at Second Level.

Horse-black or brown English saddle (EXCEPTION: Western Dressage), matching bridle. For Training, First and Second Level tests, a plain snaffle bridle is required with a regular cavesson, a dropped noseband, a flash noseband (a combination of a cavesson noseband and a dropped noseband attachment) or a crossed noseband. Saddle pads are not required and if used, can be white or of a conservative color. One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including lash may be carried. Braiding is not required. No polo wraps or tail wraps/bags.

Western Dressage-Heeled Boots. Snaffle Bit. Any standard Western Stock Saddle. Riders must wear long-sleeved shirt with any type collar; trousers or pants (a one-piece long sleeved equitation suit is acceptable, provided it includes a collar). Chaps, shotgun chaps, or chinks, and boots are required. Riders should wear a necktie, kerchief, bolo tie or pin; a vest, jacket, coat and/or sweater may also be worn. No leg wraps, boots or tail wraps/bags of any kind.

What Shows are being offered in 2011?

April 23 at Rose Ranch, S. Jordan, UT

Show Manager-Allie Wicks: Allierides@aol.com

May 14 at Lynnleigh Farm, Sandy, UT

Show Manager-Nancy Armantrout: 801.972.2667

June 18th offered by The Collectives at Hilltop Farm, Heber, UT

Show Manager-Alison Child: achild@kirwin.com

July 9th offered by HoofPrints Dressage at Lynnleigh Farm, Sandy UT

Show Manager-Nance Allen: nance@xmission.com

August 6th Championship Show at Shooting Star Ranch in N. Ogden, UT

Show Manager-Nance Allen: nance@xmission.com

What classes are being offered?

Each Show Manager will offer, at a minimum, the USDF recognized Introductory, Training, First and Second Level tests. Each level consists of 3 tests. In addition, each show manager MAY elect to offer Western Dressage, Prix Caprilli, Eventing Dressage, and/or Freestyle classes as well as upper level Dressage classes, i.e. Third Level through Grand Prix.

Where can I find the tests?

The USDF tests can be found in booklets at many local tack stores

Here's where to find the USDF Intro tests:

<http://www.usdf.org/docs/ShowFlash/web/Tests/introa.pdf>

MORE PHOTOS FROM MEET THE TEST





PHOTO: STEFFEN PETERS, WHO DOMINATED THE WORLD DRESSAGE MASTERS PALM BEACH CDI5 AT THE JIM BRANDON EQUESTRIAN CENTER IN WELLINGTON ON RAVEL, ALSO WON THE PREMIER SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD DURING THE SHOW. HEIDI ZORN, (RIGHT), PRESIDENT OF PREMIER EQUESTRIAN, LLC, A LEADING SUPPLIER OF DRESSAGE ARENAS, JUMPS, AND STABLE ACCESSORIES, WAS THRILLED PETERS WON THE AWARD AND PRESENTED HIM WITH AN ALS-216 COMTEK WIRELESS SYSTEM FROM PREMIER. (PHOTO COURTESY OF JRPR - NO PHOTO CREDIT NECESSARY)*

Meet the Test Bio—Madison Bigler

My search for a horse began at twelve. I had been riding for five years and had leased a white Arabian, Joss, for two years. I finally convinced my parents it was time to get me my own horse. I started looking online and would bring pictures of different horses to my trainer, Bethany Wilhelmsen, to look at. She would separate them into a "yes" and "no" pile. When I found Allie, I brought the ad to Bethany and she kept putting it in the no pile. Bethany didn't like the pictures of Allie because she was curled and thought it would be difficult to break those bad habits. But I was persistent and kept putting her back in the yes pile. I don't know why I did it because I never dreamed of owning a chestnut horse, let alone a mare. My parents finally gave in and she was the first horse we went to look at. My first reaction was that she was very plain but elegant looking, but then I rode her and fell in love. Again, I don't know what it was but something just clicked and I felt safe with her. We decided after looking at other horses to lease Allie for a month and see how we did. By the end of the month, everybody that came into contact with Allie wanted to buy her, if we didn't. She even won Bethany over. She is the sweetest and most hardworking horse I have ever ridden and I wouldn't trade her for the world.

World Dressage Masters Star Steffen Peters Wins Premier Equestrian Sportsmanship Award

Wellington, FL (March 15, 2011) – United States Dressage rider Steffen Peters turned in the ride of his life aboard his equine partner, Ravel, in front of a sold-out crowd at the World Dressage Masters Palm Beach CDI5* at the Jim Brandon Equestrian Center in Wellington. In addition to earning a “personal best” score on Ravel, Peters also rode away as the winner of the Premier Equestrian Sportsmanship Award. Heidi Zorn, President of Premier Equestrian, attended the World Dressage Masters and said Peters and Ravel’s Grand Prix was breathtaking. “Steffen is our top American Dressage rider and he really proved why he is during the Masters,” Zorn said. “Ravel is a truly talented horse and the pair rode to their trademark Coldplay and Rolling Stones music during the freestyle. It is a ride I will remember forever.” Zorn said she was thrilled to award the Premier Equestrian Sportsmanship Award to Peters. “Steffen was extremely gracious to his fans, and his benevolence towards perfect strangers convinced me that good sportsmanship includes being courteous with other competitors as well as the public. This super star proved his greatness with his chivalrous disposition towards devoted fans. Steffen exemplifies a good sport when he is showing and I am so proud of what he just did for American dressage,” she said, adding that Premier was also responsible for adding the GGT-Footing to the arenas prior to the Masters. “Steffen gave our arena footing rave reviews and said he believes the footing helped Ravel’s overall performance. That is an amazing testimonial for our dressage arena footing and Premier thanks Steffen for his kind words.”

Steffen, a double Individual Bronze medalist from the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, praised the equine footing as well as Ravel, a 13-year-old KWPN gelding owned by Akiko Yamazaki. “I’m appreciative of what a great horse I have,” Peters said. “It was great show and a fantastic atmosphere. The indoor arena footing was fantastic. Ravel has never been better and that says a lot about the footing and the facility. I also set a record score for myself in the Grand Prix and it really was a fantastic weekend.” Sponsored by Premier Equestrian, a leading supplier of dressage arenas, horse jumps, arena footing, stable accessories and producers of Zettl’s “Matter of Trust” DVD series, the Premier Sportsmanship Award is awarded to a rider who displays a high level of sportsmanship during a show. As the Sportsmanship Award winner, Peters rode away with an ALS-216 Comtek Wireless System.

The Comtek Wireless System is a one-way communication system offering perfect speech clarity over distances as far as 300 feet. It overcomes the hearing challenge of distance between instructor and student. Its rugged construction ensures durability in even the most demanding environments. The Comtek System has 60 channels. Multiple channel operation has five High Fidelity frequencies together without interference.

“It was wonderful to stand there with Steffen after the Masters and listen to him talk about his love for Ravel and dressage. I am in awe when I think about what a mark Steffen has made on the sport of dressage in America,” Zorn said. “He not only won two bronze medals at WEG, but he also placed fourth individually at the 2008 Olympic Games, won the FEI World Cup and won at Aachen in 2009.”

Premier Equestrian is considered America’s leading manufacturer of dressage arenas. Chosen as an official supplier to the World Equestrian Games, Premier Equestrian supplied the dressage arenas as well as the dressage warm-up arena, driving arena, driving warm-up arena and the flower boxes and dressage letters at the Games. “Our products are world-class and they were very well received by the international dressage community at the World Equestrian Games,” Zorn said.

For more information on all Premier Equestrian products, including footing, dressage arenas, jumps and stable accessories, visit their website at www.PremierEquestrian.com <<http://www.PremierEquestrian.com>> or call [800-611-6109](tel:800-611-6109).

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Through this swinging back the propulsive force generated by the quarters can now be transmitted forward to the horse's mouth. The horse submits to the energy coming from behind: he flexes in the poll and chomps the bit—in other words he is on the bit. This situation also provides an opportunity to influence the hindquarters with the reins. (*USDF Training Manual Classic Training of the horse.*)

When ridden on contact, the horse's outline is determined by his balance. At first he will carry his neck rather low and his mouth in line with the point of the shoulder, to allow the neck and the back muscles to relax and stretch. (*USDF Training Manual Classical Training of the Horse.*)

Time to Renew your UDS Membership.

The UDS will NOT raise its membership fee for this year. The USDF has raised their fees, but we will keep our dues at \$50.00 for adults and \$40.00 for JRs. (\$20.00 of that goes to the USDF.) You can print a form from the UDS Website and mail in your membership form or use PayPal and pay on-line. If you need a copy of the Membership form, contact Kay vanPatter at 801-968-9227. If you haven't renewed your membership, this will be your last newsletter . :).