



CENTERLINE



CONNECTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

April 2003

Connecticut Dressage Association

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CENTERLINE

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Centerline is the official newsletter of the Connecticut Dressage Association and is published about 10 times annually. It is distributed to all members. CDA welcomes story ideas, informative articles and commentary. Please submit all contributions to: John Gordon, 24 Darren Court Waterbury, CT 06708

Email -

Centerline@ctdressageassoc.org
Subject: Centerline

- CDA Website -
<http://ctdressageassoc.org>

President's Message

The first two of our 2003 CDA activities have come and gone and two more are approaching fast. The first in the "come and gone" category was our Awards party which, despite the threat of icy roads, was attended by many of our members. We had some great compliments on the embroidered saddle pads given to our champions as an award for their accomplishments in 2002. Thanks to Marcie Gordon for making such a great selection. As usual the food was excellent thanks to the culinary expertise of Pam Bilodeau. We had some new faces to welcome this year and also had the pleasure of the company of a couple of our founding members who we had not seen for a while. Thanks to Minna Hebert and Pat Szepesi for attending and showing their support for our organization.

The second in the "come and gone" category was our scribe clinic that was held on Sunday, March 9th. We had planned for eight or ten attendees but ended up with seventeen. We were concerned the three hour timeframe might be too long but, with all the information Margaret Freeman had to share and the many great questions posed to her, we actually needed to extend the time and could easily have gone on for another hour beyond that scheduled. Margaret was an enthusiastic and knowledgeable speaker who kept the interest of all. Thanks to her for her donation of time and knowledge which made this a very successful clinic. We also thank Fern Feldman who donated the use of her lovely home for both of the above-mentioned happenings.

By the time you receive this we will also have held our "Secrets of Successful Show Preparation" clinic at Once Again Farm and our first CDA schooling competition at Hannover Dressage in East Windsor CT.

Remember to put on your calendar our upcoming May 4th Schooling Show at Once Again Farm, our May 24th /25th Clinic with Roel Theunissen at Hannover Dressage, and our May 31st /June 1st Recognized Competition at Ox Ridge Hunt Club.

My last reminder is to those who have not yet renewed their membership. As you can see we are having many more clinics and competitions this year. As membership does allow a reduced cost for our clinics and competitions, and it is also a requirement that you be a member **before** you ride a test in order for it to qualify for our year-end awards, please take the time to renew now.

Wishing you all well,

Nancy

Hey Youth Riders-

Coming up on April 12 we will be having our Youth meeting to prepare for the upcoming youth rider clinic in July. During this meeting we will be discussing the dates for the clinic, as well as the clinicians and agenda of activities. This is our first year, and we need to make it a great one! Please join us. It will be at Fair Weather Farm in Bristol, CT, and we will meet there at 1 p.m. Please call me if you would like to come, or need directions.

Also, for those interested in the clinic, we will be sending out more information to you soon, on costs, and dates as soon as we can. This will be a great event, and if all goes well maybe an annual one! This is a great way to prepare for shows, and move your way up the levels. You will be able to meet new friends and learn some interesting, helpful new things from our clinicians, which not only include a wonderful dressage instructor, but vets, dentists, farriers and other helpful equine practitioners. It will be at Melanie Tenney's Woodcock Hill Farm in West Willington, CT. It will last three, probably, weekdays, to make sure you don't miss any shows.

For any information concerning any of these or other CDA Youth events, please contact me at JrYR@ctdressageassoc.org, or call (860) 585-8693.

Hope to see you soon,
Desiree Bilodeau

2003 Calendar of Events

May 4

CDA Schooling Show
Once Again Farm
Nancy Blanchard
860-283-8748

May 11

Dressage in the Litchfield Hills
Litchfield Hills Equestrian Centre
Penny Hawes
860-567-1441

May 17-18

USDF Region 8 Symposium with
Lendon Gray and Shannon Dueck
Gleneden Dressage, Bedford, NY
Contact Fern Feldman, fernf@cox.net;
203-272-0711.

May 24-25

CDA Clinic with
Roel Theunissen
At Hannover Dressage
Donna Leonessa
860-742-8110

May 31-June 1

CDA Spring Competition
Ox Ridge Hunt Club
Debra Reinhardt
(203)264-2148
debra@centerlineevents.com

June 8

Hannover Dressage Series
East Windsor
Kelly Cordes
860-386-0747

June 13-14

Clinics with Dr. Cesar Parra
Columbia, CT
Visit his website:
<http://www.piaffe-performance.com>

Advertising

Needed: EMT with CT license for the CDA Spring Competition at Ox Ridge Hunt Club, Darien, CT on May 31 and June 1st. Help your club! Contact Debra Reinhardt, 203-264 2148 or debra@centerlineevents.com.

On farm 1/2 Leases available at Fox Ledge Farm.
14 y.o. 16.1h TBX mare, evented successfully through Tr-level.17 y.o. SWB 15.2h mare, shown successfully through 4th level.
Contact Ann Guptill - aguptill@att.net,
eqarts@snet.net.
FLF 860-873-8108 cell 860-608-7985

“GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....”

Featuring CDA youth member Kate Lussier

By: Marcie Gordon

Kate Lussier lives in Wallingford, CT with her parents Georgian and Bill Lussier and their 11-year-old dog Blackie (a chihuahua mix). A sophomore at Lyman Hall High School in Wallingford, Kate's favorite subjects are Biology and English. Kate said, "I enjoy English because I like to read and learn about the great writers. Biology, however, is my favorite subject; probably because I like finding out how living things are constructed and what happens inside of them to make them work". It is not surprising to learn that Kate's biology teacher Mrs. Mitchell is her favorite instructor!

Kate was recently presented the CDA year-end reserve champion award for Training Level/Junior division in recognized competitions. Kate's partner in dressage is her horse Greenwood Quintana (a.k.a. "Quint") who is boarded at Blue Streak Farm, which is located near her home. Quint is an eleven-year-old dark chestnut Morgan gelding who is currently recovering from a leg injury. According to Kate, Quint will be out of work for at least four months. While Kate's plans for showing this season may have hit a bump in the road, this young lady has a very positive out-look on a seemingly disappointing situation. Kate explained "Leslie Weiss (a fellow CDA member) has been very kind in offering to let me ride her horse "Teg" in weekly lessons at Once Again Farm until Quint recovers. I am currently looking for a horse to show but if that does not come through I plan on attending the shows and grooming, volunteering and of course watching!"

Seven years ago Kate's grandparents had some "very good luck" in Las Vegas. Wanting to share their good fortune, they purchased four year old Quint for then eight year old Kate. Looking back on this time, Kate realizes now that "it was not a good combination". Kate and Quint were riding hunt-seat flat classes at the Morgan shows. While the young horse did well when Kate's trainer rode him in competition, he had little respect when Kate rode him. Kate and her family made the decision to seek out more disciplined training for Kate and Quint. It was almost four years ago that Kate and Quint began training with Vicki Hammers-O'Neil at Once Again Farm in Meriden, CT.

What a difference four years can make! Kate explains, "With Vicki's help, Quint and I have gone from 47% to 67% at training level in three show seasons. Quint was quite opposed to the idea of dressage at first; we had to "untrain" all of his "Morgan training" in order for him to do dressage correctly. With Vicki's help we overcame all of that 'naughty horse' stuff, so it's all been worth it".

Kate recalls the following highlight in her riding career. "While it may not be positive, a moment comes to mind when Quint and I had an exciting ride at the North East Junior/Young Rider show in 2000. Quint decided he wanted 'out of the ring' and he pulled a few 'rodeo' movements in the middle of our first test in a recognized show. It really was quite funny looking back on it. I say the best thing to do when things don't go as planned is to sit back and laugh and just chalk it up to experience, right? One of the judge's comments was 'good job staying on' and when I came out of the ring Vicki dubbed me 'velcro-butt'. It didn't upset me that much and I am very happy that I didn't let it discourage me." Kate is to be complimented on a very positive life-lesson highlight learned on that day in 2000...a lesson she is not likely to forget.

Kate Lussier's life is quite busy with her academic responsibilities, caring for Quint during his recuperation, regular riding lessons and occasionally working at Once Again Farm. When she has some extra time, Kate also enjoys skiing and running. Kate also is happy that CDA is offering more clinics this year. Although her life is busy, Kate has personal and professional goals, which include becoming a working student and eventually a dressage trainer. "I plan on staying in the dressage community for the rest of my life."

To paraphrase an old saying: when something negative happens something positive will always be learned from that experience if one allows it to happen. Although young in years, CDA youth member Kate Lussier has learned many of these wonderful life-lessons and we thank her for sharing them with us. You are an inspiration to us all, Kate!

Opening Date: April 5, 2003

Closing Date: April 29, 2003

Sunday, May 4, 2003
Connecticut Dressage Association
Schooling Show

Location - Once Again Farm
750 Allen Ave.,
Meriden, CT 06451

Judge: Lisa Schmidt

Secretary: Nancy Blanchard
P. O. Box 9
Thomaston CT 06787
860-283-8748

Class List: USDF 2003 Introductory Tests A and B
USAE 2003 Training 1-4.
USAE 2003 First 1-4.
USAE 2003 Second and above-State test to be ridden.
Dressage Equitation.

Fees: CDA members \$20 per test.
Non-members \$30 per test.
Number deposit: \$1
Checks payable to CDA.
No refunds after closing date.

Awards: Up to six ribbons awarded in each class.

Rules: Number of rides per horse/rider combination may be limited to two. State two preferred tests first on application. Current negative Coggins within 12 months is mandatory and must accompany entry. All competitors must wear hard hats. Classes may be combined, split, or canceled at the discretion of management. Family pets not allowed on the premises. CDA thanks to Once Again Farm for the use of its facility. Please treat the grounds as you would your own property. Place all trash in designated containers; no alcohol, please.

Times: Call the show secretary the Friday before the show between 6 - 9 P.M. or email Blanchard_E@msn.com to have your ride times provided to you via email reply. You will be able to view the ride times on the CDA website on Friday before the show - ctdressageassoc.org.

May 24th and 25th
CDA presents a riding clinic and lecture on
dressage with
ROEL THEUNISSEN Of Wadsworth Farm
At
Hannover Dressage
In East Windsor,
Connecticut

Roel graduated from Deurne, the prestigious Dutch National Equestrian Institut. After graduation, he moved to Germany to study with internationally recognized trainer Georg Theodorescu, also the father of German Olympic Rider, Monica Theodorescu.

After 18 months training with Mr.Theodorescu, Roel returned to The Netherlands and spent the next 10 years working with Henk van Bergen, who remains his mentor to this day. Henk was the coach of the Dutch Olympic team who captured the Bronze Medal in 1988. In 1993, he was "Trainer of the Year", an honor bestowed upon him by the International Dressage Trainers Club, whose members include the finest dressage trainers in the world. Other recipients of this prestigious award include Sjef Janssen, coach of Anky van Grunsven, and the late Herbert Rhebein of Germany.

While working as an Assistant Trainer at Henk's, Roel also had his own Dressage Training stable at Berkenhoeve, a well-known Trakehener breeding farm. He has competed at the FEI level, and trained horses and riders through Grand Prix. A recommendation from Henk and Wilma van Bergen brought Roel to the Boston area. As Head Trainer and General Manager of Wadsworth Farm, Roel operates a very successful training business. He remains open to working with all horses, and all the horses he works with are truly transformed through his training. Roel is also a down-to-earth, articulate instructor, open to working with all motivated clients that have a serious interest in improving. As a seasoned professional, Roel demonstrates an incredible talent, determination, and commitment that bring out the best in a horse or rider. If they can work hard and possess enough natural ability, Roel will inspire them to new levels.

The Clinic will offer Ten 45 Minute sessions along with a lecture during the lunch hour. Auditors are welcome and rates will include lunch for those that signup in advance.

Interested clinic riders should contact: Donna Leonessa, Adult Education Coordinator, dleonessa@hotmail.com or 860-742-8110 for more information. Slots will fill up quickly and will cost \$90.00 for a private 45 minute session.

**May 24th and 25th
CDA Clinic with
ROEL THEUNISSEN Of Wadsworth Farm
At
Hannover Dressage
In East Windsor, Connecticut**

AUDITOR SIGN UP

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

******Auditors who sign up prior to May 23th will be provided with breakfast and lunch during the clinic.
Auditors who do not sign up by May 23th will pay an additional \$5.00 on the day of the clinic for breakfast
and lunch.******

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2003 (Starting at 9 am)

_____CDA Member: \$25.00
_____Non-Member: \$35.00
_____JuniorYR (21 under): \$20.00

SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2003 (Starting at 9 am)

_____CDA Member: \$25.00
_____Non-Member: \$35.00
_____JuniorYR (21 under): \$20.00

BOTH DAYS:

_____CDA Member: \$35.00
_____Non-Member: \$55.00
_____JuniorYR (21 under): \$30.00

GRAND TOTAL (Please make checks payable to CDA) \$_____

Please send Auditor Sign Up with check payable to CDA to:
Donna Leonessa, Adult Education Coordinator
3080 South Street
Coventry, CT 06238
Dleonessa@hotmail.com (860) 742-8110

Connecticut Dressage Association Spring Competition

Opening Date: April 8, 2003 USAE # 243861
Closing Date: May 9, 2003 USDF # 75260

Days & Dates: Saturday, May 31 and Sunday June 1, 2003

Official Name: Connecticut Dressage Association Spring Competition
Official Region 8 USDF Qualifying Competition for the 2003
North American Young Riders' Championships, BLM Qualifier

Location: Ox Ridge Hunt Club, Darien, CT

**Manager
and
Secretary** Debra Reinhardt
160 Woods Way Drive
Southbury, CT 06488
(203)264-2148
debra@centerlineevents.com

Judges: Marianne Ludwig, FL, (I)
Lois Yukins, MA, (I)
Kem Barbosa, NJ, (S)
Marilyn Heath, PA, (S)
Pamela Wooding, NJ, (R)
Lisa Schmidt, NJ, (r)

Technical Delegate: Linda Rands, FL, (R)

Levels: Training through Grand Prix. AA and Jr/YR classes offered as noted if entries warrant. ABIC/USDF Qualifying including Connecticut Freestyle Champion (CFC) Qualifying classes offered. GEC, Gray Equitation Challenge, rules on www.centerlineevents.com.

Awards: All 1st place will receive a trophy sponsored by the **Equestrian Centre**. Six ribbons will be presented in each class. Awards for high scoring Open, Jr/YR, Adult Amateur, and CDA Member. To qualify for CDA member award you must be a member by closing date. To qualify for Adult Amateur award you must be an USA Eq AA.

Entries: Leadline class-\$10. Class #70 - \$30. Training thru Fourth, USDF Freestyles-\$40 per class. All FEI classes -\$60 per class (multi-judges). Qualifying classes add \$10 to class fee. All entries **MUST** submit USAE and USDF documents for rider, owner, trainer and horse as appropriate for entry, a \$10 drug fee (\$7 Drug & Med fee, \$3 USAE fee), and non-refundable \$10 office fee. No entry accepted without a negative Coggins dated within 12 months of show. Please include \$20 USA Eq. non-member fee and/or \$5 discipline fee if applicable. Make checks payable to CDA. **No refunds after closing date.** Non-negotiable check will be charged \$20. Post entries will be accepted to fill scratches with a \$20 post entry fee. Non-competing horses if space available, \$45 office fee.

Times: Times will be on the website, www.centerlineevents.com, at least one-week prior to the competition. If you wish for your times to be sent, please include SASE.

Stabling: Limited number of temporary stalls with full doors available at \$125 for duration. A separate \$25 check for stall cleaning deposit. No refunds on stabling after closing date (except for stall deposit).

Accommodations:

Holiday Select, 203-358-8400. Pets allowed! Host Hotel, \$90
Double Tree managed by Hilton, 203-853-3477, \$90
Howard Johnson, 203-655-3933

To receive the above special published rates, you must call before May16th and ask for CDA Spring Competition rate.

Directions:

From New York: Exit 10 off CT I -95; left off ramp, right at fourth light, Middlesex Rd. Two miles to entrance on right.

From New Haven: Exit 10 off CT I-95; (Noroton Heights), bear left at island, and continue uphill to stop light, turn right, go to third light, turn

right onto Middlesex Road. Two miles to entrance on right.

From New York or New Haven on Merritt (cars only): Exit 37, Rte 124 south, right off ramp, 1.5 miles to Middlesex Rd, turn right and bear left at stop sign, entrance on left.

Footing: Two sand arenas with sand warm up. One sand arena on grass and warm-up. One grass arena and warm up on closely mowed Polo Field. All competition arenas are 20m x 60m.

Entertainment: Food available on the grounds beginning 7am each day.

Other: **Management reserves the right to combine, divide, or cancel any class.** Farrier on the grounds. Veterinarian on call, Fairfield Equine (203) 270-3600. All dogs must be leashed.

Class List:

100. Leadline	4 to 10 yrs old	Sun
1. Training Level Test 1	Open	Sat/Sun
2. Training Level Test 2	Open/ AA/Jr-YR	Sat/Sun
3. Training Level Test 3	Open/BLM Qualifying	Sat/Sun
4. Training Level Test 4	Open/ ABIC/USDF Qualifying	Sat/Sun
11. First Level Test 1	Open	Sat/Sun
12. First Level Test 2	Open/AA/Jr-YR	Sat/Sun
13. First Level Test 3	Open/BLM Qualifying	Sat/Sun
14. First Level Test 4	Open/ABIC/USDF Qualifying	Sat/Sun
21. Second Level Test 1	Open	Sat/Sun
22. Second Level Test 2	Open/AA/Jr-YR	Sat/Sun
23. Second Level Test 3	Open/BLM Qualifying	Sat/Sun
24. Second Level Test 4	Open/ABIC/USDF Qualifying	Sat/Sun.
31. Third Level Test 1	Open/AA/Jr-YR	Sat
32. Third Level Test 2	Open/BLM Qualifying	Sun
33. Third Level Test 3	Open/ABIC/USDF Qualifying	Sat/Sun
41. Fourth Level Test 1	Open/AA/Jr-YR	Sat/Sun
42. Fourth Level Test 2	Open/BLM Qualifying	Sat/Sun.
43. Fourth Level Test 3	Open/ABIC/USDF Qualifying	Sat/Sun
51. Prix St. George	Open/BLM Q/ABIC/USDF Qual	Sat/Sun
52. Intermediare I	Open/BLM Q/ABIC/USDF Qual	Sat/Sun
53. Intermediare II	Open/BLM Q/ABIC/USDF Qual	Sat
54. Grand Prix Test of Choice	Open/BLM Q/ABIC/USDF Qual	Sat/Sun
55. YR Team	Reg 8 Qual/ABIC/USDF Qual	Sat
56. YR Individual	Reg 8 Qual/ABIC/USDF Qual	Sun
57. FEI 5 yr old test	Open	Sun
58. FEI 6 yr old test	Open	Sun
60. Freestyle First thru Fourth	Open/ABIC/USDF Qual/CFC/BLM	Sat.
61. FEI Freestyle	Open/ABIC/USDF Qual/CFC/BLM	Sat.
62. FEI Prix St. Georges Freestyle	Reg 8 Qual	Sun.
70. Dressage Equitation	Jr/YR/AA – GEC	Sat./Sun.

*Please note the class number, **day**, and Open, AA, Jr/YR or Qualifying if applicable on your entry. Please check www.ctdressageassoc.org for BLM rules.

** Leadline class held during lunch break, participants will be asked to salute judge; clean & neat attire, shoes with heels, and helmet required.

Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but rather we have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.

- Aristotle