

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Romano's Italian Restaurant – 720-344-9530

May 9, 2013

Attendance: Nicole Bizzarro, MaryJo Hoepner, Gwen Ka'awaloa, Shannon Lemons, Pete Soos, Sharon Soos, Laura Speer, Lori Mitchell, Linda Gaber, Beth Geier, Sarah Barnes, Heather Petersen, Jennifer Glass, Patricia Leech; Julie Haugen; Renee Martig

Proxies: Michelle Anderson to Gwen Ka'awaloa, Barbara Terry to Heather Petersen; Simone Windeler to Heather Petersen; Jessica Ford to Heather Petersen; Cat Siemiet to Lori Mitchell; Sally Shaffer to Lori Mitchell; Wendy Cibis to Lori Mitchell

Guests: Jordan Hobbs, Kim Harris, Marla Gillaspie, Beverly Swanson

Call to Order by Lori Mitchell at 6:31 PM

The March 14, 2013 Minutes:

Correction: a couple of spelling issues.

MaryJo Hoepner made a motion to approve the March 14, 2013 minutes as corrected, 2nd by Peter Soos. Motion passed.

Treasurers Report by Sharon Soos

Balance in each account as of April 30, 2013:

Checking Account	\$31,356.23
Scholarship Account	\$5730.88
PayPal Account	\$4641.08
<u>Money Market</u>	<u>\$44,419.16</u>
Total:	\$86,047.35

Discussion: tax return completed, signed and put in the mail. We're going to really look at our fixed assets, starting to create lists. All chapters will be paying \$50 for tax prep.

Centaur Bids

Beverly Swanson – has worked with Constant Contact for 3 years, previously did Centaur, and has web background to help with Constant Contact. Lori had a few questions for her regarding software, ability to correct ads, questions on using Constant Contact. There was discussion and questions on acquisition of articles, where to pull them from and themes, and discussion of job parameters to members of the board.

Marla Gillaspie – Discussion of number of pages that would be produced in the Centaur and revising bid for the e-centaur portion and how many pages the e-Centaur would equal – she said to equal it 6 pages of work.

Kim Harris – is the bid firm for both ecentaur and print? Bid would go down for less hours - \$30 per hour rate. Lots of previous work and good samples provided.

Nicole Bizzarro – reallocated pricing to heavier to print then e-centaur, but price overall the same. Hours – print – 20-35 hours per month. E-centaur – 8 hours to 12 hours. Comfortable with pdf links in Constant Contact. Challenges over the 6 months, do you see it lessening with Jordan on board and doing the e-Centaur – yes, feels less strenuous, and also helps with funds allocated more appropriately. Current hourly rate is \$50 per hour.

Re-interviewed Kim on hourly rate, and she was definitely agreeable to lesser based on hours. Not as familiar with Constant Contact, but has done publishing of electronic newsletters.

Straw poll of folks and concerns – continuity, quality of product. Lots of discussion on the various applicants and their pros and cons.

Julie Haugen moved we accept the RMDS Centaur and e-Centaur bid from Beverly Swanson, 2nd by Shannon Lemons, Unanimous.

President's Report by Lori Mitchell

Since our last meeting things have been quiet. I worked closely with others getting the 'Call for Bid' for the Centaur position out so we can now accept on one of those bids and move forward.

Getting ready for Regional Championships. Please take some part in getting sponsors, auction items, volunteers, or advertising.

At our last meeting we briefly discussed Western Dressage and if Kelly, our liaison would be continuing as such. I agreed to get in touch with her about the future of her position. I did talk to her about this and was disappointed with her response. Kelly felt that when she presented her reports to the Board she was greeted with negative responses and conversation. She attended the 'Train the Trainer' clinic taught by Frances Carbonnel and had some great information about the future plans of WD. Kelly explained that the WD organization plans on having their own form of Training Scale, Rules, Shows, etc, but she was hoping that we would be more open to helping them to stand on their own instead of condemning them. I hope that we can welcome new ideas in the future in a more positive way. Kelly is working on an article for the Centaur of her experience at the clinic.

I will not be present at the July RMDS Board meeting and will leave the meeting to be led by our Vice President, Gwen.

Review of RMDS Executive Board Policy on Program Proposals:

1. Committee programs or projects should be designed to meet the mission of RMDS and the mission and goals of the respective Committee.
2. All Committee proposals for new projects or programs, or revisions to current programs, must have the input and recommendation of the Committee (if applicable).
3. All Committee proposals for new projects or programs, or revisions to current programs, must include a budget to identify revenue sources, estimated expenses (including administrative expenses), and a suggested time line for implementing the program or completing the project.
4. Committee programs and projects should be designed to utilize RMDS and Chapters, if appropriate, and volunteers to the fullest extent possible.
5. All Committee proposals for new programs and projects, or revisions to current programs must be submitted to the EB for approval through the respective Chair or staff coordinator/liaison for the Committee that will be responsible for the program or project.
6. Committee program and project proposals or revisions, where budgeted expenses may exceed revenues, should demonstrate that the benefits justify the cost, and must receive approval from the EB.
7. In cases where the EB/Committee determines that the program or project cannot be implemented in its original form, due to excessive costs or other factors, a revised format for the program or project must be recommended to and reviewed by the EB. Final approval of any changes to the originally approved format must be presented via email, if necessary, for approval to the Board (either EB or BOG) that originally approved the program regardless of time constraints.

8. RMDS sponsored events will establish one fee for all participants and one fee for all auditors. No special consideration will be given to any particular group of members, although a price reduction will be allowed for RMDS members vs. non-members. These fees will be based on expenses and determined by the event coordinator.

Sharon Soos made the motion to accept the RMDS Executive Board policy for “Program Proposals” as corrected. 2nd by MaryJo Hoepner. Motion passed unanimously.

2013 Executive Board Retreat:

Gwen Ka’awaloa is looking into several sites and will get back to us. Tentative date is set for October 19. We did pay \$75 last year for our meeting location, but the lowest price currently is \$200 for 2013. It was asked if we want to even have it. It was suggested and decided that we are going to just have a Thursday meeting October 10th at Romanos for a preliminary budget planning session.

Office Manager Report by Beth Geier

Membership:

- Registration – 712 as of 5/1/2013 – 11 are Centaur only. 59 new horses since October, 2012.

Shows: no new shows

Recognized Officials:

- Brentina Cup – part of Horse of the Year awards? Level Equal to? (Dressage for the Cure)
- TD Reports:

Omnibus: everyone ok – need to start on advertising – marketing?? Should all people go out and solicite. Board members need ask our service providers.

General:

Office:

Rental Items – If you want to rent a measuring stick or dressage arena, notify the office sooner than later. Arena is rented 2 times for the year so far...

I move that the Brentina Cup be equivalent Intermediare 2 for RMDS year end awards and RMDS Championship qualifying... 2nd by Gwen, motion passes unanimously.

DRIVER/ASSET Insurance Addition:

We are not getting insurance for arena, because we can afford to replace it.

Next Executive Board Meetings (2nd Thursday odd months) – Romano’s Italian Restaurant – 720-344-9530

2013: **July 9 (Tuesday)** **Sept 12** **Oct 10**
 Nov 9 -BOG

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Members:	1162	1177	1151	1019	1036	1008	1030	945	921	868	797	712
Horses:	274	337	207	234	262	246	166	132	132	123	135	59
AV	-	-	-	-	-	12	26	15	24	27	25	26
BV	230	208	199	179	178	172	205	188	200	190	182	161
CS	134	155	137	130	143	126	127	115	124	115	63	42
FH	115	103	109	73	74	77	76	75	72	71	65	55
GV	77	98	93	92	88	102	105	87	83	65	53	63
HP	278	283	267	251	259	260	265	256	226	208	190	139
NC	150	151	162	139	137	137	124	107	132	110	93	84
OB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
PP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	59
PR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	14	18
WA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	24	24	28	19

WC	64	55	44	34	32	25	25	21	22	31	27	20
No Chapter	24	36	34	21	22	16	14	25	14	15	13	11
PN	13	14	15	14	13	13	12	inactive	Dissolved			
TS	77	74	91	86	90	68	51	36	Dissolved			
TOTAL	1162	1177	1151	1019	1036	1008	1030	945	921	870	797	712
Juniors									134	120	117	97
Amateurs									230	239	220	154

Adult Amateur Report by Jennifer Glass

Working on biomechanics clinic for 2014. Lori was not impressed with Joe Belasko clinic and would not recommend using them for RMDS. A lot of folks are booked already – Mary Wanlass booked. Time and place to do it important also. Beth asked we consider Sarah Martin for part 2 of her clinic series. It then suggested that we try to keep it centered on folks from outside the area that are a little more well known.

Awards by Shannon Lemons

Our awards vendor has fallen off the face of the planet. Working on getting a new vendor. Blue Bibbon is new vendor possibly but there are other ideas. Shannon will price our needs and try to find the best fit.

Ann Edelman asked Heather Petersen to bring forth a proposal for 2 new Adult Amateur trophies - I2 and Grand Prix – **Heather Petersen moved RMDS allow a trophy to be donated for Adult Amateur Intermediare 2 in honor of Moonlight and a trophy to be donated for Adult Amateur Grand Prix in honor of Made in Shade, 2nd by Gwen Ka’awaloa. Motion passed unanimously.**

Communications by Linda Gaber

Accomplished since March meeting:

- Advertised on craigslist Denver and in RMDS Central Office member e-mail blasts for solicitation of applications for a new one-year contractor for Centaur Production for online and print issues. Among several Board members to evaluate applicants and make recommendations for Board vote.
- On-going coordination of article topics with RMDS members. Watch for their articles on:
 - A judge's comments on a rider's horse, "He's no Ravel," that led to rider's article detailing all the good things her "No Ravel" horses are.
 - More benefits of buying a dressage schoolmaster (several articles planned on how to buy one, out-of-state purchase trip and reselling) by Susan DeSylvia.
 - Holistic veterinarian by Sarah Barnes.
 - Stories behind RMDS championship trophies from their donors.
- For each issue, continued content communication with members, and writing, editing and proof-reading.

Board members, please continue to forward your article suggestions or issue themes, with suggested writers. Always looking for members who attend clinics to write articles.

Nicole – We have 2 click through ads for next e-Centaur; She has also been kicked around idea of going to all color for the Centaur. She did get prices on color – If we publish a print Centaur 4 times a year in color- \$19,200 and the rest of them would be constant contact.

Education Report by Jon Haugen

In conversations with USDF and Sarah Martin to hold an instructor certification in the fall. Beth will present a proposed budget. 6 people in a session, 8 is max per session. Budget based on 7 people - \$300 each person, unlimited auditors, \$45 auditors (10 base number). Expenses - \$1500 instructor, facility – donating, Beth needs to

check on stabling; airfare \$400, hotel and meals \$300, lunches \$320; aiming to break even – dates are pending... approving just one session, aiming for October. **MaryJo Hoepner moves we move forward with one workshop with the caveat that it doesn't conflict with another clinic and stays within a balanced budget, 2nd by Julie Haugen, motion passed unanimously.**

Still looking into a 'L' program.

Junior/Young Riders by Julie Haugen

- Camp update
 - Currently have 4 confirmed Campers
 - Already have 2 instructors confirmed volunteering their time for instruction
 - Have contacted 2 highlights for the campers and are awaiting confirmation
- Will send an email reminder to invite more campers
 - Have been asked about scholarship or financial assistance from one interested, recurring camper
- Meeting with Natalie Ellis to iron out more details
 - Have confirmed an Assistant director. Melanie Newkirk former student of mine.

Funding options? Suggested campers can contact the dressage foundation.

Jennifer will help with swag and volunteers.

Marketing by Sharon Soos

I. Colorado Horse Park Ad for 2013-2014

Proposal: Rocky Mountain Dressage Society for place the same ad as placed in the 2012-2013 Visitor Guide for ½ the published rate of \$550. In return, Colorado Horse Park would place an ad in the 2013 RMDS Championships Program, full color, Outside Back Page for the published rate of \$275.

The Executive Board voted to not place an ad in the Colorado Horse Park Visitor Guide.

In response to some of the concerns that this was not equal, the answer is Yes, the value is not equal since CHP visitor guide has a significantly great circulation.

- CHP produces 10,000 copies of the Guide vs RMDS 300 copies of the program.
- CHP distribution is via several outlets including Denver International Airport Visitor information vs. RMDS Championships only to participants/competitors/spectators.
- CHP Guide is available over 12 months vs RMDS 5 days.

Also, per Heather Petersen, the Outside Back Cover of the RMDS Show Program has been sold.

II. RMDS Polo Shirts – New inventory has been received.

III. Rocky Mountain Horse Expo – Estimated comparison:

- a. Double Booth and Non-Profit membership (includes 2 tickets) & no purchase - \$725
- b. Single Booth and Corporate Membership (includes 8 tickets) & purchase of up to 8 - \$520
- c. Share Double Booth – Need to explore with Horse Expo – is this permitted?
- d. Fliers – Other organizations/etc for \$50 fee – Tried it – was difficult to manage.

Scholarship by MaryJo Hoepner

- Updated forms for website
- Sending out reminders for the program and encouraging volunteering now.

Discussion of changes to program – 2 scholarships for more money? Still less impact on budget and might help build it up... a proposal will be brought forward before BOG.

RMDS Championships **by Laura Speer**

Several things Laura will be working on:

- Standardizing and updating the RMDS policy and requirements for bids on show management of RMDS Championships and Regionals when hosted by RMDS. This will include detailing the responsibilities of RMDS and the management company. Implementation of those responsibilities as provided for in the current contracts.
- Building a strong RMDS show committee.
- Working with the contracted show management company and the CHP to ensure a successful regional championship.
- Reporting to the RMDS Board and president and addressing any issues that need discussion or board approval.
- Strive to make the RMDS Championships (Regionals when hosted) successful financially.

If you would like to help the show committee or be on the committee, please contact Laura Speer.

Ideas that were suggested asked to be implemented were a State Challenge and a Porta Potty Decorating Contest.

RMDS Championships Report from 2 White Feet, Inc.

2013

- Working on Parking documents and maps with the Horse Park to facilitate better layouts and communications. Issues have already arisen with the Horse Park for 2013.
- First grant request for \$500 was submitted but still not received to our knowledge. Heather is following up on this. The remainder of the grant money is not available until a successful completion of the Regional Championships, review of the show by the USDF Executive Board and the USDF Regional Championships committee. The final money is distributed in December.
- Sponsorship packet, vendor packet and sponsorship request letter have been updated to reflect Centaur format changes and grammar corrections.
- Still working on RMDS Championship coolers with various vendors to get good pricing and possible sponsorships.
- Final prize list was approved by USDF and is now posted on the RMDS website in several places in addition to the 2 White Feet website. It will soon be posted on the USDF Region 5 prize list.
- Meeting with the Horse Park has been set for August to review the details and working plan of the Championships with the facility owner, facility manager, grounds manager, show management and hopefully Laura and Lori.
- Working to finalize who will head the silent auction.
- Live band versus DJ?? Live band would like a commitment soon if we go that route...

2014

- Should know by RMDS meeting whether the 2014 Regional Champion bid was approved or not.
- 2 TDs hired and 7 judges. Working on finding an 8th judge, would like S judge or FEI judge and have one tentatively checking their schedule.
- Will need to sit down with the Horse Park and get this contract taken care of soon also, but we are on the calendar for the correct dates for 2014.

Heather asked for a decision from the board on a live band or DJ. The board decided it would be good to try a live band again.

Appointed Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee by Sarah Barnes – Sarah presented an “RMDS Officer Nomination” form. After much discussion, it was decided to send this out to nominees after they were nominated. Sarah will be publishing the answers and biography information in the Centaur in October.

Banquet & BOG– November 9, 2013 by Laura Speer.

Thank you for the discussion and the decisions made in my (Laura’s) absence last meeting.

The Renaissance Hotel was able to hold our BOG and Banquet on the original 2nd Saturday of November, November 9th 2013. A contract has been signed and a \$1500 deposit given and it is not possible to move for 2013.

The BOG will run the same as it has for the past 2 years. Danishes, coffee service and lunch will be provided for Board Members and Delegates free of charge to those attending – RMDS will pay for it. There will still be a cookie break in the afternoon also.

We are planning a few changes this year:

- New dinner menu
- Live auctioning of the RMDS Chapter baskets only (this has proven to make more money than a silent auction), raffle tickets for the show entries, a few silent auction items to make the evening go faster.
- Nobody will be allowed in before the event except the awards chair person and set-up helpers.
- Reserved seating with discounts for a whole table reservation (for example \$45 per person or \$400 for a table of 10).

Many points of discussion on moving the BOG for 2014

Julie Haugen moved we go to 3rd Saturday for 2014 and 2015, 2nd by MaryJo Hoepner. Motion passes with Sharon Soos and Laura Speer abstaining.

Professional Trainers/Riders Committee – there will be a little something in the next Centaur. A couple of trainers are interested in participating.

USDF Region 5 Update by Heather Petersen

We’re recently concluded another jam-packed USDF Executive Board Spring Meeting and what a weekend of discussion it was. This year the meetings were held during the Running of the Roses, the Kentucky Derby and we had an enjoyable evening on Saturday watching the Derby while eating dinner. What a great race in the mud, and I have to admit, I made a little money playing the ponies courtesy of Keeneland’s nice drive thru betting process.

We had a less time this year than last year and we had a very ambitious schedule that we could not quite get through, but we made very good headway. George and Stephan opened the meeting with a status update on the organization since we had last gathered at the USDF convention in December of 2012. We looked at the final membership numbers for 2012 and the numbers are starting to stabilize. Membership is staying steady and this is great news. We can in under budget also for our fiscal year ending March 31, and that is also great news. Congratulations to our staff and treasurer, Steve Schubert, for helping us accomplish this feat the last several years. We looked at the preliminary budget for next year for USDF and though it was balanced when the meetings started, several changes were suggested within programs and promotions for 2013 and 2013 and we’re going to have to work a little more on the budget before it’s presented at the Board of Governors meeting in December. We are rolling along on the National Championships. There is a great management team in place, host hotels have been contracted, officials hired and the details are coming together well. It is going to be a great Inaugural Year!

There were many things that were discussed throughout the weekend that go into the running of the organization. We are working on making some programs more accessible and we have approved a new membership program that will be very exciting for those who love to ride dressage but do not have competition as a goal. More details will be coming this year and I’ll be sure to pass them along as soon I can. There was quite a bit of discussion on the new USEF fees structure for Dressage competitions and how it may influence areas of the country that offer several shows

over several days (a different show each day of the weekend). This could dramatically change the show trends in the US and there was quite a bit of concern, especially from the areas that already have a short show season and use these multi show weekends to help competitors earn scores for USDF Regional Championships and Year End Awards.

Several wonderful educational programs were given approval for the USDF Convention in December. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to join us December 4-7, 2013! It will be a nice mix of business meetings and educational sessions. The 2014 Convention will be in Cambridge, Massachusetts and we're looking a little more west for 2015. More details will come as soon as they are finalized. We once again talked about the convention format and the addition or subtraction of a symposium. If you have an opinion on what you'd like to see, please let me know and I'll pass on your feedback. There was also discussion on the expansion of NAJYRC. In 2013, South American countries will be joining us and for 2014, we approved a Young Rider team for Hawaii. They have a hard time commuting to the mainland for the qualifying process and this will give them an opportunity to come as their own team. We also have approved a recommendation to have "R" DSHB judges as at least one judge of the USDF Breeders' Championship Series Finals. A "r" DSHB judge can be used as the second judge or another "R" DSHB judge. This will help equalize the program with the Regional Championships, where "R" and "S" judges are required to officiate.

The Executive Board awarded the 2014 USDF/Great American Region 5 Championships to the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society and they will be held September 18-21, 2014 at the Colorado Horse Park. We are looking forward to a bid from Arizona Dressage Association for 2015 and we hope to get back on to our normal rotation if we can.

Nominations are still open for 2 USDF Executive Board positions – Vice President and Treasurer. If you are interested in either of these positions, please email Scarlett Fahrenson at stgeorg@dakotacom.net.

I'm also very happy to announce that Region 5 will host a Junior/Young Rider clinic again this October. We are excited to have George Williams return to Autumn Hill International Equestrian Center in Longmont, Colorado October 26-27, 2013. Mark your calendars – although only Juniors and Young Riders are allowed to apply to ride, the clinic is open to auditors of all ages! Please note, any junior or young rider of any level may apply to ride.

We have 11 declared Junior/Young Rider combinations for the 2013 FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships. If you would like to contribute or help with their fundraising efforts, please contact Joan Clay, our Region 5 Jr/YR FEI coordinator at jnclay@comcast.net or 970-420-0877.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Chapter Reports: MaryJo Hoepner made the motion that all chapter reports be accepted as written, 2nd by Laura Speer. Motion Passed unanimously.

**Arkansas Valley
Boulder Valley**

No Report

**Catherine Siemiet-proxy to Lori Mitchell
Sarah Barnes**

Welcome to Spring – Colorado Style! Boulder Valley Dressage got off to a good start with a fun and educational Spring Fling weekend at Singletree Farm. Thanks to Jan and all the folks at Singletree, our great group of volunteers, BVD show staff (especially Beth Geier and Jeannette Hillery), Julie Haugen (ride-a-test judge) and Jessica Greer (show judge) for putting on another successful event.

Coming up next week, on May 18th at Autumn Hill, Boulder Valley Dressage members have a great opportunity to ride with FEI judge Sandra Hotz at the BVD-sponsored ride-a-test featuring the new USEF Rider Tests. While we hope riders will try-out the new tests, participants may sign up to ride any test of

choice and receive direct feedback from Sandy, with the opportunity to practice elements of their tests under her expert eye. Boulder Valley Dressage members receive a substantial discount. Non-members are welcome to sign up as well.

Our next chapter meeting is June 10th at my house.

**Colorado Springs
Foothills**

No Report

**Patricia Leech
Lori Mitchell**

Our quarterly meeting is held May 6 at Tuscan Tavern in Evergreen. Update to follow at next meeting, since the meeting happened after board reports due. Planned discussion will include 'Foothills Flea', our own little flea market to be held at our Last Chance Show.

Finding locations for events in our area proves to be challenging. We had hoped for a seat clinic and freestyle clinic, but location to hold these events are in high demand.

Grand Junction

Tammy Fagan-proxy to Lori Mitchell

Our first show of the season, the "Spring Into Fun Practice Show" held on March 16th & 17th went very well. We had a great turn out, not only from all over the Grand Valley, but competitors coming in from, Aspen, Austin, Basalt, Cedaredge, Crawford, Eagle, Edwards, Montrose, Silt, and Moab, UT. It was great to see some new faces and was a good show for first timers to get their feet wet. We also had new helpers on the show crew. A big thank you to everyone!

On March 24th, GVDS members performed a Freestyle Dressage Demo at the Paint Horse Expo held at the Mesa County Fair Grounds. It was a great opportunity to get dressage to the community. We had a lot of good comments.

Next on our schedule is the GVDS Schooling Show I on May 4th-5th, the Judge is Sarah Martin. This show is the first of four shows that will count towards GVDS Yearend awards. The clinic with Sarah following the show on May 6th filled early. Entries open on May 6th for the GVDS Schooling Show II to be held on June 1st-2nd with Judge Kathleen Donnelly. A clinic with Kathleen will follow on Mon. June 3rd. We are excited for these upcoming events.

Our General Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the Month at the Mesa Mall Community Room.

Please feel free to contact me anytime at tfagandressage@wyoming.com

High Plains

No Report

Wendy Cibis-proxy to Lori Mitchell

Northern Colorado

Renee Martig

We have been busy planning our Ride-A-Test with Dolly Hannon, our first riding activity for the year. The event was held April 28th. It was a great day with warm weather and thankfully all the mud had dried up! Our thanks to Mimi White, owner of Stone Gate Ranch in Ft. Collins for being such a gracious hostess! We had a wonderful group of volunteers and everything ran smoothly all day. Dolly shared her wealth of knowledge with the riders and has a keen eye to quickly identify what a rider could do to improve their riding skills. Each rider completed their test, had a conference with Dolly, rode the test again and improved their scores. Dolly is a fun teacher; she even went out into the arena to demonstrate a 'turn on the haunches'! Hope to have her back next year! Thanks to all the volunteers and participants who made this event possible!

We're working on a date in May to have a demonstration by Amy Bowers on the 'Game of Contact'. The Lazy J trail ride and picnic lunch will be held in June and hopefully an 'obstacle course' day in July.

On the Bit

Jessica Ford – proxy to Heather Petersen

On the Bit Dressage Club has finally gotten organized and started recruiting. We have hosted our first event this past weekend with Frances Carbonnel, which was really fun and successful for our group. We are having monthly meetings to get more ideas rolling for fundraising opportunities and selecting committees to lead the way. We have set a date with Kristi Wysocki for a two day clinic and Ride-a-Test on July 12-14th and will be getting more details out to the club as a whole as we confirm our location for the Ride-a-Test Day. Weather is finally looking up here so we are planning for more learning activities through the summer! OTB is also forming a committee for increasing our membership through social media like Facebook. More details to come!

Pikes Peak –**Michelle Anderson-proxy to Gwen Ka'awaloa**

We are hoping to reschedule our clinic with Olympic Judge Gary Rockwell sometime in the fall and hope to do a potluck on a Friday night where we watch rides from the 2012 London Olympics while Gary gives his commentary on each ride.

March activities included a table at the Horseman's Day inside the Indoor Arena at Norris-Penrose and "More Than the View from C" at our regular monthly meeting on March 12. This was an opportunity for members and guests to ask questions of our licensed officials who included "L" graduate & show manager Simone Windeler, FEI Level 1 Steward and show secretary/manager Heather Petersen & "r" Dressage and Dressage Sport Horse Breeding judge and EMT Gwen Ka'awaloa. We are so very fortunate to have this wealth of knowledge within our small chapter!

In April we hosted a clinic the evening of the 30th providing interactive, informative hands-on experience preparing for the show season. Grooming, braiding & show paperwork requirements were covered. Many thanks to the members and non members who participated, and special thanks to our secretary Nina Felsenthal, who gave me some great tips on French braiding for the Baroque horse!

May plans are for a longing and long lining clinic, date TBD.

Many many thanks, as always, are due to our tireless Education chair, Judy Carnick, for all the scheduling & organization!

For the most up to date information about chapter events please visit our website, <http://pikespeakdressage.org/Main/Home>.

We will not have a June meeting in deference to our members' busy show schedules but are planning a potluck evening by the pool during the July show in Fountain. We hope members will join us whether showing or not (or volunteer for the day and then join us for dinner!)

Our awards chair Shannon Lemons is working on a medal system for chapter year end awards which will recognize all our members for each level of achievement during the season. Cash donations may be made towards this program.

Thanks to all our officers and members for your contributions to our FUN chapter and 2013 plans!

Platte River**Peter Soos**

We are happy to report that the chapter has grown to 18 members. Since the chapter does not have a logo, the officers have approved a contest to come up with one. This contest is only open to chapter members. We are still trying to setup a meeting this spring either in Greeley or Colorado Springs or somewhere in between.

Wasatch Mountains -**Sally Shaffer – proxy to Lori Mitchell**

The RMDS/ Wasatch Mountain Chapter of The Rocky Mountain Dressage Society, in order to support our friends and local/state GMO, has volunteered to take charge of finding and assigning volunteers that will be needed for the UDS Annual show. Send an email to Terrece Pearman to sign up early!!
pearman_a@msn.com.

The UDS Annual Show is going to be held Aug 24 & 25 at the Wasatch Event Center in Heber. FYI, we have been informed that the WEC will be making improvements to their indoor and indoor warm up footing with the addition of a product that makes the footing easier to maintain at a desired depth and less likely to clump. This is an independent venue that allows for all revenues from the show to go to the UDS and its entire membership, making it a major fundraiser for Dressage in Utah.

Heidi Zorn of Premier equestrian hosted some of our members at the recent CDI 3* and The Del Mar National Show in California, which like the Wasatch Events Center is a county facility. She explained that the footing for Del Mar Show was removed and stored when not in use for the dressage shows and H/J shows which causes a great expense for the show management.

Several of our members were privileged to have been chosen to ride in the Mette Rosencrantz Adult Amateur Clinic held at the beautiful Shaman's Circle Ranch in Midway Utah on April 13-14. Our hosts, Vicki and Steve Stevens, breeders of Friesian riding and driving horses as well as Texas Long Horn Cattle, were more than hospitable with individualized attention to both riders and auditors. Many Thanks to the Stevens family and staff, and to Lara Oles and the UDS for organizing this event.

Western Colorado**no report****Barbara Terry proxy to Heather Petersen**

**MaryJo Hoepner moved we adjourn, 2nd by Gwen Ka'awaloa.
There was no objection - the meeting adjourned at 9:43 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Petersen, RMDS secretary