



CENTERLINE



CONNECTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

February 2004

President

Nancy Blanchard
860-283-8748
President@ctdressageassoc.org

Vice President

Leslie Weiss
203-865-6156 ext. 1
VP@ctdressageassoc.org

Membership Secretary

Donna Leonessa
860-742-8110
Membership@ctdressageassoc.org

Recording Secretary

Fern Feldman
203-272-0711
Secretary@ctdressageassoc.org

Treasurer

Stephanie Rossi
860-621-7194
Treasurer@ctdressageassoc.org

Omnibus

John Gordon
Nancy Blanchard
Omnibus@ctdressageassoc.org

Centerline

John Gordon
203-573-0919
Centerline@ctdressageassoc.org

Awards

Marcie Gordon
203-573-0919
Awards@ctdressageassoc.org

Youth Program Coordinator

Pam Bilodeau
860-585-8693
YPC@ctdressageassoc.org

Youth Representative

Desiree Bilodeau
860-585-8693
JrYR@ctdressageassoc.org

Board

Kari Bradshaw
860-542-5375
Kim Chimblo
860-585-8278
Debra Reinhardt
203-264-2148

CENTERLINE

Send address changes to
Donna Leonessa
3080 South Street
Coventry, Ct 06238
e-mail:
Membership@ctdressageassoc.org

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 -

www.ctdressageassoc.org

President's Message

February is upon us and you know what that means; spring is just around the corner. (Ok we are not quite at the corner but I think I see a mailbox up ahead). The board has been working frantically to get final arrangements made for competitions and clinics so that complete and accurate information can be included in our 2004 Omnibus. I truly am impressed with the progress we have made and hope you will be just as impressed once you see the end result. Not only will we have our annual recognized competition, but we have increased the number of CDA sponsored schooling shows to six, and the number of eligible for schooling show year-end awards competitions to twenty: A total of twenty six competitions for 2004 that you can use to qualify for CDA schooling show year-end awards. In addition, CDA will be sponsoring 3 clinics in 2004, which makes for a busy season for both competitors and those running these events. The 2004 Omnibus will be in your mailbox very soon!

Beyond the competition and clinic focus, we have also given our Awards program a complete overhaul and are now focused on updating our Scholarship program as well as implementing a Volunteer Incentive program. As we move forward into 2004 we have no intention of slowing down and are planning on putting some additional focus on our Youth program. Anyone interested in providing feedback on any of our programs or who is interested in becoming involved on a committee related to any of our programs, please feel free to contact any board member or me.

Until next month,

Nancy

“GETTING TO KNOW YOU...”

Featuring CDA member Jill Brakeman

Written by: Marcie Gordon

Jill Brakeman's love for horses began almost 30 years ago while she was growing up in North Canton, CT. "When I was about age 10, our neighbors across the street, the Kelly's, lived on a beautiful farm named "Cherry Brook Farm". They had two big white horses, one was named Coquette and I cannot recall the other one's name. I would go there everyday to feed them apples and carrots and just spend time with them. I did not ride at that time. The Kelly's moved and a new family, the Wilson's arrived at Cherry Brook Farm. Tierney Wilson was a young girl about my age. They had horses and they let me ride. Tierney rode Jasmine, a small white horse. The first horse I rode was Mr. Beaujangle. Mr. Beaujangle was a Morgan/Draft cross and I loved him to pieces. I learned to ride on

2004 Calendar of Events

February 11, 2004

CDA Board Meeting - 6PM
Cheshire, CT
Call Fern Feldman for directions
203-272-0711

Feb 14 and 15, 2004

Dressage4Kids, Inc.
Annual Weekend Educational Program II
Contact: Lendon Gray
914-234-4158
graydressage@aol.com

Feb 14 and 15, 2004

Dressage Clinic with Dr. Cesar Parra
At Once Again Farm
Contact Rachel Gioia
860-873-1477

February 28, 2004

Fox Ledge Farm Lecture Series
How to use the Training Scale
Contact: Ann Guptill
860-873-8108

March 27, 2004

Fox Ledge Farm Lecture Series
Objectives of dressage tests
Contact: Ann Guptill
860-873-8108

April 10, 2004

CDA Clinic with Ann Guptill
"Eyes Wide Open"
Fox Ledge Farm
Contact Donna Leonessa
860-742-8110
dleonessa@hotmail.com

May 2, 2004

CDA Schooling Show
Once Again Farm
Contact: Kari Bradshaw
860-542-5375
rkhotshoe@aol.com

May 2, 2004

CDCTA Schooling Show & Combined Test
Hearthstone Farm
Contact: Deb Moynihan
860-646-8841
djmoynihan@snet.net

May 8, 2004

CDA Schooling Show
Coventry Equestrian Center
Contact: Suzanne Markham
860-742-1900
avatar0583@aol.com

May 9, 2004

Litchfield Equestrian Centre
Schooling Show
Contact: Penny Hawes
860-567-1441
penny@litchfeldequestrian.com

Getting to Know you - continued from page 1

him and rode him all the time. This was the first and only time I ever went swimming on horseback! I have great memories of those times. My first instructor was a wonderful woman named Becky from Granby who came to Cherry Brook Farm to teach Tierney and me how to ride. I cannot recall her last name, but she was the best."

When Jill's family moved to Collinsville when she about thirteen years old, riding fell by the wayside. Traveling back and forth to Canton to ride became difficult and she soon became interested in "boys, friends, etc." After high school, while commuting to UCONN at Storrs, she began riding with Peggy Dills at Ethel Walker School. Riding was postponed once again when Jill began law school.

Once she graduated from law school in 1991, Jill began working in Torrington and then opened her law firm in Litchfield, CT where her current practice focuses on divorce mediation and real estate law. Singing, drawing and "someday learning to play the guitar" round out her interests.

Jill met her husband, Peter Galgano, in 1992. She remembers, "Peter had two horses, Coco and Rosie. One of our first dates was a trail ride and I rode Rosie. Rosie was a 35 year-old Morgan. She could only walk and trot, but I had all I could do to hold the old girl from galloping away. Unfortunately, Rosie passed away a year or so later from old age."

Jill and Peter were married in 1996 and they make their home in Litchfield. Sharing space on their homestead are two horses. "Flash" is Jill's 12 year-old Saddlebred and "Chester" is Peter's 17-year-old Appaloosa. Rounding out their extended family is Joey a Shetland pony, three goats, two llamas, three dogs Dillon (a Shiba Inu/American Eskimo cross), Emma Jean (purebred Shiba Inu) and Louie (a Pug) and two tabby cats, Bart and Teddy.

Among her riding experiences and highlights Jill recalls: "Flash has arthritis and I cannot show him and Chester wants nothing to do with a ring... he is a true trail horse. In 2000, as a surprise birthday gift, my husband arranged to have me take lessons with Francois Lemaire de Ruffieu, a classical French dressage rider trained at the Cadre Noir. Francois was working temporarily at a local farm in Morris, CT, Winsome Farm. At my first lesson, I showed up with work boots and western chaps. Francois complimented my attire, in a sarcastic kind of way, and I quickly learned I needed to go shopping for the appropriate attire. I learned a lot from Francois while having a lot of fun. I rode with him for about 6 months before his return to West Palm Beach, Florida. When Françoise left, he recommended that I ride with Sharon Curran at her farm "Studio Stables" in Bethlehem, CT. That's when I met Sharon who has become my great friend, instructor and trainer."

"Sharon has taught me so much about horses and riding. Sharon's horse, Slick, is the 'best'. He is a true schoolmaster. He is a kind, patient, willing horse that I have been privileged to ride and show. I absolutely love that horse and hope my horse,

Dressage4Kids, Inc

and

Teikyo Post University Riding Program

present the

ANNUAL WEEKEND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM - II

Sat. & Sun., February 14th & 15th, 2004

Waterbury, CT

*Sat: 7:00 a.m. Registration for both programs
Sun: 8:30 am Registration for both programs*

- Experts covering subjects that every competitor, horse owner, and parent should know
- Favorite speakers from last year's program will present new and review material
- Talks will be supported by handouts and videos.

Dressage4Kids, Inc. is *also* privileged to present:

Beth Clarke, equine lawyer and financial manager, speaking on
Proactive And Preventative Financial And
Risk Management

Beth will address crucially important and little understood topics including:

- The Equine Environment: keeping it safe, and handling problems if they arise
- Liability releases- what they do and don't do
- Purchase and sale transactions
- Tax and estate planning

This is a tremendous opportunity for everyone from equine professionals to parents buying a new pony to learn the important tools for moving successfully in the horse world- don't miss it! Space is limited.

**For more information on either program contact Lendon Gray 914 234-4158 (eves)
or email - graydresge@aol.com**

*The lectures wil be held in the Teikyo Post University
Leever Student Center, Waterbury, CT Take Exit 17 off Interstate 84. onto Rt 63 South.
Turn left on Country Club Rd. The Leever Building is the third road to the left.
MEALS may be purchased at the Cafeteria in the same building*

APPLY EARLY – SPACE IS LIMITED

CONNECTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION PROMOTING DRESSAGE THROUGH EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY



“EYES WIDE OPEN” A TRAINER’S REVIEW OF THE JUDGE’S PERSPECTIVE

Clinic Date: April 10, 2004

Location: Fox Ledge Farm located in East Haddam, CT

Riders will have the ability to school their tests in front of Ann Guptill who is a successful FEI Level Competitor, “L” Judge Graduate, USDF Certified Instructor and owner of Equestrian Arts Productions, a Musical Freestyle production company. Ann will first judge each rider’s test to help the rider improve their scores using different techniques to show off their horse’s best ability in the show ring. Auditors will score each test ride and compare their marks with Ann to gain a better understanding of the scoring procedures. A discussion and video tape review will be held in the morning to review standard scoring procedures and several show rides by Ann. Ann will also discuss the importance of mapping out a warm up plan for different types of horses. Auditors and riders will have the ability to develop their own warm up plan to use for their next show.

We encourage our members to attend this educational event which CDA has organized based on its commitment to providing educational events to its members at reasonable rates. CDA has received a grant from The Dressage Foundation to help offset the costs of this educational event. An application seeking USDF University Accreditation has been submitted for this event also.

We are seeking riders from Training to 4th level including those riders who would like to ride their Musical Freestyle. Riders will have day stabling available for their horses in order to attend the full clinic. Clinic Assistants who can assist with stabling, tackup, unloading and loading gear will assist riders. Clinic Assistants will also take notes during the rider’s session with the clinician.

Interested clinic riders should contact: Donna Leonessa, Adult Education Coordinator, dleonessa@hotmail.com or 860-742-8110 for more information for more details. Signup forms will be provided in the next Centerline Newsletter. Video Services will be available for a fee by Equestrian Arts Productions, LLC. Please contact Equestrian Arts directly at 860-873-3225 or eqarts@snet.net if you are interested.

New CDA membership applications are available at www.ctdressageassoc.org

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Kat, will be just like Slick some day.”

Jill purchased L.A. Kat about two years ago. He is a 6 year-old 17.2h Hanoverian/Quarter horse cross and Sharon has been training him. Although Kat did not have any formal training as a youngster, Jill is confident that with Sharon’s training program, he will be in the show ring soon.

When asked about her achievements and future riding goals Jill shared these thoughts: “I just started showing this year (2003) but I did well and hope to do better in 2004. My future riding goals are to ride to the best of my abilities; to ultimately show L.A. Kat when he gets more training behind him; to strive to better understand the horse and to listen to the horse when I ride as I think this is a very important part of riding; and most of all TO HAVE FUN!”

Being new to CDA, Jill feels that the organization is very well organized and serves its members quite well. She has a goal to become more involved in CDA.

A 10-year-old girl in North Canton began her love of horses 30 years ago and it is evident that love is still very much alive today! Jill Brakeman has set some very good goals for herself and her horse Kat. We wish her many good rides during the 2004 competition season as she and her horse L.A. Kat develop their relationship and skills in the lesson and show arenas.

Education 2004

This year we have planned some great events that will benefit both the riders and auditors. To help our members prepare for the show season a clinic will be held on April 10th with ANN GUPTILL, USDF Certified Trainer, FEI Level Competitor and “L” Judge Graduate. Ann will review dressage test scoring procedures and how scores are applied to each of the test movements. Videos of show rides will be used as examples to explain the scoring process. Auditors and riders will have the ability to use this knowledge as riders from all levels ride their tests at the clinic. Ann will work specific exercises with the rider to improve their test scores. Techniques to show off the horse’s strengths and minimize their weaknesses will be tested before the rider is asked to re-ride their test. Both riders and auditors will benefit tremendously from this educational event.

The next event will be a clinic with Roel Theunissen on May 22nd and 23rd. Some comments from riders and auditors of last year’s clinic are below:

“Roel was great at pinpointing my issues and my mare’s issues. We worked on specific exercises to improve her gaits and reaction to my half halt aid. The clinic helped motivate and prepare me for CDA’s recognized show the following weekend. I hope he comes back again next year.”

“Roel helped me understand how to influence my horse and his movement. Getting my horse round and through his back consistently was wonderful. He was easy to sit and responded from my seat instantly.”

“Roel’s teaching style was lighthearted but demanding. His ability to quickly determine the rider and horse’s main issue allowed him to quickly begin working exercises and techniques to make huge improvements with their performance.”

I encourage all of our members to come and participate in these events that have been discounted substantially by CDA. Please call me if you have any questions or suggestions for events you would like CDA to host next year. Thanks, Donna Leonessa 860-742-8110 or email dleonessa@hotmail.com.

Membership Corner

By Donna Leonessa

How CDA, USDF, & USEF Memberships Work

CDA memberships now run from January 1st to December 31st. For each membership \$17 goes directly to the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) for your group membership. Only one family member will be registered as a GMO member.

Your group membership with the USDF entitles you to:

1. Rider Awards
2. Subscription to the USDF Connection (official USDF magazine)

You must join the USDF as a Participating Member and register your horse if you want to compete in the USDF Horse of the Year Awards, Breed awards or USDF/Great American Championship.

USEF (formerly AHSA) has no reciprocal membership agreement with CDA. To avoid the \$25 non-member fees at USEF shows, you must join the organization for a base fee plus your discipline (dressage) fee.

Your USEF membership entitles you to:

1. A copy of the current rule book for your discipline
2. Monthly issues of Horse Show Magazine

All of these organization memberships apply to both rider and the owner of the horse, if they are not the same person.

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR DRESSAGE EXHIBITORS & OFFICIALS

The Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) has issued new 2004 Dressage Tests for the following levels, effective **January 1, 2004**:

- Young Rider Preliminary Test
- Young Rider Team Test
- Preliminary Test for Five-Year-Old Horses
- Preliminary Test for Six-Year-Old Horses
- FEI Dressage Test for Five-Year-Old Horses - Finale
- FEI Dressage Test for Six-Year-Old Horses - Finale

Please note the **Young Rider Individual Test** has been cancelled, and should be replaced with the **Prix St. Georges Test** (2000). The FEI Junior Tests (2003) have NOT been changed and will remain in effect for 2004. **These new test versions must be used by all U.S. Equestrian-recognized dressage competitions beginning January 1, 2004.**

Score sheets for these new FEI tests are available for purchase from U.S. Equestrian by submitting the 2004 FEI Dressage Test Order Form, which is available on the Federation website, in addition to movements for all FEI tests, at <http://www.usef.org/content/equestrianSports/disciplines/international/dressage.php>.

For more information please Jennifer Keeler, Sport Manager - Dressage, at jkeeler@usef.org or (859) 225-2024.

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Connecticut Dressage Association is very pleased to announce that John Nunn, President of *Bit of Britain*, has agreed to sponsor and donate the new "High Point CDA Schooling Show Awards" during the 2004 season.

Bit of Britain will donate monogrammed polar fleece coolers to CDA as the special awards to be presented at each of the six CDA sponsored schooling shows. A cooler will be presented to the rider with the "high point score of the show" (excluding the dressage seat equitation class).

John Nunn and *Bit of Britain* will also generously donate to CDA a very nice leather halter and lead. CDA will have this halter on display at the secretary's desk at each of our six schooling shows for 2004. We will give **everyone** (riders, grooms, trainers, parents, friends, volunteers and spectators) who attends the shows an opportunity to fill out a free raffle card. The raffle cards from all five shows will be combined and the winner of the halter will be drawn at the conclusion of the final CDA schooling show on September 26, 2004 at Once Again Farm.

CDA is delighted to have John Nunn and *Bit of Britain* as a sponsor in our Awards Program. This is a new and exciting partnership and we hope that it will continue and grow in the years to come. Please check out *Bit of Britain's* advertisement in this issue of *Centerline* and visit their website at www.bitofbritain.com or call 1-888-442-5015 for a catalog. If you are in the southeastern Pennsylvania/Maryland area, plan to visit their new store and warehouse facility in Oxford, PA.

Wishing you all good luck and good health during the 2004 competition season. Whether you are a rider, groom, trainer, parent, spouse, friend, volunteer, judge or spectator have a wonderful time participating in CDA's schooling shows this year...and enjoy the ride!

Marcie Gordon
CDA Awards Coordinator

CENTERLINE Wants to Hear from YOU!

CDA's monthly *Centerline* newsletter would like to hear directly from you our members. Thoughts, comments, suggestions, responses to current articles, advertisements or suggestions for future stories, and any other correspondence are always welcome. Please send any of the above to Centerline@ctdressageassoc.org or call John at 203-573-0919. Remember our deadline is the 15th of each month. We look forward to hearing from you!

"The grand essentials to happiness in this life are something to do, something to love and something to hope for."

- Joseph Addison

Thanks,
John

Don't forget to send us information about your activities for the 2004 CDA Calendar of Events!!! Send a one-line description, dates, locations, and contact person's name and phone number. We'll be delighted to include it in Centerline's regular calendar at no cost.

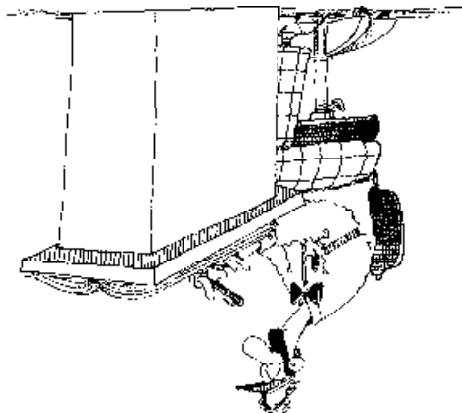
Please send them as an Attachment in either Word for Windows, WordPerfect, RTF or in a plain text file Format if possible.

They can be Emailed to me at Centerline@ctdressageassoc.org

or

John Gordon
Attn. CENTERLINE
24 Darren Court
Waterbury, CT 06708-3903

All articles are to be submitted by the 15th of the month. They can be mailed to me at:



Centerline

Send Address changes to:

Donna Leonessa

3080 South Street

Coventry, CT. 06238

860-742-8110

e-mail: Membership@ctdressageassoc.org

CDA Newsletter for February, 2004

CDA BOARD MEETING Wednesday February 11, 2004 at 6:00 PM

Call Fern Feldman at 203-272-0711 or Email - Secretary@ctdressageassoc.org for directions.