



CENTERLINE



CONNECTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2003

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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 -
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Subject: Centerline

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

President's Message

Mother Nature certainly cooperated with us on our final CDA schooling show of the year which was held this past weekend at Once Again Farm. We had a large turnout of riders for this competition and our judge, Dee Loveless, took time giving feedback to all of them. As usual, thanks to Vicki Hammers-O'Neill and the staff of Once Again Farm, the facility and rings were perfectly groomed for our riders. This particular competition was run by Pam Bilodeau and we thank her for her time in taking on the organization of this event.

This coming week will be our planning meeting for CDA 2004 activities. As we plan to have our Omnibus in print by January, it is very important that any of you who would like to add your competitions to the list of those eligible for CDA year end awards contact me or any board member so that we can include them in this publication.

Marcie Gordon is working diligently on our 2003 year-end awards. Don't forget to get your submissions in as soon as possible.

For those of you who are looking for a travel destination, this year's USDF National Convention and Symposium will be held in Dallas, Texas the week of December 2nd through 7th. I attended my first convention last year when it was held in Oregon and found it to be both fun and educational. If you are interested, very detailed information on this event can be found on the USDF website.

Until next month,
Nancy

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU....."

Featuring CDA member Laura Pedersen

Written by: Marcie Gordon

"From my point of view, CDA serves the amateur well by having a couple of clinics each year such as the *Show Prep Clinic* that was held this spring and by providing a good amount of schooling shows to attend. I think that schooling shows are invaluable. Also, the new Year-end award sponsored by Lendon Gray is a great tool for inspiration." These are Laura Pedersen's impressions of how CDA serves its members.

As you will learn, this CDA member has many future riding goals for herself and her horse BAF Cubis Choice. Laura fondly refers to her gray 13 year old mare as "Chica" which means girl in Spanish. Chica is registered as Half-Andalusian and also as an Iberian Warmblood with the other half being thoroughbred.

Laura is the Vice President/Operations Manager of A. R. Mazzotta Employment Specialists. She and her husband Rick make their home in Killingworth, CT. When asked about her hobbies she replied, "I eat, sleep and drink horses! Other than that I like gardening and fishing." Rick is an avid salt-water fisherman and he docks his boat in Westbrook, CT. As a result, the Pedersen's enjoy fish and lobster all season long!

In addition to Chica, the Pedersen's family includes "Gabby" who Laura says "is the best barn cat in the world, a lopy eared rabbit "Cleo" and an exuberant, loving female golden retriever "Dakota". If all things go well, Dakota will be bred sometime next year. Laura explains: "The specific goal in mind will be to donate some of her pups to the *North Star Foundation* which is a Connecticut based non-profit organization whose mission is to breed, train and place golden and Labrador retrievers with children who face special challenges. Each placement is unique, with every North Star dog specifically trained to help its child meet his or her social, emotional and educational goals."

"Getting to know you" Continued on page 2

2003 Calendar of Events

October 10

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

October 15

CDA Board Meeting

January 31, 2004

Annual CDA Party and 2003 Awards
Celebration

“Getting to know you” Continued from page 1

Becoming a member of CDA in 2002, Laura fulfilled one of her long time goals. She said “I actually got up the nerve to start going to CDA schooling shows and I was awarded the 2002 year-end Adult Amateur Introductory Level Championship!”

Laura’s explains that her partnership with Chica began four years ago: “I purchased her when she was 9 at which time I knew she would be a real project especially for my riding level. But my guts told me that she would excel in the sport of distance riding and I thought she had some dressage capability as well. Chica had five owners before me. None of them kept her for more than a year and a half.....that tells you something right there! She has a mind of her own and was incredibly sensitive to hands and legs making her difficult for the average rider. We have progressed significantly though the past 4 years. Chica has really improved in the area of allowing the feeling of leg on her sides progressing albeit slowly.”

The training process for distance riding begins in winter/spring and combines conditioning of distance and speed. Laura explains, “I try to start in February by doing lots and lots of riding at the walk in the snow. Then I add some trotting when the footing allows it. During the week I do ring work 3 times a week which includes either riding or long-lining with/without cavaletti. On the weekends I get her out on trails starting with 8-mile loops and then adding either speed or distance weekly. Since the terrain near our home is very rocky, I find it necessary to trailer to places that offer kinder footing for speed conditioning.”

As a member of the Eastern Competitive Trail Ride Association (ECTRA), Laura plans to compete with Chica every 2-3 weeks during the season. “In between distance competitions, I concentrate on my ring work - training level dressage.” Their dedicated work was rewarded in 2002 with several ECTRA Year-end awards including Gold Medallion Winner for Middle Distance Events (50-75 miles) and Silver Medallion Winner for Limited Distance Events (25-40 miles). In addition, Laura and Chica were awarded the prestigious 2002 GMHA (Green Mountain Horse Assoc.) Distance Trail Horse Award.

Laura’s future riding goals include “Continuing to use dressage style riding as my foundation and to go to schooling shows moving in to Training Level. We will continue doing Long Distance Competitions up to 60 miles in length with a long range goal of trying the Maine 80 next year and if all goes well, possibly the GMHA 100 next year as well.”

It is clear that Laura’s vision and “gut feeling” about Chica’s abilities has become a reality. Over the last four years they have partnered with a lot of patience, hard work and training. It has been fun “getting to know” Laura and Chica and to see how their efforts have resulted in lessons learned, trust being developed, achievements recognized and goals continuing to be set.

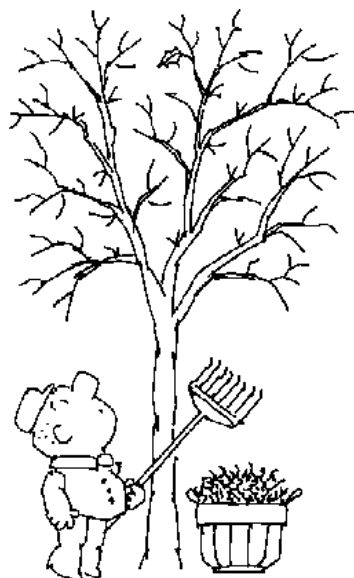
2003 Year-End Awards Reminder

A final reminder to all CDA members: Please fill out and submit your 2003 Year-end Awards scores for recognized and schooling competitions as well as for the Lendon Gray Equitation Trophies. All entries must be postmarked on or before November 1, 2003.

You may submit your scores by using the forms enclosed in this issue of *Centerline* or you may use our friendly on-line format by visiting CDA’s website at www.ctdressageassoc.org.

The 2003 Year-End Awards winners will be published in the December issue of *Centerline*. Awards will be presented at the Annual CDA Party and Awards Celebration on Saturday, January 31, 2004 (see “Save the Date” article in this issue).

If you have any questions please contact Marcie Gordon by phone at 203-573-0919 or email Awards@ctdressageassoc.org. Good luck to all!



2003 Connecticut Dressage Association Year-End Recognized Competition Awards Score Report

Qualification Criteria (Please refer to pages 29-31 in 2003 CDA Omnibus for complete details.)

- *Eligible Shows: 2003 USAE Recognized Dressage Competitions.*
- *Rider **and** owner must be CDA members **prior** to earning scores. Leased horses eligible.*
- *Same horse/rider combination per level. Championships may not be earned by the same horse/rider combination more than twice at the same level.*
- *Five scores at the same level from three different shows. Three different judges and at least five tests. Tests need not be highest tests in level, but scores from different levels may not be combined for the same award.*
- *Minimum score must be at least 55% for Training through Fourth, and FEI. Only the top five highest scores will be averaged to determine award placing. FEI classes or Regional Championship classes with more than one judge will have scores averaged to count as one score.*

Rider's Name _____ () Adult Amateur () Youth () Open

Address _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Horse's Name _____ Breed _____ Sex _____ Leased: Yes _____ No _____

Horse's Owner's Name (must be current CDA member) _____

Competition Level for Award Purposes (e.g. Training, First, etc.) _____

Show Name & Location	Date	Level/Test #	Score Percent	Judge's Name

Average of top five scores _____

Certification that this is a true report: Your signature (or your parent's if you are a Youth) attests that these are accurate scores earned in accordance with CDA's Year-End Recognized Competition Award criteria.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please submit this form to Marcie Gordon, 24 Darren Court, Waterbury, CT 06708 by November 1, 2003. **Submissions post marked after November 1, 2003 will not be considered.** Please do **not** send copies of tests!

You are able to submit this form electronically on our website (www.ctdressageassoc.org) by clicking on - **CDA's 2003 Awards Program** - on our home page then choosing the correct direct submission form, for **Recognized Show Awards**. The online submission forms will be available September 1, 2003.

2003 Connecticut Dressage Association Year-End Scoring Competition Awards Score Report

Qualification Criteria (Please refer to pages 29-31 in 2003 CDA Omnibus for complete details.)

- *Eligible Shows: CDA Sponsored Schooling Shows; Other Schooling Shows whose Prize Lists are published in the 2003 CDA Omnibus.*
- *Rider must be CDA member **prior** to earning scores.*
- *Same horse/rider combination per level. Championships may not be earned by the same horse/rider combination more than twice at the same level.*
- *Three scores at same test level from two different shows. Two different judges. One score must be from a CDA Schooling Show.*
- *Minimum score must be at least 55%. Only the top three highest scores will be averaged to determine award placing.*

Rider's Name _____ () Adult Amateur () Youth () Open

Address _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Horse's Name _____ Breed _____ Sex _____

Competition Level for Award Purposes (e.g. Intro, Training, etc.) _____

Show Name & Location	Date	2003 CDA Omnibus page #	Level/Test #	Score Percent	Judge's Name

Average of top three scores

Certification that this is a true report: Your signature (or your parent's if you are a Youth) attests that these are accurate scores earned in accordance with CDA's Year-End Schooling Competition Award criteria.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please submit this form to Marcie Gordon, 24 Darren Court, Waterbury, CT 06708 by November 1, 2003. **Submissions post marked after November 1, 2003 will not be considered.** Please do **not** send copies of tests!

Remember that you are able to submit this form electronically on our website (www.ctdressageassoc.org) by clicking on - **CDA's 2003 Awards Program** - on our home page then choosing the correct direct submission form, for **Schooling Show Awards**. The online submission forms will be available September 1, 2003.

2003 Connecticut Dressage Association Lendon Gray CDA Schooling Show Equitation Trophy

Qualification Criteria (Please refer to page 31 in 2003 CDA Omnibus for complete details.)

- *Eligible Shows: Any of the 5 CDA Sponsored Schooling Shows.*
- *Rider must be CDA member **prior** to earning scores.*
- *Riders must ride the Dressage Equitation Seat Class test in a **minimum of three (3) CDA sponsored schooling shows during 2003** to be eligible for award consideration.*
- *Submit the three highest scores, which will be averaged to determine award placing.*
- *Open only to Adult Amateur or Youth Riders.*

Rider's Name _____ () Adult Amateur () Youth

Date of Birth if Youth _____

Address _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Show Name & Location	Date	2003 CDA Omnibus page #	Level/Test #	Score Percent	Judge's Name

Average of top three scores

Certification that this is a true report: Your signature (or your parent's if you are a Youth) attests that these are accurate scores earned in accordance with CDA's Year-End Schooling Competition Award criteria.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please submit this form to Marcie Gordon, 24 Darren Court, Waterbury, CT 06708 by November 1, 2003. **Submissions post marked after November 1, 2003 will not be considered.** Please do **not** send copies of tests!

Remember that you are able to submit this form electronically on our website (www.ctdressageassoc.org) by clicking on - **CDA's 2003 Awards Program** - on our home page then choosing the correct direct submission form for **Lendon Gray CDA Schooling Show Equitation Trophy**. The online submission forms will be available September 1, 2003.

CDA Newsletter for October, 2003

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“SAVE THE DATE”

Annual CDA Party and 2003 Awards Celebration

Save this date and mark your calendar!! Below is some preliminary information about our Annual CDA Party and Awards Celebration. More details and directions will follow in the November issue of *Centerline*.

Who: All current CDA members (you may bring your spouse or a guest)

What: Catered buffet dinner courtesy of CDA ~ Guest speaker ~ Silent auction ~ Door prizes

When: Saturday evening, January 31, 2004 beginning at 6pm

Where: Cheshire, CT – home of Fern and Barry Feldman

Why: To celebrate YOU, the members of CDA and to honor our 2003 Year-end Award winners