

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UTAH DRESSAGE SOCIETY

FEB / MAR 2009

Utah Dressage Society

Special Points of Interest:

- *Office of the President—a bi-monthly update from Stacey Ade, UDS president*
- *Clinic review from Jill Knittel, UDS Scholarship recipient*
- *Event Calendar*
- *About the Newsletter—Letter from the Editor (Mrs. Ed)*

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

MRS. ED

Greetings everyone.

In 2001 (maybe 2002), when I published my last USDS newsletter, I swore to myself, my family, my horse, my dog, my friends and my *Higher Power* that I would never do this again. Unfortunately, I could not resist the opportunity to have my own column again. Dang, if I weren't such a bigmouth, and so horrifically opinionated Duh, who's to blame. At any rate, here we are again.

OK, so I'll get real. My mouth is only medium-sized (opinionated is a way of life). The real reason I agreed to do this job is that I believe

very strongly that the UDS has value for all of us. Imagine how lonely it would be without an organization of people who shared your passion for horses and horsemanship. Without the UDS, we would have no common source for information about our sport—everything from clinics and shows, general community information, and updates that we get from the larger USDF organization as a Group Member Organization (GMO).

Think **Connectivity, Community** and **Common Interest**—well, it's like a village. And face it. If you do your dressage all alone,

and no one sees it; is it really Dressage?

The word *Dressage* means *training* in French. Naturally, the French attribute all kinds of nuances—far beyond our Yankee ability to comprehend—to this particular kind of training. In a practical sense, how do you *train*, if you have no input but your own? Suppose you can only hear yourself, and your horse? In that case, 1 + 1 = 2. Not more. Just 2.

But if your eyes and mind are open, and you have a village from which to draw experience and information, then 1 + 1 + Infinity = Infin-

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Bravo—Welsh Pony/Cob and #1 Newsletter Advisor (AKA Mr. Ed)

“Size is on the *INSIDE*.”

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

STACEY ADE, UDS PRESIDENT

2009 is well on its way as we find ourselves setting goals for the rest of the year. Since resolutions are in order - I should tell you about my goals for the UDS in the coming year. First I would like improve communication and keep a list of all the clinics and events that are offered within our club. A list we can keep updating on the

web and our Newsletter. There is a lot that goes on and it would be nice to get that info to our members who may not otherwise be aware. As the UDS plans educational events for the year - we can only speculate on what we think the members would like to see us offer, but truth be told - we need your input on this. Give it some thought

and drop us a line.

Only about 1/3 of our members find themselves in the show ring. So the second thing I would like to see is for us to add some events for the other 2/3 of our club. Perhaps organizing some trail rides and events where we bring our horse's together and have fun. We

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Stacey Ade—UDS President

MRS. ED CONTINUED*(Continued from page 1)*

ity.

So even if you don't ride in clinics or shows—heck, maybe you can't afford lessons—the resources are here. Isn't it nice to know that there are other people out there, working toward similar goals? Friends, with an open mind you can POACH to infinity if you have contact or knowledge of your compatriots.

The UDS provides us the opportunity to meet like-minded lunatics, learn from clinics we don't attend, and locate the lessons and riders on whom we wish to SPY. Truly, I've never met anyone yet who doesn't want to tell talk about what they do, how they do it,

and why it matters. How cool is that?

Newsletter Stuff: Here are some guidelines for this newsletter:

- If I've made an error in content, please let me know ASAP (nicely) and I will publish a correction.
- If you have constructive suggestions please contact me and I will (at least) respond.
- If you have information, articles or pictures, please send them and I will include them (cannot be a product or business endorsement).
- If you have tons of great ideas that are not being

implemented, please contact the UDS board and tell them that you want to be the Newsletter Editor.

I won't be hurt. Really.

PLEASE SEND articles, pictures, calendar items, opinions, editorials and tips ... and we can add sections as needed.

Send content to krokok@earthlink.net. To ensure that your message is not identified as SPAM, please, use the words **UDS Newsletter** in the *Subject* line.

Please Refer to: Newsletter submission guidelines on Page 5. I'll continue to tune the format. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

Caroline Kroko (*Mrs. Ed*)

PRESIDENT CONTINUED*(Continued from page 1)*

could even establish periodic get-togethers. Perhaps BBQs & parties and events where we can get to know one another and let our hair down. This is your club!

The third thing I would like to see for the UDS in 2009 is for us all to extend a welcome to new members as well as existing members. A smile and a friendly hello goes a long way to open doors and establish a camaraderie that will strengthen the UDS for all of us.

Let us know what you would like to see and we will add it to our "wish list" and work towards making those ideas a reality.

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Distributed by: Marlo ViVenizio 801-918-9715

BILL WOODS CLINIC REPORT

BY JILL KNITTEL

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the Bill Woods clinic the weekend of Jan. 9-11. I haven't been an avid clinic attendee for most of my riding career, mostly because I could receive about 3 or 4 lessons from my regular instructor for the cost of one lesson with a clinician, and I always wonder if I'll get 3 to 4 times the knowledge? However, this past year I've been branching out a little, rode with Sharon Schneideman and Paula Lacey, and realized that you might not get 3 times the knowledge, but they say things differently or have a slightly different exercise which can either jump start you or get you over a plateau you've been hanging onto for a while. Those tidbits alone are worth it.

So when I was asked Thursday night if I wanted to ride with Bill Friday and Sunday, I jumped at the chance. Yes, a few questions ran through my head such as: kids? Check. Money? Check. Will he make me cry? Well... I had heard rumors about how nasty he can be, and while I can handle someone getting after me a little, I didn't want to waste my money like that.

Turns out, I had nothing to worry about. Bill was delightfully funny and shockingly flirtatious, and right on the mark when it came to my horse. My mare is 9 years old, a Dutch x Zweibrucker x TB mix, and likes to buck. Bill had me ride her more forward and more up than I thought possible, and compared her to a drawer with a false bottom. You think it's only 5 inches deep, but it's really 8 inches deep. We (ok, Bill) found that extra 3 inches Sunday, but since then, I think

she's been shifting that false bottom around on me some...

Bill rode for about 30 minutes on Sunday, and I was impressed by how much finesse he had. He was trying to get through that false bottom, and did a lot of bending exercises at the walk, but what I really noticed was how quickly she reacted to him as compared to me. A lot of it is in how he used his whip. When I smack her, it's exactly that: smack. She may or may not react. When he smacked her, he flicked his wrist so that it was more of a snap – the whip went in, got her, and came out, all very quickly, and she responded in kind. Once she was moving around his legs and bending, he took her to the trot and canter, and wow! What a difference it made. I had no idea my mare was capable of moving like that.

So here's some of the tidbits I took away from this clinic:

- When it feels like she's sticking her nose up in the air, it's just about right. I'd look in the mirror, thinking she's going to look like some run-away Arab, and instead her poll was up and she was nicely round.
- Make 1,000 half halts on my shoulder-in. When she's leaning onto her outside shoulder, instead of doing nicely planned half halts and waiting to see if she responds, do 1,000 of them. It was amazing how she picked that shoulder up.
- Keep my inside leg at the girth for the shoulder-in,

outside leg slightly behind the girth. For some reason, my legs always want to do the opposite. (Probably to help hold up that shoulder.)

- More is not necessarily better. For the haunches-in, I was throwing my outside leg back and not getting much response. Amazingly, when I brought it forward enough so I could keep my heel down, I got a better haunches-in.
- Allow the horse to do her job. Sounds easy, so why am I pulling back on the reins in every lateral movement? So she won't take off, but it won't allow her to go forward, either.
- Relax. Yeah, right – when you know she might take off bucking at any minute? At one point Bill was tapping her with the whip in canter and she went nicely more forward, instead of bucking, which she would have done with me. I asked him about this, and he said that his body was all "loosy goosy" and just went with her, instead of resisting. He's right. If I had been on her, I would have tensed up, expecting the buck, and therefore creating exactly what I didn't want.

What I liked most about Bill was his ability to gauge exactly what the horse needed, and he never overused the whip. When he told me to tap her twice, he meant exactly that: twice. I did it three times because I didn't expect her to



Calling All Trainers!

If you are planning a clinic or seminar, and it is open to the UDS members, please let us know!

The UDS would like to improve the communication to our members and list all the educational activities that in which they can participate.

If you send your information to Caroline Kroko, UDS newsletter editor at krokoc@earthlink.net, we will list these events.

Please provide any details you wish us to convey, and give contact information (phone, email) so that interested members can contact you directly.

respond, and he (nicely) made it clear that I didn't need the third tap. I like knowing exactly when and how hard to hit her, and I wish I had a more intuitive ability for that. Looking back at my punch list above, those tidbits aren't secrets no one has ever told me before. They're pretty much common sense to any dressage rider. It was just the way they were said, the conditions in which they were said, and the immediate follow-up into the next exercise that made them well worth the money spent on the clinic. I look forward to my next ride with Bill.

UDS BOARD MEETING MINUTES—DECEMBER 2008

DISCUSSION

Because 2010 is a rotational year our Annual Show would be scheduled after school has started – Eva recommends we schedule the Annual Show for August 20 – 21 prior to beginning the school year;

A Show Secretary must be a member of USDF, USEF and the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society

Ribbons need to be ordered to take advantage of discounts

Presently we are planning on Kay being the Show Secretary and Sue being the Show Manager, Eva will be available to train and assist

Proposed changes to competition rules:

Requiring Ponies to have a pony card or be measured at the show;

Regarding incorrectly filled out forms

Indicating that an entry can be refused for any reason

New USDF rule requires that horses must enter at A

Consider having an “Opportunity Class” where the competitor does NOT need to be a member of anything to compete

Many USEF rule changes will affect competitions in 2009

It will cost \$250 to change the show venue for 2009

Julie will contact the Wasatch Event Center to schedule this facility for August 21-22 2010

Eva will contact the second judge for 2010

BANQUET

Ribbons and awards will cost \$2,000 - \$3,000

Need to create list of all the benefits members get with membership

Need to think about what the UDS has accomplished this year

We will decide on awards at our January meeting

Photo albums were suggested as an award

Ribbons will be awarded to 6th place – Stacey and Julie will work on this together

SCHOLARSHIPS

Adult Amateur – Randi Verrier recipient

Jr/Young Rider – Evan Hill recipient

Open – Stacey Williams and Jill Knittle recipients

Each recipient must write a newsletter article about how the scholarship was used before the check is sent

Need to update rules to include scholarships – see application

NEWSLETTER

Caroline Krocko has volunteered to do our newsletter and will have her dues waived, Stacey will contact Caroline

Kay called the IRS for clarification regarding whether we could waive dues for board members. She spoke with Ms. Mitchell #0196317 on 12/04/08 who indicated that dues CAN be waived without violating our 501(c)(7) status

MOTION passed to waive dues for active board members

MOTION passed to waive dues for Julie Fox and Faye Anderson for the number of years they served on the board

OMNIBUS

Julie has agreed to be the Omnibus editor for 2009

Barb has agreed to handle the Competition Directors responsibilities for the Annual Show should we be unable to fill this position

Next meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, January 7, 2009 at the Office of Sue Jero

UDS Announcements

- **Stacey Ade** is the UDS president
- The board is voting on a new Vice-President in February
- **Sue Jero** has taken over the empty position of Director of Competitions. Sue is working with Eva Adolphi to learn about show management. This is an obvious fit.
- **Caroline Krocko** is the new Newsletter Editor
- The board is voting on a new Vice-President in February

FEBRUARY—MARCH 2009 EVENT CALENDAR

CLINICS

- **Feb 27—Mar 1:** Sandy Howard Clinic in Heber. Contact Stephanie Brown-Beamer 435-513-0930.
- **Feb 27 and 28:** Joan Bolton Clinic at Bella in SLC. Contact Marlo ViVenzio (auditing is free!) 801-918-9715
- **Feb 29 and Mar 1:** USDF Instructor Certification Education Program: Advanced Lunging of the Horse Workshop for USDF Instructor Candidates, USDF Certified Instructor Workshop. Auditors welcome. Contact: Adrianna Silvestri, 435-655-1272 or asilvestri@promontoryclub.com.
- **Mar 27, 28, 29:** Bill Woods clinic. Presently no openings, but contact Ellen Walker to fly standby or Audit

SHOWS

- **May 13:** Hoofbeats Schooling show at Lynnleigh Farms. Contact Nance Allen Nance@xmission.com
- **June 10:** Hoofbeats Schooling show at Lynnleigh Farms. Contact Nance Allen Nance@xmission.com
- **July 15:** Hoofbeats Schooling show at Lynnleigh Farms. Contact Nance Allen Nance@xmission.com
- **Aug 12 :** Hoofbeats Schooling show at Lynnleigh Farms. Contact Nance Allen Nance@xmission.com

OTHER EVENTS

- **March 7:** UDS Annual Awards Banquet (check website)

Much Later ...

- **June 21:** Sandy Howard Clinic (after show). Donnette Hicks 435-901-0095 if you would like to audit.

[Current Members Eligible for WEG Tickets – Get Details Now!](#)

United States Dressage Federation (USDF) members will have an exclusive opportunity to purchase tickets to the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games if they are a USDF member as of February 11, 2009 and have a valid e-mail address on file with the USDF. All categories of USDF membership will be included in this ticket deposit offer as long as the purchaser is a current 2009 USDF member.

Go the UDSF website for more information

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Please do not hesitate to send information that you would like to see included in the newsletter.

Here are some guidelines that will help make this process smooth for all of us:

1. If you need proofing or copy or photo-editing, please let me know in advance and I will help to arrange for these services to be provided.
2. Unless we make other arrangements, your article will be cut and pasted into the newsletter.
3. Unless we make other arrangements, your adver-

tisement will be cut and pasted into the newsletter.

GENERAL NOTE: Light text on a dark background is rarely successful with the level of resolution that we use for the newsletter. If you have graphics, please make sure that the background is lighter than the text or photos.

Please send any content that you wish to see included. Pictures are popular, and narrative and tips are valuable to all of us.

If you have questions about formats, please contact me in advance. Thank you!

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you will likely have many offers of help. If, however, the situation is unsafe and cannot be resolved, you should leave the common areas, and if necessary, the site.

If your horse is ill, or may be ill, keep him home. Scratch. Try to find someone to take your clinic ride. Do not jeopardize the health and safety of others.

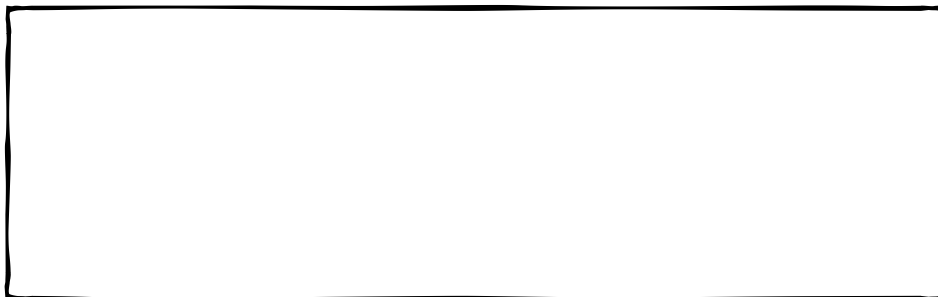
It's all just common courtesy, but sometimes, under the stress of travel and training, we forget these basics.



Utah Dressage Society
PO Box 562
Draper, Utah
84020

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

<http://www.utahdressagesociety.net>



MS MANNERS – GOOD GUESTS

As we focus on our training, it's important to remember that we are also members of a larger barn community. Here are a few reminders based on recent observations:

If you travel to another facility for any purpose, remember that you are a guest, not a celebrity. Even if you don't clean up after yourself at your barn, make sure and do so at the host facility. This includes sweeping up gunk that you scrape out of your horse's feet, hair that comes off while you brush, and dirt that you track into common areas like barn aisles.

Of course, never, ever leave your horse's poop anywhere but the manure pile.

Unless you make previous

arrangements, a grounds or clinic fee does not normally include access to stalls, turn-outs, hay or cleanup services. Even though someone's stall may be empty when you arrive, this does not mean that it's available for your use.

If you have requested and received permission to put your horse into a stall, and you have not explicitly paid for a stall cleaner, clean the stall before you leave.

When in doubt, ASK: *Where should I park my trailer? Is it OK to tie my horse here (if you're not tying to your trailer)? Is there somewhere I can warm up?* (this latter is particularly critical in winter-time when there is only 1 indoor arena).

Unless the entire facility has been exclusively leased for the event, consider yourself to be a guest of the boarders. Like Stacey says "a smile and a friendly *Hello* go a long way."

Additionally, with or without your presence, the people who work at the host barn need to complete their daily tasks. You can assume that there is a routine that is necessary to provide the services for which boarders have paid. Unless you're willing to pick up someone's board bill, try not to disrupt this routine.

Unless you are explicitly told otherwise, close all gates. Always.

If you are having problems with your horse's behavior,

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From the Horse's Mouth:

If you were reincarnated as a horse, would you be as generous as I am? I weigh about 10 times what you do.

Be Thoughtful.

XOXO Bravo