

The Close Contact

Fall 2011

Big Sky Equestrian Association

[www/bigskyequestrian.org](http://www.bigskyequestrian.org)

BSEA ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE!

Somehow, paying dues this time of year seems sort of out of synch, at least for those of us who have been around long enough to remember the time that USDF dues from GMOs were to be paid by the first of January of each year. The fact that we are supposed to have our club roster in to USDF and our membership paid up by November 1st is an easy one to overlook. Plus, everyone is feeling more or less broke and holiday spending is looming just ahead.

However, though the horse season is winding down for many of us, the fact remains that in order to remain a viable GMO, we must get our money in to USDF as soon as possible. Several notices have already been sent out to that effect, but in case you have not yet paid, please do so immediately. The BSEA membership form can be found on our website: <http://www.bigskyequestrian.org> Dues postmarked before November 15th will be just \$35 for a single membership and an additional \$10 per individual for a family. Late dues will jump to \$40 per single. If you wish to receive the year book edition of USDF Connection, you must be a paid up member by December 31st. In order for BSEA to retain GMO status, we must have a minimum membership of 25 individuals. So far, we have five, so please get your dues in soon!!

Send dues to Emily Zalewski at 276 Road 2 ABN, Cody, WY 82414 with checks made out to BSEA.

WHY BOTHER? Because keeping the club alive and more or less kicking does provide members with the opportunity to ride with an outstanding dressage clinician four times a year at a discounted rate, allows them to receive the USDF Connection magazine, provides links to the local dressage community, and via periodic email notices, keeps members informed of other dressage opportunities, equipment and horses for sale, etc.

Benefits of belonging to USDF are:

e-TRAK, the online learning center that provides quality equine education in one convenient location! www.usdf.org/e-trak/

- Discounted rates for USDF educational events, including the annual convention, national symposium, adult clinics, Jr/YR clinics, and the Trainers' Conference
- Discount in the USDF store
- Eligible to earn USDF University Program credit
- Discount on memberships with USDF's educational partners
- Free one-year basic subscription to Barnby Notes
- *USDF Connection*, USDF's exclusive member magazine (\$15 postage fee applies to members outside the U.S.)
- Yearbook issue of *USDF Connection*
- Eligibility to compete at USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized competitions
- Eligibility to participate in the USDF Rider Award Program

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Someone made a perfectly reasonable observation earlier this summer saying they would like to see more BSEA sponsored activities offered. The existing board would also, very much, like to see this happen. However, when it comes right down to actually planning and executing an event, suddenly everyone is too busy. Our attempts last year to offer a couple of different clinics (De-Spooking Your Horse and a Harriet Peterson dressage clinic) were met with indifferent responses. This tends to put a damper on planning future activities. If any one out there would like to step up to the plate and help us organize something, whether it is just a social get-together or a fun show, etc. please let the board know. Without organizers and participants, we can't do anything. If everyone just volunteered to help in one small way, some big things could be accomplished.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Which brings us to the next rant, which is that the existing board would be delighted to have some new blood. Emily Zalewski is going to stay on as Treasurer, which is great because she is doing a fine job. All other board positions are up for grabs. We would love to have anyone either volunteer to become a board member or suggest someone else who might be suitable for secretary, vice-president, president, or member-at-large. Please

email your suggestions to Diane Erhart, president, at squarebutte@wildblue.net

JUTTA SCHOTT CLINIC DATES FOR 2012:

May 4. - 6.

June 8-11.

August 24. - 26.

Sept. 28. - 30.

Jutta graciously agreed to change the June date from the first weekend in June to the second one, in order not to conflict with the dressage shows in Parker, CO which some clinic participants have gone to in the past. This does put her clinic on the same date as the Warfield Arrowhead horse trials. However, we can not please everyone, unfortunately, and we were not aware of the change in the Arrowhead trial date until after we had already arranged to change Jutta's date. It does point up the fact that it is really hard to avoid conflicts when the Montana/Wyoming season is so extremely short.

Please mark your calendars and plan to support this outstanding clinician when she comes. And remember, paid up BSEA members do get a \$5 discount on clinic entry fees. Attend all four clinics and you have saved more than half the cost of your membership.

Photos from the 2011 clinics and write-ups can be found at www.bigskyequestrian.org A great group of riders has supported us this past year, with everyone relaxed, eager and enthusiastic. It has been a pleasure to host the clinics and such fun to see everyone improve steadily throughout the summer.

USDF NATIONAL CONVENTION AND SYMPOSIUM:

This promises to be a great event, with a star-studded line-up of riders and clinicians. Go to USDF's website for further information and registration forms. Several people from the Billings and Cody area are already planning to attend. www.USDF.org/convention

One of the clinicians, Jeremy Steinberg, has come to Billings several times in recent years (including this October) to share his expertise. I have personally had the pleasure of watching Debbie McDonald, another one of the clinicians, teach young riders in CO and was greatly impressed by her attitude, warmth and skill. The deadline for registration is coming up soon--November 25th to earn a 25% discount.

Dressage on the Go!

Need something fun to listen to while commuting to the barn or work? [Download this FREE audio clip](#), and others, through [e-TRAK](#) and enjoy hearing about what experts, such as Jan Brink, have to share. Keyword search in e-TRAK is 'audio.'

FarmVet/USDF Adult Clinic Series continues in 2012

"*The Classical System Simplified*" features [Lilo Fore](#). During each clinic [Lilo](#) will get into the nitty-gritty of the classical system, starting with the basics. Visit the [website](#) to find the date and location near you. Tune in to the [Dressage Radio Show](#) to hear [Lilo Fore's](#) advice on selecting the appropriate competition level based on your training program and hear her goals for the clinic series during the USDF portion of the show. Experience Lilo's teaching style on [e-TRAK](#).

Donate Today and Receive a Gift

Make a gift to "Circle of Friends" of \$50 or more by December 31, 2011 and you will be recognized in the March 2012 issue of *USDF Connection* and receive a complimentary hardcopy of USDF's *The Journey*, a compilation of dressage lessons. Your contribution is tax deductible. Please visit USDF's secure online giving site <http://www.usdf.org/donate/> or call 859-971-2277.

Upcoming USDF Jr/YR Clinic with Jeremy Steinberg, USEF National Youth Coach

The Platinum Performance/USDF Region 9 Jr/YR Clinic featuring Jeremy Steinberg will be held January 28-29, 2012 at the North Texas Equestrian Center in Wylie, TX. USDF is currently seeking riders age 14 to 21 to participate in the clinic. Auditors of all ages are welcome! Click [HERE](#) to apply to ride in the clinic. The deadline to apply is December 30. Contact the [USDF office](#) for more information.

HEART MOUNTAIN DRESSAGE: AMY LARSON CLINIC NOVEMBER 12 AND 13 Please note that half the rides are going to be a Lou

Kennedy's north of Lovell, and half will be at Michael Dimock's near Cody. If anyone needs directions, please email Lou for directions.
louinwy@tctwest.net
Lou Kennedy
Crooked Creek Ranch
phone: (307) 548-2334
cell: (307) 431-6558

Auditors are welcome at either arena.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE: contact former BSEA member Sue Knighton for details. horses@knightonranch.com The saddles are all in good shape and good quality. I have trouble with the gullet width, but we have used these on TB and TB/QH crosses. They are probably too wide for a very narrow TB, and too narrow for flat backed horses-like QH with mutton withers, warmblood types. Saddles include two jumping saddles and two dressage saddles, all very reasonably priced. Also several bridles.

Also multiple cinches, stirrup leathers, stirrups, helmets, bridles, bits, pads, boots, leg wraps, jump cups etc available for about \$10 each, or less for package deals.

Region 5 Reports from Heather Peterson : The USDF convention is just around the corner and it's time to book your hotel rooms, airfare and register for the convention and symposium. We are in lovely San Diego this year November 30th-December 4th. Information and registration forms for the Convention and Symposium are available at www.usdf.org/Convention/.

Your Participating Member Delegates to the USDF Convention for 2011 are Eva-Maria Adolphi, Beth Geier, Shannon Lemons, Kay Lorenzen and Laura Speer. These ladies will be representing our Region during the voting portions of the Board of Governors meetings, in addition to representatives from each GMO. Please feel free to contact regarding your viewpoints. I know one big topic this year at the convention will be the introduction of a National Championships that will be fed from the Regional Championship program. We will also be voting on our first At Large Directors that will represent the 3 different councils made up of all of the various working committees.

There are several people running for each At Large Director position so please read up on those candidates and let your delegates know who you would like to see on the USDF Executive Board.

The USDF Platinum Performance Jr/YR Region 5 clinic will be held October 22-23, 2011 at Stellar Stables in Parker, Colorado with George Williams. George is the current USDF President and has many accomplishments in the saddle, including placing 5th on Rocher in the 2003 World Cup, winning USDF Horse of the Year honors at Grand Prix and the Grand Prix Freestyle, and earning the title of USET/Collecting Gaits National Grand Prix Champion. This clinic is open to auditors of all ages and I highly encourage you to attend this great educational opportunity.

Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director

I had the wonderful opportunity at the beginning of November to attend the USDF/Great American Region 5 Championships in Scottsdale, Arizona. There were competitors from several states, including Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah. The weather was very nice for the first day, then we had a little rain and we were able to see how well the show management dealt with difficult situations! That little rain is not common in Arizona apparently (this was my first show in Arizona!) and the outdoor arenas did not drain well. Jay and his crew shifted all the show rings into covered arenas and allowed competitors to warm up where ever they could find footing to suit their needs. The staff and volunteers did a great job punting in a difficult situation!

The judging panel for the Championships was great and I had a lot of fun and learned a lot scribing every day. It was also great to participate in the awards ceremonies and meet quite a few folks I have never met before. There were two lovely competitor parties with great food. All the food came from, to my surprise, the same caterer we use at the Colorado Horse Park, Wild Willeys.

Saturday evening's Competitor Party also hosted one of the most touching awards ceremonies I have had the privilege of witnessing. I was lucky enough to be at the World Cup when Debbie retired Brentina, but it wasn't quite as personal and relevant. Terri Patton-Rich retired her Grand Prix horse, Fontainebleau, who was her dancing partner his entire riding career. Terri had the privilege of riding with some of our top riders in the country and in the world and won many awards and Championships with Fontainebleau. He had to retire at a relatively young age due to some fairly serious injuries, but as she rode him out into the arena for the final time, you wouldn't have had an inkling. I think one of the things that touched the 100 or so people who attended the ceremony was Terri's comment that though they didn't make any of the Olympic or other National teams, they challenged those that did to be better competitors. If you have a few minutes and a few tissues, please take the time to watch the YouTube video of the ceremony -

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6wNrHrAF8U&feature=email>.

Fontainebleau and Terri Hallman-Rich were great representatives for Region 5 during their careers and we were honored they chose our Championships to have their moment.

A recent article in November's issue of Rocky Mountain Rider by Juliet M. Getty, PhD explains that it is a myth that a horse's stomach should be empty while exercising to avoid digestive problems. Although low fiber/high fat, protein and starch meals should not be fed right before exercise, plain old forage should. She suggests allowing your horse to graze on hay or pasture for fifteen minutes or so before exercising. An empty equine stomach accumulates acid which moves around, damaging tissue and can lead to ulcers, colic and ulcerative colitis in the digestive tract. Go to Rockymountainrider.com for the complete article and links to Getty's web site on nutrition.

BSEA wishes everyone a very happy Thanksgiving. Carrots to all the horses! (and ponies, mules, donkeys, etc.)

