



Bits & Pieces

News from the Board

by Sheri Leidl

Welcome to cooler weather. Fall is here, and as usual in Sonoma County it is beautiful. Our Sonoma Chapter Board has had a wonderful summer horse season and we are busy planning for next year.

A quick recap of a few summer highlights include:

- Our popular fund raising Clinic Series enjoyed by both riders and auditors (once again we'd like to thank our instructors for donating their time: Jaki Hardy, Erika Jansson, Brian Hafner, Kristen Aggers, Allison Mathy and Tanya Vik).
- The Shelly Siegel Dressage and Breed Show with its trade show and perfect weather under the oaks at SREC.
- The horribly hot Summer Show where I was totally impressed by our hardy afternoon competitors!
- Last, but not least, a huge congratulations to our talented group of riders who participated at the Region 7 Championship Show - Margo Brown, Brian Hafner, Jaki Hardy, Kristen Aggers, Evelyn James, Eric Di Benedetto, Tracy Ladd, Daphna Bendull, Christine Johnson and Erin King Jackson.

Chapter Co-Chair and Treasurer Cindy Madden has moved back to Palo Cedro and has resigned her board position. We will miss her very much and hope that she will make many trips down south to see us!

Sonoma Chapter has BIG PLANS for 2016!!!

- Dressage in the Wine Country is back June 18, 2016! Of course we need chapter volunteers. We need you! From committee chairs to volunteers the evening of the performance. Please sign up.
- Shelly Siegel Dressage and Breed Show, June 3-5, 2016
- The Sonoma Summer Show and Northern RAAC 2016 will be held August 20-21 at SREC.

Remember to renew your membership.
We hope to see you soon at a Sonoma Chapter event.

Clinic Reviews

Tanya Vik July 25, 2015

Well we had perfect riding weather again for our second clinic from our local instructors. A huge **Thank You** goes to Tanya Vik whose topic was—"Biomechanics and How to Improve Your Rider Score." We saw great improvements in all riders, auditors and participants. They learned lots of new ways to influence the horse.

Tanya gave a great lecture over the lunch break with questions and answers covering a plethora of issues that we all face as riders. She kept it easy to understand and fun! And only tortured one student with a contraption who seemed to thoroughly enjoy it.

Thank you to Johanna Paine (our lecture demo rider) for patiently letting Tanya adjust her position while we all watched – luckily her lesson was next so she got to put it all into practice. Lots of auditors commented on what a great clinician and hoped to work with Tanya in the future.

Another huge **Thank You** to Tracy Underwood for allowing us to use her facility whose central location and fantastic indoor arena made it a pleasure to attend. Tracy sponsored our lunch and muffins, so no one had to leave the facility.

Also a big **Thank You** to Cathy Divodi (from Artemis Claims) who sponsored our coffee and scones, morning treats, drinks and lent a helping hand to setup arenas and chairs.

We had great volunteers (too many to mention) helping with set up and break down of equipment, arenas and food. We cannot put these events on without you all.

Thank you so much and please let someone know if you want to help or sponsor one of our future events!!

Our riders Sarah Ponzini, Avra Tracht, Ricky Stancliff, Evelyn James, Johanna Paine, Ursula Worthen, Alice Simpson, Lisa Thomas and Margo Brown all went home with lots to practice on. Thank you for participating!



Allison Mathy working with Ursula

Allison Mathy August 29, 2015

Another big **Thank You** to Allison Mathy who did an amazing job with all the students that she had just seen for the first time. Allison donated her time for the day with good humor even though we had a last minute date change that conflicted with her own schedule. We would also like to thank Jeannette Bell for being so kind to let us use her wonderful facility – Flying Cloud , located on Jacobsen Lane. This facility is also used for weddings so what a back drop. This clinic was titled, "Counter Canter and Simple Changes." A topic that you can never have enough help with.

Allison had some really good and fun exercises to make the lessons interesting.

Of course first and foremost she did work on the connection between the horse and rider, and what a transformation on all the rides.

Our riders where Marci McDaniel-Davis, Linda Miller, Sarah Ponzini, Ursula Worthen and Jaclyn Pepper.

Also a big warm thank you to Dr. Katy Sommers that was our demo rider for this clinic.

Sarah Ponzini was the winner of our raffle- allowing her to participate in one of our other clinics in the series for free!!

The Luxury of Time

I was awarded the Hans Moeller scholarship by CDS this year. This is an Individual rider scholarship, applicants must be 30 years of age or older and have competed at Third Level or above. These funds are for training purposes. Lessons, training and showing are expensive so this scholarship was very much welcomed. Receiving this scholarship gave me permission to take the time away—time to focus on myself, and immerse in the training. We trainers/ riders dream of doing this but it's not always possible when you are self-employed.

I'm lucky enough to be at the barn of an FEI O judge but we run a busy training facility. While I take regular lessons, I barely warmup my own horse, never mind cooling her off, before hopping on the next training horse. To be able to groom, warm up and stretch, before a lesson is a luxury! So, I asked my friend and colleague Volker Brommann, if I could come work with him for an extended amount of time. I've worked with Volker for over 20 years and he is a great compliment to the training program I am in. With Championships two weeks away I didn't need to change anything, just fine tune it. As it happened Anne Gribbons was clinicing in the area the week of championships – what an opportunity to be in front of another FEI O judge so I decided that was where this money would go – 8 days with Volker and a 2 day clinic with Anne Gribbons.

I brought two horses, both schooling GP – They are both very different rides and yet I found each lesson applied in some way to both horses. Good riding is good riding and self carriage is necessary for making it to GP. I was guilty for holding my horses up and over working to achieve what I wanted. At First, patience to let them fall apart and figure out how to hold themselves up was overwhelming. Luckily I had a voice in my ear saying it was ok, let them figure it out.

The training was intense! Volker acknowledged that this was a huge deal for me—to leave my business alone for two weeks while I focused on my own needs. He went above and beyond, spent time answering my questions. He helped me get my aids clear in my head and then transfer into my body which could hopefully transfer into my horses. They both responded beautifully! We worked on the ground and Volker helped me be more confident about working my horses from the ground by being the one in the saddle and letting me work them according to what I was seeing.

Next phase on to the Anne Gribbons clinic!!! This was held at a beautiful private facility in Oakdale. I rode the horse I was taking to Championships. We were still having problems collecting after a powerful extended trot. Anne was clear and concise. She gave me some great exercises to address my mares enthusiasm with great results. Now if I could just remember this in the show ring!

I brought a very tired horse to championships but it was the most rideable she has ever been. We had great rides despite the heat and I felt like I had bonded with my mare again in a different way. It just goes to show you that if you take the time, the extra time, to work on your relationship with your horse, they will give you 150% even when they are tired.

This scholarship allowed me to rejuvenate my love for Dressage and to clarify why we work so hard at this difficult sport! My whole experience has taught me that you never stop learning. Continuing education is a must and I wouldn't have been able to do it without the Hans Moeller Scholarship. .

Thank you CDS scholarship committee for having these great opportunities available and for awarding this money to me. I hope to pass on everything I have learned during these intense few weeks to my students in the future.

Jaki Hardy

USDF Certified Instructor

USEF r Judge.

(Continued)



Volker Brommann



Anne Gribbons

CDS Sonoma Chapter 2015 Board

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FOR LEASE OR SALE at Sanbar Dressage on Lakeville Hwy , Petaluma . This sweet, good moving and sound 1999 16.1 TB mare has been successful in multiple disciplines. She is easy, eager to please and well educated. Ride with Riana Porter and Jane Weatherwax at Sanbar! Potential free lease in barn, \$8K for a year lease out of barn, \$16K to purchase. Contact Pippa Murray (415) 637-6217 pippamurraymosaics@gmail.com

FOR SALE 10 yrs 13.3 hds grey, barefoot, does trails (MAU horse patrol), jumping, dressage, friendly easy to load straight or slant. Young kids have ridden her and pretty easy going, good for farrier. Asking \$5000.00 for info contact - Ursula (831) 818-9866



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Catherine Whitcombe, Realtor
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A photograph of Catherine Whitcombe, a woman with blonde hair, standing next to a white horse with a black mane and tail. They are in a garden setting with purple flowers in the foreground and a wooden fence in the background.

Coldwell Banker Santa Rosa [br: 707.939.1871](tel:7079391871)

Renaissance Farm
Quality Horse Boarding & Training

A black and white illustration of a horse and rider in a dynamic, jumping pose. The horse is rearing up slightly, and the rider is leaning forward.

Thomas & Susan Reinecke 707-433-1288

morpheus

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Barbara Lassa, RN, BSN
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