

The Close Contact
Spring, 2010
Big Sky Equestrian Association

Ah, Spring in Montana----40 mile an hour gale winds, snow and rain showers, robins being blown sideways across the lawn, horses in stalls and corrals not being ridden in preparation for upcoming clinics due to the lousy weather.

So, speaking of clinics and shows, BSEA is happy to announce that **Jutta Schott, Reitlehrer FN, will be returning to Billings to give four clinics in 2010.** Classically trained in Germany, she graduated from Warendorf, in Westphalia, Germany, where she competed at upper levels before moving on to Vienna, Austria, where she worked for Arthur Kottas for seven years as his assistant head trainer at his private barn. She holds both German and Austrian instructor's licenses and is certified to teach horses and riders up through the FEI levels.

Although totally comfortable teaching upper levels and often called upon to do so at other clinics she gives up and down the west coast and in Las Vegas, she also very much enjoys working with lower level riders and horses, helping them to build a solid foundation based on classic training principles. She does not resort to gimmicks or harsh training to achieve results and enjoys working with a variety of different horse breeds, not attempting to make a warmblood out of an appaloosa.

Her first clinic will be on May 7-9, held at Sheila Ruble's arena, 4938 US Hwy 3, Billings, (245-2366). Please contact Diane Erhart at 855-3760 or go to the BSEA website in order to sign up.

www.bigskyequestrian.org

Lessons with Jutta are a smoking good deal, as BSEA's goal is not to make money on the clinics but to provide an opportunity to ride with this outstanding instructor at the lowest feasible price. Jutta has been incredibly kind to this organization, continuing to charge minimum lesson fees so that we can afford to continue to bring her here. Her lesson fees at any other clinic are far higher. Having the same, quality clinician come in on a regular basis allows horse and rider teams to progress in a logical, consistent way, instead of picking tidbits here and there from various presentations.

However, we need your support to continue! We have to pay Jutta for a minimum of 17 rides, whether or not we fill the clinic, and do not want to go in the hole if we can possibly avoid it. She is very understanding about out of condition horses and riders and is careful not to overtax anyone, whether two or four legged.

Other Jutta dates for 2010 are: June 4-6, August 27-29, and October 1-3.

Thanks to the efforts of BSEA members Linda Priddy and Emily Zalweski, **BSEA will also be bringing in Harriet Peterson, a USDF certified 4th level instructor from Virginia, for a clinic August 13-15th.** The location is yet to be determined, possibly in Park City and possibly at Doug and Kathy Kirks in Billings Heights. Harriet lived in Billings for several years and taught several of us during that time. She has a positive, energetic teaching style and lots of experience teaching a wide range of horses and riders. She has had a highly successful show career with both her own horses and those of her clients.

Emily and Linda applied for and received a grant from

the Dressage Foundation which enabled us to host this fine clinician as well. Check the BSEA web site for sign up information.

It should be noted that if you plan to ride in several clinics, it will be more cost effective if you join BSEA, as members are entitled to a reduced rate for entries.

Other area events of immediate interest are the Heart Mountain spring show, to be held at Lou Kennedy's great indoor arena on May 1st, with a clinic with Amy Larsen to follow the show, and the Carol Brett Balanced Riding saddle fitting clinic put on by Jean Allbright at Doug and Kathy Kirk's on May 7-9. Contact Jean Allbright at [HYPERLINK "mailto:j.allbright@bresnan.net"](mailto:j.allbright@bresnan.net) j.allbright@bresnan.net for more information or to sign up.

It's that time of year again. Arrowhead Horse Trials 2010, May 29-30th.

Please contact Stacy Dietz at stacydietz@q.com with any questions, or you can go to the following website :

[HYPERLINK "http://www.arrowheadhorsetrials.com/"](http://www.arrowheadhorsetrials.com/) www.arrowheadhorsetrials.com

From Tammy Yost Wildin comes information regarding a benefit horse show:

Equitation and Performance Horse Challenge!
The event will be June 19th at Miller's Horse
Palace -
Billings, Montana. This show is a benefit for
Operation
Baghdad Pups. The purpose of this organization is
to fund the
Transport of dogs and cats rescued and adopted by
our service
men and women in Iraq, back to the United States to
live
with the soldiers that saved them All proceeds will
be
donated to Operation Baghdad Pups.

Riders may enter individual classes, or enter the
Challenge.
50% of the Challenge entry fee will be jackpotted
back, with
possible added money depending on how many sponsors
we get.
There will be prizes in EVERY class, and GREAT
PRIZES for the
Challenge Divisions!!!!
Pre-Entry is encouraged, but not necessary. There
will be
different judges for each category of classes as
indicated
on the entry form.

There will also be a silent auction and other fun
activities
all day. Any questions or a request to become a
sponsor,
should be directed to Tammy Yost-Wildin (406)
962-9944
or HYPERLINK
"mailto:danielwildin@yahoo.com"[danielwildin@yahoo.co](mailto:danielwildin@yahoo.com)
[m](mailto:danielwildin@yahoo.com)

Along with unsettled weather, April brings a lot of green grass and some moisture. Horses with any tendency to founder will need to be dry lotted soon for part or all of every day. Transitioning horses slowly from hay to grass is necessary for their digestive health, even for horses without a tendency towards laminitis. Once the temperatures warm up, the grass is going to really take off and will be too "hot" for most horses to handle well. Regular exercise is essential for helping to prevent the occurrence of laminitis.

Ticks are out---though the colder temperatures have set them back some. Our region has not begun to have much in the way of Lyme disease, carried by deer ticks, but we certainly have plenty of Rocky Mountain wood ticks, which do carry a variety of diseases as well. When removing ticks, be sure to pull slowly with tweezers up near the head, so that all of the tick comes free. If the tick is attached, often a small piece of skin will come away along with the head, ensuring that no body part remains to cause infections.

And, the poison plants are coming. Death camas, which looks a lot like wild onion, will be the first to show up, then larkspur, lupine, and loco weed will follow soon after. Yellow star thistle is beginning to create problems in some counties. Buttercup, found along stream banks and in moist meadows, is very pretty, but also a problem if eaten.

Skunks are on the prowl—if you live in an area known to harbor these pesky creatures, you may wish to consider getting a rabies shot for your horses.

You may wish to contact Betsy if you have an opinion re: the following proposed change:

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Betsy Hussey. I am a PM delegate for Region 6 and the VP for the Montana Dressage Society. I live in

Helena and I am quite passionate about dressage in Montana. There is a great group of dressage riders in this large state of ours and I am trying to do everything I can to bring us all together so that we can all flourish in the sport. The internet has really helped me with this process, since we are all so spread out.

One thing that I think would help in the process of bringing us all closer is to move the boundaries between our regions and make all of Montana Region 6. The reason that I think we should go with Region 6 is simply because we are all closer to a majority of the events in Region 6 as opposed to Region 5. Of course, when the Region 5 regionals are in Parker, I would expect people on the east side of the state to qualify for regionals in Region 5, but other than that the events in Region 6 are generally closer to everyone. I want to stress that I believe both Region 5 and Region 6 are exceptional regions and that this is only being suggested because of geography and the benefit I believe riders in Montana would receive by being one community.

The reason that you are receiving this e-mail is because I believe that you have valuable input to this conversation and I would like to hear it! Please send me any thoughts or comments on this subject, and please send this e-mail on to anyone else that you think should be included in this conversation.

Thanks!

*Betsy Hussey
406-431-8230*

*Betsy Ronan [HYPERLINK "mailto:betsyronan@yahoo.com"](mailto:betsyronan@yahoo.com)
betsyronan@yahoo.com*

From Teresa Hunt:

May 2010 Region 5 Message

I am at the airport waiting for my flight to the USDF Spring Executive Board meeting as I write this message. Agenda items include: Peer to Peer Commission Project Update, USDF Position on Helmet Use, Possible Boundary Line Adjustment between Region 5 and 6 per the request of eastern Montana PM members, 2010 Annual Convention and Symposium, Approval of 2011 Regional Championship Sites, Discussion of the Future of USDF Directory, Education Membership Plan, and many others. The two-day meeting is very intense and I will update you on the outcome.

On April 15 the FEI approved strict warm-up rules for Dressage Competition to be implemented May 15, 2010. There is a new annex to FEI guidelines that provides clear instructions for steps to take relating to flexion of the horse's neck during pre- and post-competition training. You can read the details on the

internet. I am sure there will be a lively discussion on the bulletin boards. It does not affect our national shows, but it will be interesting to see if USEF follows suite in some respect.

Theresa Hunt
Region 5 Director

HYPERLINK "<http://www.usdf.org/press/news/view-news.asp?news=369>" **2011**

Membership Dues Increase

At the 2009 Adequan/ USDF Annual Convention, a dues increase was passed that will go into effect December 1, 2010 for the 2011 membership year.

Dues for Group Members will increase from \$17 to \$20 for Individual Members and Primary Family Members, and from \$8 to \$10 for Supporting Family Members.

For more information on GMO membership, please visit the HYPERLINK "<http://www.usdf.org/clubs/>" **Group Member Organization** section of the HYPERLINK "<http://www.usdf.org/>" **USDF Web site**.

USDF Connection Update

There is no longer an August issue of *USDF Connection*. The July and August issues have been combined, and December and January have been combined into one issue. The February issue is now the yearbook issue.

HYPERLINK "<http://www.usdf.org/docs/clubs/gmos/MultipleGMORefund.pdf>" **The**

GMO Handbook

The HYPERLINK "<http://www.usdf.org/downloads/forms/index.asp?TypePass=Clubs>" **GMO Handbook**, which is a valuable guide containing helpful information pertaining to GMOs, has been updated and two new sections have been added. Check it out today!

Creekside Ranch 2010 Calendar

JUNE	19 & 20	Jeremy Steinberg Dressage Clinic
JULY	17 & 18	Jeremy Steinberg Dressage Clinic
OCTOBER	23 & 24	Jeremy Steinberg Dressage Clinic

Contact Barb Ramlow at HYPERLINK "<mailto:crkside@nemontel.net>" crkside@nemontel.net for more information

Jeremy will also be in Helena August 14 & 15 - you can contact Betsy Hussey 406-431-8230 or HYPERLINK "<mailto:betsyronan@yahoo.com>" betsyronan@yahoo.com.

From USDF E-News:

Top Stories Deadlines Online Searchable Classifieds

Stay Connected

Resistance, lack of engagement, "behavior issues"? Feeling behind or in front of the motion? Maybe it's your saddle fit. [HYPERLINK "http://www.schleese.com/USDF_Members_Page"](http://www.schleese.com/USDF_Members_Page) **Check out these tips from Schleese Saddlery.**

Top Stories

Join us for the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games Kentucky Cup Dressage and Show Jumping Test Events at Rolex! Admission to the Dressage event is FREE and the USDF National Education Center and Lendon F. Gray Bookstore will be open from 9AM – 5PM April 20-24 and 9AM – 3PM April 25. [HYPERLINK "http://www.rk3de.org/testevents.html"](http://www.rk3de.org/testevents.html) **Get more info.**

Mark your calendar to attend a Platinum Performance/USDF Adult Clinic with Charlotte Bredahl Baker. [HYPERLINK "http://www.usdf.org/education/clinics/adult/dates-locations.asp"](http://www.usdf.org/education/clinics/adult/dates-locations.asp) **Check Dates and Locations.**

If you want to qualify for Regional Championships, be sure that your USEF and USDF horse, rider and owner memberships are in order. You can check to see if you have earned a qualifying score by visiting the USDF [HYPERLINK "http://www.usdf.org/scorecheck/qualifiedscorecheck.asp"](http://www.usdf.org/scorecheck/qualifiedscorecheck.asp) **Web site.** The qualified Horse/Rider List will be refreshed by early March so check early to see if you

Competitors be aware!

At this year's USEF Annual Meeting held January 13-17, 2010, an important rule change was approved affecting the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) in competition horses. Over the years, ongoing veterinary research has revealed that not only is there little or no benefit to administering more than one NSAID to a horse for most medical concerns, it can actually cause potentially harmful, even severe side effects.

Motivated by its commitment to the welfare of the horse, the USEF Board of Directors voted to amend its Therapeutic Drug Rule and restrict use to a single NSAID beginning December 1, 2011. Both the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) support the rule change, and USEF joins other organizations including the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) and Equine Canada in making this important rule change.

While the presence of two of the seven approved and quantitatively restricted NSAIDs in a horse will still be allowed prior to December 2011 (with the exception of the forbidden combination of phenylbutazone "Bute," and flunixin meglumine [Banamine=C2=AE]), it is important to note that new restrictions are in place concerning their use. Beginning April, 1, 2010, anyone administering two NSAIDs to a horse within five days prior to participating at a USEF-licensed competition will be required to complete and file a NSAID Disclosure Form with the USEF Steward/Technical Delegate or their Designated Competition Office Representative. This form will allow the USEF Equine Drugs and Medications Program to collect valuable data regarding the use of NSAIDs in competition horses.

USEF has developed an education plan to guide management, owners, trainers, and exhibitors through the implementation of this rule change. The Federation has published an informational pamphlet and created the NSAID Disclosure Form. Both the pamphlet and the forms will be shipped to all Competition Managers for distribution from their competition offices. Additionally, both the form and the pamphlet are immediately available online at:

HYPERLINK "<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?UnitedStatesEquestri/172e1ccaa1/d18c48165b/a96=>

and

HYPERLINK "[http://cts.vresp.com/c/?UnitedStatesEquestri/172e1ccaa1/d18c48165b/ff1="http://cts.vresp.com/c/?UnitedStatesEquestri/172e1ccaa1/d18c48165b/ff1=5af3324/mode=3Dembed&layout=3Dhttp://www.usef.org/issuu/nsaids/layout.=xml&showFlipBtn=3Dtrue](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?UnitedStatesEquestri/172e1ccaa1/d18c48165b/ff1=)".

You can download the USEF 2010 dressage rule book for free from the USEF website. Click on rules, go to the page that lists the different chapters and disciplines and pick dressage (or CT, if that's your preference). You do not have to be a member of USEF to download the information.

So, this should give everyone enough reading material for a little while, anyway. Calendar of upcoming events will follow but is too long to hang onto this newsletter.

Sheila Ruble

BSEA Newsletter editor and major procrastinator