



Central Plains Dressage Society Newsletter January 2020

Fun Friendly Forward

Message From The President

Resolutions and Resolve

It is the time of year when most people make some resolutions for the new year. Resolutions rarely last but having resolve does! In the first Newsletter I suggested that you start the year with clear-cut goals. There is still time to clarify what you want to accomplish in the coming year!! If you are wondering what you might add to your list for 2020 I have a couple of suggestions for you that would benefit Central Plains Dressage.

First, you could think about volunteering at Club events. We have 25 scheduled shows in the coming year. They are a combination of Recognized shows, Schooling shows, Western Dressage shows and Working Equitation shows. Each of these events involve preparing a site, running the show and cleaning up. The shows require people who can scribe for a judge, check scores, open gates, get riders from the warm-up to the competition arena, announcing and sometimes checking bits. There is always cleaning before and after the show too- less glamorous but just as important. We are proud of the volunteers who serve with a smile and supportive encouragement for all. YOU could be one of those people. If you are interested, please contact Chris Cashel (chris.cashel@okstate.edu) for West Schooling Shows and Recognized shows and Annie Houchin (jahouch@yhoo.com) for East Schooling shows. It is most helpful if you can serve at least a half day, but even a few hours help. Sometimes you have several hours before or after rides or between rides and that is a time to volunteer.

Secondly, the budget operates pretty close to cost throughout the year. There are some simple ways you can help and several of our members have already contributed to the Club in unique ways. For example, one member's employer will match and pay for any volunteer hours worked. So far that has totaled over \$500. Another member earns volunteer hours and then submits a grant application to their company. Several thousand in grants has been earned to date. Ask your employer if they have a volunteer program.

Members have signed up for "Amazon Smiles" which takes a percentage of your purchases on Amazon and contributes back to the Club. Others have rounded up their entries to shows; for example, if your total entry is \$146 dollars round to \$150! It is not much but even a few dollars multiplied by many participants adds up in our favor. There are also contributions for specific needs. Over the past three years individual members have contributed or teamed up with other members to buy the lunch for the Year-end Awards, to purchase the AED, to buy the celebratory cakes and champagne for medal winners throughout the year. We have wish lists and if you are interested we can help you decide on a project! This is our Club and we are very active. The Club provides many opportunities for the members and also requires many helpers. Please consider contributing in the coming year to make it a "**Fun, Friendly and Forward**" year. Thank you.

Chris Cashel

*Discussed summer AGM on August 29. Robin Hessel will ask Jay Craig to speak during the dinner before the meeting. Format proposed: Catered picnic dinner in the pavilion, followed by freestyle rides. "Dinner and Dancing"

*Special Events and Symposiums: Discussion led by Annie Houchin. We are hoping to increase our Western Dressage participants by providing leadership and education in Oklahoma to grow it here. Annie is exploring grant opportunities and possible symposium topics and presenters. Robin Hessel is working on a possible symposium with Betsy Steiner in May.

*Board meeting schedule. Discussion about having most meetings on Zoom the second Sunday of each month at 5 pm. About every third month or so we can meet face to face in Stroud at 5 p.m. Chris Cashel will research a location.

*Welcome letters to new members. Kathy Maxwell and Amy Mullins will be in charge.

*Fundraising: Discussed needs, to include a new sound system, speakers updated outside and in the pavilion. Robin Hessel will get estimates. Another need is Big Ass Fans. Because they are a sponsor of USEF, a discount is available. Fundraising idea discussion, to include new teeshirt sales, 50/50 guess your score game at shows, barn basket challenge at the end of the year AGM, raffling off an item at each show, holding a live auction at a fundraising dinner, and soliciting donations or money or items for the raffles or auctions.

*Annie Houchin will send out to all board members a copy of the sponsorship letter to request sponsorships for show classes or divisions. Requesting that each board member gets donations from five people. Kathy Maxwell and Christina Harmon will organize a letter writing campaign soliciting donations from business large and small, near and far, for money or items.

*We will add the names of people who donated extra money to CPDS when they paid their memberships, to the newsletter to encourage others to do the same. Nancy Eytcheson will send out thank you notes.

*Please send any information for the newsletter to Lee Ann by Tuesday so she can include it. LeeAnn will also add the links to USDF and USEF, as well as the Region 9 website so that members will have them.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm. Motion to adjourn was made by Janelle Williams, seconded by Christina Harmon. Passed.

The next meeting is via Zoom on January 12 at 5 p.m

Whiskers to Clip or Not? By Dr. Hilary Clayton, DVM

Several European countries have banned competition horses from having clipped whiskers, prompting the question as to the usefulness of a horse's whiskers.

Rodents "whisk" with their whiskers and form an image in their mind of their surroundings. Rodents have more use for whiskers, as rodents are nocturnal and have small eyes, making their eyesight poor. Rodents also have many long whiskers as compared to their body which provide a lot of information.

In contrast, horses cannot "whisk" (move) their whiskers (but can move the muscles around their whiskers) and horses have very short, sparse whiskers. They do not use them to "whisk" an image of their surroundings. They also have few or no whiskers on the end of their nose to sense their surroundings. To date, there is no meaningful research in horses (only rodents) about the usefulness or need for whiskers to survive or perceive surroundings.

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What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. You can choose from over one million organizations to support. For more info, go to <http://smile.amazon.com/about>

CALENDAR

[USEF/USDF Recognized Shows](#)

March 29 – Melissa Creswick “S”
April 25-26 – Thomas Poulin “S”
May 30-31 – Jodi Lees “S”
June 27-28 – Amy McElroy “S”
Sept 5 – Lilo Fore “S”
October 31 – Donna Richardson “S”

[Clinics](#)

March 30 – Melissa Creswick “S”
April 27 – Thomas Poulin “S”
June 1 – Jodi Lees “S”
June 29 – Amy McElroy “S”
Sept 6-7 – Lilo Fore “S”
November 1 – Donna Richardson “S”

[USEF Recognized “Lite” Western Dressage](#)

March 28 – Melissa Creswick “R”
June 20 – Susan Lang “R”
September 12 – Marie Maloney “R”
November 1 – Donna Richardson “R”

[AHA Sport Horse Value Show \(Dressage and WD\)](#)

May 16 – Marie Maloney

[East area Schooling Shows](#)

March 21 – Cross Bar Arena – Janelle Williams
April 11 – Rocking C – Sherry Guess
May 23 – Cross Bar – Kay Kamish
June 6 – Cross Bar – Robin Hessel
September 26 – Rocking C – Deryn Stewart
October 17 – Rocking C – Cynthia Sera

[West Area Schooling Show \(at Valley View unless noted\)](#)

January 11 – Janelle Williams
February 15 – Deryn Stewart
March 7 – Robin Hessel
March 28 (concurrent with Lite WD show) – Melissa Creswick
May 16 (concurrent with AHA show) – Marie Maloney
June 20 (concurrent with Lite WD show) – Susan Lang
July 11 – Lurena Bell
September 12 (concurrent with Lite WD show) – Marie Maloney
September 21 (at State Fair Park) – Robin Hessel
October 24 (schooling show championships) – Marie Maloney & TBA

[Working Equitation Schooling Shows \(Valley View\)](#)

January 12 TBA
February 16 – TBA
March 8 – TBA

Series year-end awards

Clinic with the judge after many shows

Friendly and supportive atmosphere

Indoor arena with outstanding footing (Valley View)

On site bunkhouse lodging available (Valley View)

Most shows are webcast live (Valley View)

Trainers Tips

(submitted by DeDe Wasemiller)

“FIX IT WITH FORWARD”

This is the number 1 tip in my dressage training book... an example would be a horse that is getting crooked on a straight line, allow the horse to go a bit more forward for a few steps to “un-kink” and then try your movement again... this works with simple circles to more advanced movement like leg-yields, shoulder-ins, half-passes, Piaffe and Passage...

This also helps with better transitions (into and out of movements) as well as center line straightness and better halts...

What is a Materiale Class – by Kristi Wysocki, “S”

A materiale class is a group class that does not have a “test” associated with it. At most local shows, there may be 2 to 3 in the class, and the fact that there are other horses in the ring give young horses more confidence. Mares cannot be shown in the same class as stallions/geldings. If the class is large, the horses can be divided into groups and worked as a group while the other group stands in the middle or out of the way. The class does not have to be in a dressage arena, but should not be held around the outside of an arena (need to be able to circle). Riders can choose to post or sit the trot. There is no “off course” in the class (for example, if you have to circle, or the horse spooks and suddenly reverses direction. Horses must show walk trot and canter in both directions, and although 4 and 5 year old classes can be asked for lengthenings at trot and canter, there are no medium paces shown. A horse can make a “mistake” (pick up the wrong lead for example) or can jig at the walk because of tension, and the judge is to score the quality of the gait that is seen “at its best” even though the tension or mistake may make “the best” elusive to see. A wrong lead or dropping from canter to trot does not affect the gait score unless the rider is never able to show the lead. The scoring is based on 30% at each of Walk/Trot/Canter, and 10% General impressions. The canter score is the average of each lead shown, and the General Impressions reflect the harmony, rideability and temperament for further training.