

The Rocky Mountain Dressage Society

Foothills Chapter

President: Kris Cooper • kris@anchoragefarm.com
Vice President: Jan Danis • jandalusian@gmail.com
Secretary: Nicole Riffe • nriffe21@gmail.com
Treasurer: Laura Quakenbush • laura.quakenbush@comcast.net
Education Chair: Open
Scholarship Chair: Marilou Metcalf • metcalfmmd@me.com
Show Chair: Jan Danis • jandalusian@gmail.com

Monday, January 12th
6:30 PM
Tuscany Tavern
32214 Ellington Trail, Evergreen

Attendees:

Nicole Riffe
Betsy McKenzie
Alyssa McMillan
Dolly Hannon
Laura Quakenbush
Koba Skelton
Sue Mohr
Jim Cooper
Kris Cooper
Linda Gaber

Meeting Minutes

1. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Dolly approved, Laura 2nd the motion and the motion carried.

2. Treasurer's Report

- ❖ Current balance is \$5,452.96
- ❖ Spending was even for the year 2014
- ❖ Earned an income of \$500 for the Lunch and Learn Clinic

3. *New Tests Overview by Dolly Hannon*

- ❖ There is an article in the USDF connections magazine about the Freestyle test changes and Dressage Today by Janet Foy about the USEF test changes.
- ❖ The USEF dressage tests change every four years. These new tests became effective Dec 1st, 2014. This includes Freestyle tests, Pas de D and Quadrille, as well as the intro tests.
- ❖ The USDF website has a lot of resources available for information on the new tests such as the ETRAK learning site and podcasts.

- ❖ Purpose and directive instructions have changed for each test:
 - Have added what is new that has been introduced to each test at the top.
 - Added to explanation that the purpose is to determine if the horse has achieved correct basics.
 - Some examples of additions to the purpose explanation:
 - Training level: added tempo
 - 1st Level: added balance and thoroughness
 - 2nd level: added uphill balance
 - Directive for entry/ending halts has been changed- now requires a minimum of 3 seconds.

- ❖ Scoring Changes:
 - Harmony score has been removed and replaced with a double coefficient for submission with a rewording of what submission is.
 - There are now two rider scores instead of one: rider position & seat and rider's effective use of aids

- ❖ Summary of Test Changes
 - General Changes:
 - Have added more short diagonals to the tests
 - Shorter periods of lengthened canter and trot with more time to bring the horse back from the lengthening before the next movement
 - Intro: no major changes
 - Training:
 - Added canter transition on the rail
 - 1st Level:
 - Added back 10 meter half circle movements in trot (teardrops)
 - Added 15 meter circle after lengthened canter to help bring the horse back
 - Leg yield figure eight has been removed
 - A halt at X has been added facing E
 - 2nd Level:
 - Renver has been removed- now a 3rd level movement
 - Added three loop serpentine in canter with simple changes
 - Added simple change from counter canter at the rail
 - Removed 3 loop serpentine maintaining the lead from test 1 and added to test 3

- 3rd Level:
 - Renvers added
 - Half pass has less angle
 - Shoulder in to renver has been moved from test 2 to test 3
- 4th Level:
 - Removed 20 meter half circle in collected walk
 - Added walk pirouettes off the rail
 - Added 3 flying changes every third stride
 - Added halt, rein back 4 steps, walk forward 4 steps, rein back 4 steps (the swing or shaukle)
 - Added a new working pirouette pattern
- Freestyles:
 - In order to be in compliance with USEF rules you can no longer do transitions and movements from a higher level- there are a few exceptions
 - Exceptions:
 1. Training: canter trot canter transitions as long as there is a 20 meter trot in between, trot serpentine of a single loop, nothing smaller than 15 meters
 2. 1st: any configuration of leg yield or counter canter, any kind of canter serpentine, turn on the forehand, lengthened trot or canter on a 20 meter circle
 3. 2nd: renver, medium canter on diagonal, medium canter and trot on a 20 meter circle
 4. 3rd: half pass to zig zag in trot, half pirouette at the walk, canter counter change of hand in half pass, canter to halt transitions
 5. 4th: canter pirouettes, half pass zig zag in trot and canter, flying changes every third stride
 - Added at discretion of judge to eliminate rider for late entry
 - *Please refer to the tests for these changes. This is not a complete list and there may be some omissions*

4. "L" Education Session B Summary by Nicole Riffe (Linda Gaber and Dolly Hannon also attended and provided comments)

- ❖ The "L" education series is for candidates who would like entry into the USEF 'r' Judge training program but it is also continuing education for current judges and available for audit by trainers and riders.
- ❖ Nicole attended as an auditor and highly encourages other members to audit the remaining C session scheduled in March.
- ❖ Session B focused on how to judge movements and gaits at training, 1st and 2nd level
 - Session format was 2 days- each morning session was in a classroom with a presentation regarding the movements in each test, the purpose of each movement, common faults, etc. Several video clips were reviewed for each movement and the participants commented on their observations. The

afternoon sessions involved live rider demonstrations of the new training, 1st and 2nd level tests.

- ❖ As an adult amateur rider, the clinic was very informative on how each movement is scored and also what the purpose is behind each movement.
- ❖ RMDS is one of the few organizations in the country that require continuing education for judges and we are very lucky to have this program offered to us!
- ❖ C Session information:
 - March 14-15th with Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez instructing
 - Auditors can sign up by filling out this form and sending with payment: <http://rmds.org/uploads/Main/2014-L-program-auditor.pdf>

5. RMDS Board Meeting Summary

- ❖ Membership numbers are stabilizing but we have lost 35% since the recession in 2009 as have a lot of other equestrian organizations
- ❖ There will be no USDF Adult Clinic in 2015 for RMDS
- ❖ The board is encouraging marketing of our scholarship program- last year 4 scholarships were awarded but there were only 5 applicants
- ❖ Board is encouraging auditors to sign up for clinic opportunities throughout the year. The only clinic that will not be amateur friendly is the trainer's clinic scheduled for May 15th and 16th that is geared towards professionals.
- ❖ RMDS needs a banquet chairperson. Please contact Beth Geier, rmds@indra.com if you are interested.

6. Last Chance Show Update

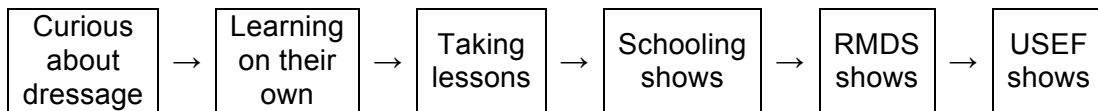
- ❖ Scheduled for September 6th
- ❖ KC Parkins-Kyle will be judging
- ❖ Didi DeKrey will be Show Secretary

7. Foothills Website Updates

- ❖ Nicole has been working on updating our website
- ❖ Suggestions for further improvements:
 - Create new page dedicated to Scholarship information with more info on what the program is and how to apply
 - Create separate page for events/shows
 - Add board member bios and pictures
- ❖ Linda will send Nicole the Foothills marketing information she had prepared last year to use on the website.

8. Foothills Interviews

- ❖ Kris scheduled interviews with members to see what our members are interested in.
- ❖ Biggest impression received from the discussions is that our membership is very diverse.
 - Geographical Profile:
 - 76 members in 2014
 - 36 members in Foothills (Evergreen, Golden, Pine, Conifer, Morrison)
 - Northwest Metro: 23
 - South Metro: 13
 - 1-70 West: 4
 - We have some members that do not have formal training opportunities and learn on their own
 - Many members do not join until they plan to show and want their scores to count. We need to develop and offer programs to gain more members who have a passionate interest in dressage but who are not ready to show or have no interest in showing.



- ❖ Facebook page: we have 120 people who like the page and out of those only 21 are current members- this can be a great opportunity to market our chapter
 - Alyssa suggested several techniques on how to gain exposure to our Facebook page. She will give a short presentation at our next meeting on how to use Facebook as a marketing tool.
- ❖ Ideas for Events for 2015:
 - Western Dressage:
 - This is a huge opportunity for the Chapter to gain members who are interested in dressage
 - The Chapter voted on an allowance of \$300 to support western dressage education. Dolly motioned, Sue 2nd the motion and the motion carried.
 - **Post meeting note: Date set of Sunday, April 12th for a western dressage clinic hosted at Anchorage Farm and will be presented by Frances Carbonnel**
 - Show Preparation Education:
 - Many amateur members do not know what is involved with getting ready for a show, rules, or how to volunteer for a show.
 - We would like to work on scheduling an event for this in April
 - Ride a Test Clinic
 - Propose to organize for May
 - Kris will work on finding a judge

- **Post meeting note: Tentative date set of May 10th. More details to follow soon**
- Schooling Show
 - Propose to organize for June
 - Great opportunity for practice for members and there are not many schooling show opportunities in the area currently.
 - **Post meeting note: Date set of Sunday, June 7th for a schooling show. Location TBA. Stephanie Soule has agreed to judge.**
- End of Year Celebration
 - Organize a get together in the fall to celebrate new members, people going to 1st show, volunteers, mentors, etc. This will also include recognizing accomplishments in and out of the show ring.

❖ Kris wants to talk to as many members as she can, please call her at 303-847-9862 or email kris@anchoragefarm.com to set up a time. Everyone's input is valued.

9. Education Chair

- ❖ We have no current Education chair. If you are interested please, call Kris at 303-847-9862.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

All meetings at 6:30 PM

Golden- Location TBA, Monday, April 13th

Evergreen- Tuscany Tavern, Monday, August 10th

Golden- Location TBA, Monday, October 12th