



CENTERLINE



CONNECTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

May 2006

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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 -

www.ctdressageassoc.org

CDA is a USDF member, and the GMO's members are automatically USDF Group Members.

May President's Message

Greetings! There certainly is plenty for CDA members to do this season. We have had two unmounted clinics, a May clinic with Silke Rembacz which will be valuable for both riders and auditors, as well as another clinic with Shannon Oldham-Dueck in the fall. The schooling shows begin May 7 at Once Again Farm and our recognized show is the first weekend in June. Ride, watch or volunteer.

But what about those of us who are not showing, who are taking our lessons and schooling our horses? Maybe our horses are coping with a problem or two, or just don't like competition. Maybe we don't either. Maybe we ride for fitness or just plain fun. Maybe we are too young yet, or are aging and find it harder to keep in top shape. I'd like to salute these members and also all the trainers who support us just for loving the sport, for supporting us in caring for our own and our horses' minds and bodies.

It is easy to get distracted by all the ribbons and the dress-up clothes, the excitement of trucking and staying in motels, often with barn mates. For those of us with the means and the enthusiasm for competition, great. But I do believe it is all founded on something more basic, something resembling a cross between an addiction and a passion. We all share this and good for us!

I'll be volunteering at the recognized show at Ox Ridge in June. I hope to see you there.

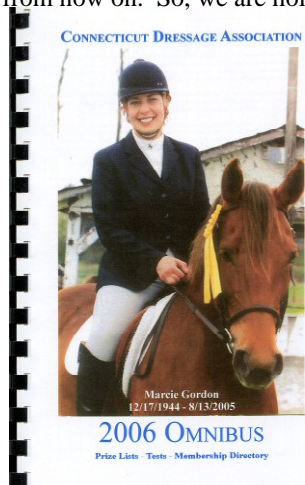
All best,

Leslie

CDA 2007 Omnibus Cover Contest

Did you notice something different about your 2006 Omnibus? Instead of our usual horse logo there was a full color picture for the first time in our history.

CDA has decided to have a full color picture of a member and their horse on the cover of the Omnibus from now on. So, we are holding a contest to pick the picture that will grace the cover of the 2007 CDA Omnibus.



The rules are simple.

1. The picture/pictures must be received by December 1, 2006.
2. It must be of a CDA member and their horse at a **CDA event** that is listed in the 2006 CDA Omnibus.
3. Mounted or unmounted
4. Pictures must not be by a professional photographer, unless the member is a professional photographer.
5. Digital pictures only, either from a digital camera or scanned.
6. A brief paragraph or two of who you are and what you like doing with your horse.
7. Send the picture/pictures to omnibus@ctdressageassoc.org

2006 Calendar of Events**May 7, 2006**

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

May 27, 2006

Dressage Schooling Show
Red Horse Stables
Southbury, CT
Cristina Nocito
203-313-3255

May 28, 2006

CDCTA Ride-Critique-Ride
With Dr. Max Gahwyler
Locket's Meadow Farm
Bethany, CT
Jen Ford
203-389-5873
jdford@opontine.net

June 3 and June 4, 2006

CDA Spring Competition
Ox Ridge Hunt Club
Darien, CT
Debra Reinhardt
(203)264-2148
(203)264-0086 fax
debra@centerlineevents.com

June 4, 2006

Grand View Stable
Dressage and Combined Tests
Schooling Show
Columbia, CT
Alena Orszak
860-228-5021
Email alenagvs@sbcglobal.net

June 6, 2006

CDCTA Dressage and
Stadium Jumping Clinic
With Marcia Kulak
Willow Creek Farm
Southbury, CT
Amy Newton
203-630-3185
amynewton@yahoo.com

June 17, 2006

High Acres Farm
Dressage Schooling Show
Woodstock, CT
Jennifer Kingsley
860-928-5704
860-928-5437(fax)

June 17, 2006

Dressage Schooling Show
Red Horse Stables
Southbury, CT
Cristina Nocito
203-313-3255

June 18, 2006

Abacus Events Schooling Show
Win Some Farm
Morris, CT
Nancy Blanchard
860-283-8748

“IT’S ALL IN YOUR SEAT II”

With Vicki Hammers O’Neil

The clinic began with a review of the correct seat by Vicki. She explained that the rider’s seat has several responsibilities:

1. To assist the leg in riding the horse actively forward without deviation from the intended line.
2. To help regulate tempo and length of stride, in coordination with the leg and rein.

The rider’s body movement with the horse’s motion tells the horse to be quicker, bigger, shorter, longer, etc.

1. To maintain the gait. A change in the motion of seat dictates a change of gait.
2. To assist the leg and hand in the half halt.

Vicki used several riders to demonstrate different body types. Each rider had a different type of body which made it easy for all of us to relate to one of them. For those of us who do not have the perfect body type for riding, Vicki discussed certain changes that could be made to improve the communication with the horse.

The weight aids were also discussed. Watching the riders’ shift their weight from one side to other drastically showed how the horse is thrown off balance. Sometimes it is good for a rider to experiment with these extremes in order to understand the horse’s balance.

The rider’s weight affects the horse in many ways:

1. Riding straight lines and transitions the rider carries equal weight on his two seat bones. An increase of pressure on both seat bones can have two effects:
 - a. A deepening of the seat while at the same time stretching up will have a collecting effect on the horse.
 - b. By sitting in and engaging the core, there is a more forward driving effect.
2. Riding curved lines, the rider’s weight changes so that more weight is on the inside seat bone and carried down the inside leg, which lowers the hip and knee

Alison Johnson, the Assistant Trainer who works with Vicki, demonstrated different seat types in order to show how they impact the horse. It was interesting to watch the horse’s response to the fork and chair seats. The movement of the horse changed drastically each time. Alison’s horse went from moving with big steps to scrambling forward.

Beth Bruns, an adult amateur, demonstrated the changes of her horse’s gaits while changing her weight aids. Beth’s horse, Tico, was not appreciative of the changes but quickly went back to moving well when Beth used her weight aids correctly.

RIDER AND AUDITOR CLINIC SIGN UP**CDA CLINIC WITH SILKE REMBACZ**

May 13th and 14th at Sunny Hill Farm in Suffield, CT.

CDA will be hosting a clinic with Silke Rembacz at Sunny Hill Farm. Silke is an extremely talented FEI rider that earned the opportunity to ride in the PSG/II USET Championships on two separate occasions with two different horses. She won on both times. With her students, she is totally focused and devoted. Her training philosophy is consistent and direct allowing riders to benefit from her succinct methodology. The clinic will focus on using the dressage training scale with exercises to improve the quality of your ride.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

	<u>RIDERS</u>	<u>AUDITORS</u>
<u>PLEASE CIRCLE:</u>	<u>(Open to CDA Members only)</u>	
SATURDAY	\$100	\$20
SUNDAY	\$100	\$20
BOTH DAYS	\$200	\$30

Negative Coggins and Rabies Certificate required for all participating horses.

Please send Rider and Auditor Sign-Up Form with check payable to CDA to: Donna Leonessa, 3080 South Street, Coventry, CT 06238. Contact Donna at dleonessa@hotmail.com or call work (860) 240-9614 with questions. No refunds will be permitted unless a substitute rider/horse is located by the original rider or the organizer.

**CLINIC- RELEASE OF LIABILITY
READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS BEFORE YOU SIGN IT**

In consideration for _____ (the "Rider") being permitted to participate in the horseback riding clinic sponsored or organized by The Connecticut Dressage Association, Inc. ("CDA") on July 9th and 10th, 2005 at Sunny Hill, Suffield, Connecticut, the Rider and his/her parents (if Rider is under 18 years of age) agree that CDA, Sunny Hill Farm, the clinician, and their agents, members, volunteers and assistants shall not be liable for, and agree to hold them harmless from, any accident, personal injury, death or property damage that may be sustained by any person or entity, including without limitation the Rider, as a result in whole or in part from the Rider's participation in the clinic. This agreement is binding on the Rider and his/her parents whether or not said accident, personal injury, death or property damage is due in whole or in part to the negligence of CDA, Sunny Hill Farm, the clinician or any of their agents, members, volunteers or assistants. The Rider and his/her parents (if Rider is under 18 years of age) agree to defend and indemnify CDA, Sunny Hill, the clinician and their agents, members, volunteers and assistants for any claims, demands, or suits arising from the Rider's participation in the clinic, including without limitation those arising in whole or in part from the negligence of CDA, Sunny Hill, the clinician or their agents, members, volunteers or assistants.

This release is signed on _____, 2006.

RIDER: (MUST SIGN)

RIDER'S PARENT (IF RIDER IS LESS THAN 18 YEARS OLD):

Kate Lussier, a youth rider, demonstrated on her pony, Jimi. The rein aids on Jimi was especially key to maintaining Jimi's flexion and throughness of his gaits. Vicki explained that the Rein Aids have the following responsibilities are:

1. To direct and position the forehead
2. To receive and direct the pushing power of the hindquarters.
3. To create flexion at the poll.
4. To create left or right positioning at the poll.
5. To regulate the length of neck.
6. To control the amount of bend in the neck.
7. to assist in the height of the neck.
8. In conjunction with the leg and seat, ride half halts.

There are 4 categories of rein aids:

1. Regulating rein
2. Non-yielding or non allowing rein
3. Yielding rein
4. Supporting rein.

The clinic covered specific exercises that we could use to help improve our aids and communication with the horse. I am looking forward to the clinic with Ann Guptill that will focus on the rider's aids during lateral movements. I hope to see all of you there.

Thank you Vicki, Alison, Beth, Sandy and everyone at Once Again Farm for helping us all to become better riders by demonstrating the proper seat, rein and leg aids. We appreciate all of your efforts to make this a successful clinic. Also, I would like to thank the volunteers who helped with registration and set up.

And Lastly THANK YOU for attending this Workshop. We had almost 50 attendees at the Workshop.

Donna Leonessa
Education Chair

AUDITORS WANTED FOR RIDING CLINICS

I encourage everyone to take advantage of auditing the CDA riding clinics that are scheduled for this year. I find that I can learn a tremendous amount from watching a full day of rides. Usually when I go home to ride, the clinician has inspired me to focus on a new exercise or a different way to communicate my aids to my horse. Auditing clinics also helps me to become more comfortable to ride with clinicians. The Education Committee tries to bring back the same clinician at least two to three years in a row. We have found that first year auditors are second year riders. The CDA clinics are supported by the yearly auction and schooling shows. The auditing and riding costs are kept at a reasonable level in order for all of our members to take advantage of these great events.

If you have a clinician that you would like to recommend to the Education Committee, please email me at dleonessa@hotmail.com or call me on my cell phone 860-933-1854. We are always open for suggestions.

I look forward to seeing you at the SILKE REMBACZ clinic scheduled for May 13 and 14th at Sunny Hill Farm in Suffield, Connecticut.

DEL RIO HOLSTEINER HORSES

2003 Dark bay registered Holsteiner gelding 16.3 HH Well started in harness. Just started under saddle. Exceptionally willing disposition. Video and transportation available. \$15,000.00. (505) 526-2164 NM