

April 2010

# New Mexico Dressage Association Flying Changes



The New Mexico Dressage Association is a United States Dressage Federation Group Member Organization (GMO) and all members are automatically USDF Group Members (GMs). For USDF Participation Membership, members must apply directly to USDF.

[www.nmdressage.net](http://www.nmdressage.net)

## President's Message

Many of you are probably still recovering from our unusually stormy and wet Winter. For all of us, the rain, snow, ice and mud made it a real challenge to keep our horses sheltered and fed, much less keeping them in shape for dressage. Due to this difficult weather, we were unable to get enough participants in the February schooling show. But happily, it feels like Spring is finally here and although off to a later start this year, we had a great turnout for our first show of the year March 28th at Cherry Tree, with a full schedule of 60 rides.

There's a lot of new things going on this year and here's an overview of a few:

**There is a very busy calendar of events for 2010.** We've been encouraging everyone in the dressage community and all NMDA members to share with us the clinics and events they are hosting and we have never had such a full calendar. Anyone can send us notice of an event and we will publish it on the calendar. If you give NMDA members a discount, we will also publish a full page ad in the Newsletter for your event at no charge. Because of this volume of events, we have also published on line a separate schedule of just the NMDA schooling shows, the NMDA shows and those we have recognized for our Year End Awards, so it is easy to find this information.

**One Schooling Show Entry Form** – We now have one form for all NMDA shows on line. Simply print it out and fill in the name of the show and mail it in to the show manager. See page 3 for more information.

**New Awards NMDA Program** –we now offer two types/sets of Year End Awards for NMDA Members, one for Schooling Shows and one for Combined USEF rated and NMDA schooling shows. Read about the details in this publication. See page 6 for details.

**Become a Business Member** – do you have a Business that you'd like to promote? We have a few Members who have signed up and taken advantage of this new membership. Check out the web site for their advertisements. More about this in this publication also. See page 3 for details.

**Welcome to our new "L" Judge, Joost Lammers.** Joost judged the Cherry Tree show and has other shows on his schedule this year. We welcome him and thank him for joining our other talented judges who support our club.

Happy Spring to you all and enjoy the warmth and sun – even more appreciated this year than ever before!

*Susan*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS and SPECIAL FEATURES**

### ***Newsletter Editor Needed!***

We now have an opening for the Newsletter Editor. We need someone who can work with electronic publications and who enjoys writing. I will be happy to work with the Newsletter Editor using this Microsoft Editor program if there is someone who is willing to do the leg work of gathering the articles, editing them and sometimes writing announcements.

Please contact Susan at [dezavelle@msn.com](mailto:dezavelle@msn.com) or call 505-934-5221



***Flying Changes is Now On Line!! There's lots of other good information about NMDA on the web site including the NMDA Board Meeting Minutes, Standing Rules, By-Laws photos and more....check it out!! [www.nmdressage.net](http://www.nmdressage.net)***

### **Advertising Rates:**

Full page \$60 per issue, \$300 for 6 months. ½ page \$30 per issue, \$150 for 6 months. ¼ page \$20 per issue, \$100 for 6 months. *Classifieds ads are free to members.* Classified ads will run one month unless the member specifies otherwise. Send your ads to; [nmdressage@aol.com](mailto:nmdressage@aol.com)

## **Contact List**

The Board of Directors of the New Mexico Dressage Association is here to serve your interests. If you have suggestions, concerns, or wish to help, contact the appropriate Chair person.

### **President**

**Susan Dezavelle 505-934-5221**

[dezavelle@msn.com](mailto:dezavelle@msn.com)

### **Vice President**

**Elizabeth Frilling 505-262-5167**

[makuafisch@gmail.com](mailto:makuafisch@gmail.com)

### **Secretary**

**Sue Ann Kirkby 505-898-1654**

[ski1071607@aol.com](mailto:ski1071607@aol.com)

### **Treasurer**

**Rena Haynes 505-275-9512**

[rahayne@gmail.com](mailto:rahayne@gmail.com)

### **Schooling Shows**

**Amy Mowins 505-205-6820**

[dressagedreams@msn.com](mailto:dressagedreams@msn.com)

### **Publicity Chair**

**Marybeth Perez-Soto 505-877-9449**

[marybeth@tonayafarm.net](mailto:marybeth@tonayafarm.net)

### **Newsletter Editor—Open**

### **Recognized Shows Chair**

**Donald Simpson 505-344-0680**

[flashmail@netzero.com](mailto:flashmail@netzero.com)

### **Membership Chair**

**Virginia Gredell 505-286-5470**

[vgredell@kabana.net](mailto:vgredell@kabana.net)

### **Junior/Young Rider Chair**

**Barbara Burkhardt 505-865-6680**

[bbequestrian@q.com](mailto:bbequestrian@q.com)

### **Clinics/Education Chair**

**Ulla Hudson 505-615-5050**

[ullahudson@mac.com](mailto:ullahudson@mac.com)

### **Awards Chair**

**Randi Phillips 305-793-7493**

[randiphillips@msn.com](mailto:randiphillips@msn.com)

### **Webmaster, Harold Baskin**

[nmdressage@aol.com](mailto:nmdressage@aol.com)

### **Using the NMDA website**

The website (just type in New Mexico Dressage Association) is our link to all that is happening in NMDA. The By-Laws and Standing Rules of the organization are available should you have any questions. Also, you will find coming events, classified ads, news contact information and a lot more. While the Newsletter will be a bi-monthly publication, news on the web will be current. Get acquainted!

## Our New NMDA Schooling Show Entry Form is here!

Located on the NMDA web site [www.nmdressage.net](http://www.nmdressage.net) is the new, all-purpose NMDA Entry Form for our Schooling Shows. From now on, *there will not be specific entry forms* published for each show, so be sure to make copies of this to keep on hand:

***You will be using this new form for all NMDA schooling shows.***

Please note: this form will *not* be used for shows managed by other clubs, such as the AHANM shows – they have their own entry forms that we will post to our web site.

### HOW TO FILL OUT THE FORM:

The web site and posted Calendar of Events will have the most updated information about the upcoming NMDA schooling shows, including dates, locations, show manager, contact information, directions to venue, and Judge. Transfer the appropriate information to the new all purpose entry form. In addition, you will be receiving regular reminders via the NMDA Yahoo email group regarding upcoming shows and events. You may also contact the Schooling Show Chair, Amy Mowins at 505-205-6820 [dressagedreams@msn.com](mailto:dressagedreams@msn.com).

### **Deadlines for Newsletter Submissions:**

Send in your articles, photos, classified advertisements by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding each publication. The Newsletter will be published six times in 2010.

May 10<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the June Newsletter.

July 10th is the deadline for the August newsletter

September 10th is the deadline for the October Newsletter

November 10th is the deadline for the December Newsletter

## **NMDA BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP—NEW FOR 2010**

This year, NMDA has formed a new category of membership called a Business Member. These members pay a higher membership fee in exchange for advertising. One of the advertising opportunities is to have their business advertised on the web site.

Anyone interested in becoming a Business member is welcome to either upgrade membership by paying the additional fee or join or renew as a Business Member. We hope this will bring benefits to both our general members and to the businesses that our members own and operate.

Check out what other Business Members have posted on the web at [www.nmdressage.net](http://www.nmdressage.net)

### **NMDA Mission Statement:**

The New Mexico Dressage Association (NMDA) is a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of New Mexico. NMDA is also a Group Member Organization of the United States Dressage Federation (USDF). The organization's purpose is to promote the understanding of dressage and to develop skill and excellence in its use, as well as encourage, promote and conduct exhibitions, shows, clinics and other events by which interested people may develop their potential as riders and train their horses to the extent of their capabilities. Privileges of membership include but are not limited to participation in the organization's activities and receiving the Handbook/Test Book, and monthly newsletter. Members also become Group Members (GM) of USDF, with all its benefits.

## **NMDA Calendar of Events**

Please Note: This is the schedule as of the time of this publication. More updated event information is available on the NMDA web site [www.nmdressage.net](http://www.nmdressage.net). Details on events also available on line.

### **April:**

6 – Board of Directors Meeting– Route 66 Diner, 6:30 pm  
 10—Lynn Clifford Clinic (see advertisement)  
 14—Santa Fe Sporthorse Workshop, Andrea Vassallo, 505-466-7070 or [sfsporthorse@aol.com](mailto:sfsporthorse@aol.com)  
 16 - AHANM dinner & discussion with Hilda Gurney  
 17 - AHANM hosts Hilda Gurney , Dressage Clinic at Cherry Tree Farm  
 18- NMDA Schooling show – Bosque Sports Complex, Denai Meyer 505-314-4966, [denai2007@yahoo.com](mailto:denai2007@yahoo.com)  
 21 & 22 – Stephan Kieswetter Clinic –Windsong Dressage – 615-5050  
 27, 28 & 29 – Mary Wanless Clinic, Maria or George 505/264-0206. [davishatsandhorses@higherspeed.net](mailto:davishatsandhorses@higherspeed.net)

### **May:**

2—Watermelon Mountain Pony Club, Horse Trials with Dressage, EXPO NM, [aliceloyd19@gmail.com](mailto:aliceloyd19@gmail.com)  
 4 – Board of Directors Meeting  
 6-9 – AHANM Zia Classic - Open Dressage Division, Intro thru Second 4. [www.nmarab.com](http://www.nmarab.com)  
 12 \$ 15 Mark Russell Clinic, Sivia Gold 505-470-8404, [siviagold@yahoo.com](mailto:siviagold@yahoo.com)  
 16 – NMNDA – Schooling show – Luna Rosa, Susan Dezavelle, 505-934-5221, [dezavelle@msn.com](mailto:dezavelle@msn.com)  
 29-30 – Horses Unlimited Dressage Challenge – USDF/USEF [www.nmds.us](http://www.nmds.us)

### **June:**

1 – Board of Directors Meeting  
 19 - Lynn Clifford Clinic, Santa Fe Horse Park (see advertisement)  
 20 – NMDA Schooling show – Cherry Tree, Manager TBD  
 26-27 – AHANM – Training show – (recognized by NMDA) [www.nmarab.com](http://www.nmarab.com)

### **July:**

3-4 – Horses Unlimited – Fiesta de Dressage – USDF/USEF [www.nmds.us](http://www.nmds.us)  
 6 – Board of Directors Meeting  
 11- NMDA Schooling show – Luna Rosa, Marybeth Perex Soto 505-877-9449, [tonayafarm@huges.net](mailto:tonayafarm@huges.net)  
 17 - Lynn Clifford Clinic, Santa Fe Horse Park (see advertisement)

### **August:**

3 – Board of Directors meeting  
 6—7 Bill Woods Clinic, Taos Equestrian Center, Judy Huddleston 575-758-7542 [kp61@newmex.com](mailto:kp61@newmex.com) Discount for NMDA members.  
 8- NMNDA Schooling Show - Taos (same contact as above)  
 14 & 15 - Ride-ReRide Clinic with Shirley Rector, Ulla Hudson, 505-615-5050  
 21- Lynn Clifford Clinic, Santa Fe Horse Park (see advertisement)

### **September:**

7 – Board of Directors Meeting  
 18 - Lynn Clifford Clinic, Santa Fe Horse Park (see advertisement)  
 19- NMDA Schooling Show – Bosque Sports Complex

### **October:**

2-3 – AHANMN Chile Roast Sport Horse – Training Show – (recognized by NMDA) [www.nmarab.com](http://www.nmarab.com)  
 5 – Board of Directors Meeting  
 15—Nominations for Officers Due  
 16 - Lynn Clifford Clinic, Santa Fe Horse Park (see advertisement)  
 16-17 – Harvest Fling – USD/USEF and NM State Championships [www.nmds.us](http://www.nmds.us)

### **November:**

2 – Board of Directors meeting  
 4 & 15, Stephan Kieswetter Clinic - Windsong Dressage - 615-5050  
 15 - Board of Director Election Ballots sent out  
 20 – Lynn Clifford Clinic, Santa Fe Horse Park (see advertisement)

### **December:**

1 - Announce winners of election  
 2 – Board of Directors Meeting

**Cherry Tree Show, Sunday, March 28th**

It was a beautiful day for a schooling show. The weather had decided to cooperate and there was lots of sunshine, blue skies, a few fluffy white clouds, and warming temperatures. The show was full with 60 rides. The facility was set up nicely with a warm up area out front by the parking area of trailers, a round pen for warm up, an office for the show secretary and show manager to score the tests, a covered arena with clear letter markings and protection from the sun and wind, seats for spectators, and two distinct areas for the riders who were “on-deck” and “in-the-hole” as they waited their turn to ride their tests. All and all, it was a wonderful day and a successful show.

- A report from Denai Meyer, NMDA Member, Volunteer, roving reporter and photographer.

Also: Special thanks to our new “L” Judge, Joost Lammers, Pamela James and Marie from Tonaya Farms for scribing and manager DJ Collins and all the other volunteers who helped out all day: Rena Haynes, Barbara Burkhardt, Denai Meyer, Winnie Fitch and Maria Davis. The photos on this page were taken by Denai Meyer. You can see more photos on line at [www.nmdressage.net](http://www.nmdressage.net) Photos were also taken by Kandie Kingery with Stone Creek Photography Contact Kandie at [www.stonecreekphotography.smugmug.com](http://www.stonecreekphotography.smugmug.com)



**Susan Olsen on Bob, High Point Winner of the Show**



**Gilly Slater & Drake**



**Cherry Tree Farm in the SUNSHINE!!**



**Cynthia Begay and Shadow in the Mist  
High Point First Level AA**

## **New NMDA Awards Program!**

NMDA now offers two types/sets of Year End Awards for NMDA Members, one for Schooling Shows and one for Combined USEF rated and NMDA schooling shows. Each set of awards are available for Introductory through Grand Prix/ Amateur, Open and Junior/YR. To be eligible for either type of award, the rider must have three scores from at least three separate shows. The single highest score at a level/division at each show is used. Both rider and owner of the horse must be NMDA members to be eligible for awards. Awards are presented at the end of the year in an Awards Ceremony after all the scores from all qualifying shows can be tabulated.

For the Schooling Show Award, all three scores must be from NMDA schooling shows and/or those schooling shows recognized by NMDA (i.e. the Arabian Horse Association of New Mexico dressage shows).

For the Combined Show Awards, the horse/rider must have at least two scores from designated USEF rated shows in Albuquerque. The rider/horse can use the highest score from each judge at a USEF rated show (USEF shows often have two or more judges). The rider/horse can use a combination of USEF and NMDA recognized schooling show scores, or the rider/horse can use all USEF scores. The three highest scores of the year are used.

An NMDA member may be eligible for both types of awards if they qualify for both criteria: three scores from schooling shows and three scores from combined USEF and schooling shows.

## **USDF Announces Dues Increase for 2011 Membership Year**

Lexington, KY (March 11, 2010) - United States Dressage Federation (USDF) has announced a membership dues and horse registration fee increase for the 2011 membership year, which begins December 1, 2010. At the 2009 Adequan/USDF Annual Convention in Austin, TX, the following dues and fees were approved by the Board of Governors (BOG); 1-year Participating Membership (PM) - \$75, Youth PM - \$60, 5-Year PM - \$300, Life PM - \$1500, Business Membership - \$200, Group Member Organization (GMO) Membership - \$20, GMO Supporting Family Membership - \$10, Horse Identification Number (HID) - \$25, and Lifetime Horse Registration (LHR) - \$95.

This is the first dues increase the USDF membership has seen in seven years. Following a presentation before the Board of Governors (BOG) on December 3, 2009 by Ken Levy, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to Evaluate the Membership and Fee Structure, which was formed the previous year at the Board of Governors in Denver, CO., the BOG passed all recommendations made by the committee. In his presentation, Ken stated: "Costs change, unfortunately they never go backwards. Things have gone up. We're just trying to catch up cost wise." Sam Barish, former president of USDF, who presided over the 2009 BOG, was pleased with the passage of the dues increase, and the subsequent balanced budget that was also approved. Sam stated, "The new budget puts USDF on firm financial footing for the future."



For more information on USDF membership and horse registrations, or to find out more about the annual convention and board of governors, visit the USDF Web site at [www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org), or contact the USDF membership department at [membership@usdf.org](mailto:membership@usdf.org). Founded in 1973, the United States Dressage Federation is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to education, recognition of achievement, and promotion of dressage. For more information about USDF membership or programs, visit [www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org), e-mail [usdressage@usdf.org](mailto:usdressage@usdf.org), or call (859) 971-2277.

## **Stephan Kiesewetter Clinic**

**April 21st & 22nd 2010**

**Windsong Dressage, 733 State Road 344, Edgewood, (Cedar Grove) NM**



**Mr. Stephan Kiesewetter is the Director of Training for Pferdesport Wintermuehle, GmbH, in Neu-Anspach, Germany. Stephan completed his Bereiter studies in Warendorf in 1995. In 1997 he passed his Masters FN test with the third highest score ever. He still holds that 3<sup>rd</sup> position. For this achievement he was decorated with the Stensbeck medal. Stephan has also served as the Chief Training Conductor and Deputy Director of the German Riding School.**

**Mr. Kiesewetter is an accomplished trainer and instructor through FEI levels, competing successfully on self-bred and self-trained horses. In 1999, he used one of these horses for a disabled rider to compete at the World Championships for Disabled Riders in Denmark, where the rider won the silver medal in freestyle. From 1999-2003 he served as the trainer of the German National Disabled Equestrian Team and was also the trainer of the German Paralympic Team during the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. In September, 2002, the German team received four gold medals at the European Championships for Disabled Riders in Portugal.**

**Stephan has been a regular clinician in the United States and Great Britain for the past nine years.**

**Windsong Dressage has been waiting for years for an opening in Stephan's busy schedule. Our patience has paid off and we are proud to announce Stephan's first Clinic in New Mexico.**

**Lesson: \$180 NMDA/\$200 non member    Audit: \$15 NMDA/\$25 non member**

**More information for riders and auditors:**

**Ulla Hudson, 505-615-5050 mobile, [ullahudson@mac.com](mailto:ullahudson@mac.com)**



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### Equi-Study Groups

Santa Fe Sport Horse, Lamog, NM 11-2:00

February 28      March 28      May 2

### 2010 Clinic Series

Casa De Brio, Cerrillos, NM 10-5:00

- April 10  
Spring Into Showing:  
Prep & Practice Clinic
- June 19  
Work In Hand Clinic
- July 17  
Lunging Clinic
- August 21  
Ground Driving Clinic
- September 18  
Got Seat? Mounted Clinic
- October 16  
Dressage For the Rest of Us
- November 20  
Demystifying Lateral Work

To Register:

505-231-5353

[Lynn@lynnclifford.com](mailto:Lynn@lynnclifford.com)

### Attention

### Business

### Members....

You too can have a  
1/2 page ad in the  
Newsletter and...

An advertisement on  
the web site.

Check out what other  
business members  
have done on line.

Go to:

[www.nmdressage.net](http://www.nmdressage.net)

## **Hilda Gurney Clinic Sold Out!!! (Almost)**

The response to the AHANM sponsored Hilda Gurney Comes to New Mexico Clinic has been overwhelmingly positive. The Friday night Dinner/Discussion, to be held at the recently renovated Hotel Andaluz, is sold out. All of the rides for the Saturday clinic are full and there is a waiting list should any spots become available. However, there are still audits open and a few of those come with the free \$10 lunch voucher. Hilda Gurney's impressive record includes an Olympic Team bronze medal in 1976, an individual gold and silver, and three team gold medals at the Pan Am Games, six USET National Grand Prix Championships, and a team gold medal at the North American Dressage Championships. Hilda has had a tremendous impact on dressage, and is a highly respected FEI "I" judge and large "R" Dressage Sport Horse Breeding judge. In 1996 and 2002, she spoke at the USDF Annual Convention and Symposium, from 1997 to 2002, she chaired the USDF Sport Horse Committee and she has served on the U.S. Equestrian Dressage Committee for many years. We are grateful to have her here with us. To reserve your audit spot call or email Jim Porcher at 505.228.6865, [jsporcher@comcast.net](mailto:jsporcher@comcast.net)



## A Minute with the Board— Complete Minutes Available on line at [www.nmdressage.net](http://www.nmdressage.net)

### **February Meeting - Highlights**

Net income for NMDA for 2009 was \$2,512.42. Rena is working on applying for 501c status. Show schedule is now posted on the web site along with the new schooling show entry form. Board approved members to set up tack exchanges and sales at the shows. Working on a policy for paying judges for mileage. Transfer of duties to new Membership Chair, Virginia Gredel. Board members expressed interest in promoting more use of the internet for distribution of the "Flying Changes" newsletter. Dianne Fay will contact members who have requested paper newsletter to encourage acceptance of electronic version. Handbook is ready for publication, discussion about advertising fees, may need to be raised next year. Confirmed results of Board vote via email to approve the new Year End Awards program expansion to include recognized shows. Approval given by the Board for Western Dressage classes at the schooling shows. Proposal approved to take membership renewals at the schooling shows. New locations suggested for Board meetings Route 66 Diner or Flying Star . (Note: Flying Star charges fees, so it was later decided to meet at the Route 66 Diner).

### **March Meeting - Highlights**

Rena is making progress with the 501c filing. Filing electronically will save \$650. Presented "Conflict of Interest" policy for consideration, will review at next meeting. Total membership is now 115. Ride-ReRide Clinic is now scheduled for August 14/15. Education event "If Horses Could Speak" video and discussion held in February had 15 in attendance, feedback positive, will consider another presentation this year. Dianne Fay has resigned as Newsletter Chair due to family illness. Facilities Contract presented and approved for use. Proposal approved to have NMDA participate in the Horse Council common/combined electronic mailing list.

### **The 2010 NMDA Handbooks Have been Mailed**

The 2010 Handbook was published earlier this month and mailed out to all new and renewed 2010 NMDA Members. If you did not receive one, check to see if you have renewed your membership. When you renew, a Handbook will be mailed to you. If you have renewed and did not receive one, please call our Membership Chair, Virginia Gredell at 505-286-5470 [vgredell@kabana.net](mailto:vgredell@kabana.net)

***Be sure to renew your membership – the form is available on line!!!!***

**Open Door Policy:** Board Meetings and General Membership Meetings are open to members and others interested in Dressage. At Board Meetings only Board members may vote. At General Membership Meetings, only current members may vote.



### **Randi Phillips and Olivia and The Carol Lavell Gifted Grant**

Randi was awarded the grant in December 2009 and was required to write an essay about her training program. This is an abbreviated version of her essay....

When the realization in December 2009 that I had been awarded the Carol Lavell Gifted Grant for Region 5 set in, I wanted to do my training immediately. I wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to work with Ulla Hudson and the luxury of having an indoor arena in the New Mexico winter. My concentrated training plan included two lessons per day for a week. Ulla and I organized my goals into two buckets: those for Livvie and those for me.

Olivia: 1) To have her work over her back and come through from behind, 2) To increase strength in her hind end and 3) To obtain more self-carriage at the canter

Me: 1) To learn how to engage an effective half-halt every time by using my core muscles, 2) To learn how to use my leg aids without gripping and without being a limp noodle and 3) To learn how to have an independent seat at the sitting trot.

To learn more effectively how to use the warm-up, we started with unmounted work using the I-Gallop and large Pilates ball. The I-Gallop, an electronic simulator of horse gaits, allowed me to feel the exact movement in my body while at the walk, trot and canter. I discovered that, without the horse underneath, my body could actually relax and follow the movement. The Pilates ball helped me to find my balance without gripping and develop a soft draping leg.

I used Harry Boldt's book, *Das Dresseur Pferd*. Boldt used overhead pictures to illustrate the correct positioning within a movement. I don't think I have ever really known the correct bend for a circle, half pass or leg yield. The overhead view demystified the proper angle for shoulder-in, haunches-in and the illusive renvers. I can't wait to my next show, I feel like I have stumbled upon the holy grail of dressage knowledge!

Early on in the sessions, I received instructions from Ulla on how to properly lunge a horse. In the past I had used the lunge to let Livvie buck and have been guilty of not letting my horse know I was the boss.

Without realizing it, I slouched resulting in my being a passive participant in our lunging sessions. In turn, Livvie followed my lead and was quite passive about going forward. I learned to stand tall and to use my body language to communicate. I learned to treat the lunge line as if it were a rein and to use half halts with the same finesse as if I were in the saddle.

Next began the warm-up. Livvie can be quite lazy so we returned to the basics of getting a horse forward without constant nagging. By using the 20 meter circle, I could more easily feel the rhythm down my inside leg, by remembering to breathe I could more easily maintain core engagement, and by remembering not to pull I could more effectively use my lower leg within the rhythm. Once my core muscles were engaged it was easier to keep my shoulders down, my elbows soft, at my side and relaxed. As my body position became more correct, I was able to bend the horse around my leg and to maintain better contact with my outside rein.

Among my goals for Livvie is for her to learn to work over her back and come through from behind and for me to understand how to help her to do so. Ulla helped me to distinguish between a trot that is running and one that is lively from behind and waiting in the front. We accomplished this by working on the illusive "half-halt". Timing and rhythm, timing and rhythm, timing and rhythm and practice, practice, practice. Eventually, I began to understand when to use leg, when to hold my core, and when to use the outside rein.

Two years ago Livvie suffered an injury cracking her pelvis and had 4 months stall rest. Although she came back sound she starts with an initial stiffness and shortness on her right hind. To counteract the stiffness, Ulla suggested I start lunging to the right. Normally, I start lunging to the left but this small simple change allowed Livvie to work out of the stiffness quicker and she seemed to be much happier from the beginning.

Three days into the program and I was determined that Livvie must go forward from the moment I mount her. Ulla reminded me to sit down on my seat bones allowing my leg to lengthen, to hold my core to prevent me from pumping my pelvis and to maintain a loose leg in position so that I could use my leg when I needed to but also allow it to return to neutral when Livvie responded. Ulla helped me to realize when Livvie's reaction was enough and when it wasn't. It was this I found to be most beneficial.

Livvie's tendency to pop her shoulder or drift through the corners (especially to the right) needed to be fixed. I learned how to use a firm outside rein, my outside leg between the girth and her shoulder, I paid special attention to both my body and Livvie's that neither one of us were over bent. No surprise the right lead canter depart has also given me trouble but I applied the same principles of straightness and had some lovely canter departs and downward transitions.

The last piece of the puzzle for me is the sitting trot. Countering my natural stiffness has been a long time challenge and Livvie's bouncy trot hasn't made it easy for me to follow her movement. Ulla instructed me to rise to the trot and then sit four strides and rise again. At first it was mechanical

but the counting helped me to get tuned into the horse's rhythm and acted as a reminder when I lost the rhythm. Eventually, four sitting strides became a twenty-meter circle, then a long side and then the entire arena.

On our last day we reviewed the week and developed a plan so that I can continue making progress while working on my own. My final gift of a great week --- the First Level test; sitting to the trot, smooth canter departs and riding my horse rather than her riding me!!!

Small simple changes make a world of difference. Something clicked and both Livvie and I finally got it. I am well on my way to understanding the mystique of the illusive half-halt. Receiving the Carol Lavell Gifted Grant was an amazing experience. Repeated exposure to what is right, encouragement to go for it and the opportunity to practice with a watchful eye has changed my riding. I am so thankful to Carol Lavell and the United States Dressage Foundation for this wonderful gift and opportunity.

Thank you everyone for making this happen.

*Randi Phillips*

**CLASSIFIED ADS—HORSES FOR  
SALE OR LEASE**

More Classified Ads on line at  
[www.nmdressage.net](http://www.nmdressage.net)

For sale - WS Prairie Fire

2006 gelding, now started and ready to begin his show career under saddle



Dual registered Trakehner, half Arabian

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\$8000

Tel 505-983-6189, email witsennd@juno.com



New Mexico Dressage Association

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P.O. Box 51296

Albuquerque, NM 87181-1296

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TAOS EQUESTRIAN CENTER WELCOMES

BILL WOODS

*RE-SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST*

*AUGUST 6-7, 2010*

FOR A DRESSAGE CLINIC ALL LEVELS OF RIDERS WELCOME

and

*AUGUST 8, 2010*

NMDA SCHOOLING SHOW

Judge: Bill Woods

Bill Woods is a renowned international dressage trainer and USEF "R" judge.. For more info on Bill go to <http://www.woodsdressage.com>. And buy his new book *Dressage Unscrambled* to get a sense of his teaching style and philosophy. For more information call Katherine at 575-758-7542 and check the NMDA website. Information, registration and entry forms will also be posted on the website <http://www.sangredecristowarmbloods.com>.

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