

THE CLOSE CONTACT

BSEA

MARCH 2011

After a lousy winter, the first few days of Spring are not promising to be much of an improvement. Ice, cold, and lots of snow have conspired to keep many people, your editor included, off their horses. It seems as if just when you had some decent weather to start working, it would sock in again. Horses got fat, riders got out of shape, hay bills skyrocketed....

However, this too shall pass, and in that spirit, BSEA is offering four clinics this year with our regular dressage guest instructor, Jutta Schott. A fifth clinic had been scheduled for **April 8-10**, and was something else altogether.

In an effort to provide something new for this immediate area, BSEA had offered a **De-Spooking Your Horse** clinic. Have you ever been out on the trail and had your horse blow up at an unexpected sight or unfamiliar animal? Been in a show ring and had your horse come unglued at the sight of a fellow competitor who happens to be a mule? Has he fallen apart at the sound of flapping flags, the announcement system or a growling tractor? If so, this would have been the clinic for you.

Taught by Alan John, a retired police officer with a great deal of experience training police horses for street patrol, this clinic was to focus on taking both horse and rider to new levels of understanding, mutual trust and cooperation. Certified by Wyoming POST and the American Riding Instructors Association, Sgt. John was awarded the ARIA instructor of the year award in 2005 and was selected to attend an instructor's conference in Ottawa, Canada with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in 2008. Sgt. John has also received training from the London Metropolitan Police Department. Having created a volunteer working mounted unit at the Jackson Police Department in 1996, John has completely supervised and trained the unit and volunteers since then, training 30-50 unit volunteers a year. John has trained hundreds of citizens in private clinics since 1996. He has also trained the mounted units responsible for the 2000 Olympics in SLC Utah as well as units all over the State of Utah and throughout Wyoming.

His clinics in Cody, WY fill immediately, with a waiting list. Cody has taken over our date and so Sgt. John will be teaching in Cody April 8-10.

Our clinic was well advertised, in emails, via word of mouth, and with posters up at King's Saddlery in Sheridan, both Shipton's in Billings, Western Ranch, Town and Country Feed and the IGA in Laurel, a quick stop in Red Lodge, a notice on the Beartooth Pony Club site and an ad in the Billings Thrifty Nickel. Why there was so little response is puzzling, in view of the warm reception Sgt. John receives elsewhere. Perhaps it is simply that many people have not been riding or even thinking much about riding and the clinic is too early in the year. Cody's

enthusiasm is understandable, as the organization sponsoring his clinics there have many members who ride regularly in parades.

JUTTA SCHOTT CLINICS:

Jutta will return to Billings to the Ruble riding arena on May 6-7-8. Entry forms may be found on the BSEA web site for this clinic, as well as for her remaining three clinics for this year. Due to a steep rise in airfares, we may not be able to continue to keep our clinic entry fees as low as last year's level. Please check the schedule on the web site for updates on exactly when she will be arriving in June and August. In an attempt to save on fares, we have had to rearrange her arrival and departure, so ride times may be somewhat limited.

The May clinic will be much as usual, however, with her arrival on Friday evening and departure on Sunday afternoon.

Jutta dates for 2011 are as follows:

May 6-7-8

June 3-4-5*

August 26-27-28*

September 30-Oct 1-2*

*The last day of the clinic may be dropped and Jutta will come in earlier on Friday and teach from Friday noon on through Saturday afternoon only in order to save approximately \$100 or more on each plane fare. We have asked for membership feedback on Jutta's schedule, but have received none. Those individuals who either ride with her or are contemplating a ride with her need to let us know how you feel about a shortened clinic schedule with no lessons available on Sundays!

Board of Directors: The board of directors continues to be willing to relinquish any position for which we have a volunteer. The only exception would be that of the Treasurer, which Emily has indicated she is willing to continue doing. If anyone out there has the name of someone to fill a position, please contact Diane at 855-3760.

Activities: Again, we need to hear from members or interested parties in order to plan some activities that would create new memberships or cement old friendships. When we sent out a survey asking for input a couple of years ago, we received no response from anyone regarding ideas about things to plan, nor has anyone volunteered to step up and run a little schooling show or do an educational program. This is in sharp contrast to the Cody club, who has risen from low membership at one time to a thriving organization at present. And in contrast to the Bozeman club, which was in dire straights earlier this year, but

had people rally 'round and volunteer so that the club could continue on. It is discouraging to find such indifference and/or animosity in a town the size of Billings, which could easily support an equestrian club. Surely the hostility engendered by the formation of Warfield Park could be put to rest after all this time. And a divided dressage community does no one any good that I can see.

So, please take a few moments of your time to offer suggestions as to how we can restructure or improve. The board will be receptive to hearing any ideas, especially if they are accompanied by an offer to help out. It really is not possible or realistic to expect only the board members to do any work, particularly as two of them live out of state.

Here's an interesting question from Dianne Stanley, a big R TD who is studying for her TD renewal quiz. Can a judge eliminate a competitor who carries his or her whip with the tip pointing up, not down? Answer: No, nothing in the rule book states that carrying the whip tip is forbidden.

I tried carrying my whip that way the other day, just to see what it would be like. Turns out, I sat up a little straighter but when I actually tapped Pete with it, he found it quite annoying and shook his head as if shooing away a fly....

Times are tough: as evidenced by the number of emails coming into our computers pleading for help in horse rescue cases across the country. With the cost of diesel skyrocketing, hay will only become more expensive. Attendance at shows and clinics will inevitably fall off, as the economy continues to be sluggish, people are out of work, and the cost of horse keeping escalates.

It would be nice to think the Leachman horses really are heading for a new home, as a Billings Gazette recent headline proclaimed. The truth of the matter may be less pleasant, with some of the horses headed for the slaughterhouse. An excellent article several months ago explained the pitfalls involved in trying to rehabilitate starving horses: <http://www.discoverhorses.com/refeeding-malnourished-horses.html>

Quarter Horse owners take note:

USEF, USDF and AQHA have come together to allow AQHA registered horses

showing in dressage the opportunity to earn AQHA points! USEF-

licensed/USDF-recognized dressage competitions offering the opportunity

through AQHA for earning points may be found on the [AQHA Web site](#).The

United States Dressage Federation (USDF), in cooperation with Numen

Communications, has released the first version of the new 2011 USDF

Introductory tests in a downloadable iPhone application.

Each test allows the user to read the test instructions along with the judging criteria; review dressage arena diagrams that animate through the movements within a test; play and record your own readings of the test that are perfectly timed for an individual horse and the arena in which you are practicing; reference the official USDF dressage test sheet; review the USDF Pyramid of Training; and keep up-to-date on the latest in dressage competition through the USDF news feed.

The iPhone application has been developed for USDF Introductory Level Test A, USDF Introductory Level Test B, and USDF Introductory Level Test C. To download the applications or to see a full listing of EquiTests applications, visit the iTunes App Store. <http://itunes.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewSoftware?id=401903052&mt=8>

Great Member Discounts

As a USDF member, you are entitled to a discount on merchandise in the USDF store and discounts on your memberships and subscriptions with USDF's educational partners. The discount codes are listed below for your convenience.

Questions?

USDF Store (10% discount) – **MEM2011**>

DressageTrainingOnline.com (15% discount) – **95121521**

DressageClinic.com (15% discount) – **USDF20108070**

Please click on the SUBSCRIBE button on the home page, scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on COUPON, fill out all the information and click on PROCEED, choose the membership package and continue to sign in.

Barnby Notes (Free one-year basic subscription) – **USDF2010**

FEI TV (20% discount) – Click on the FEI TV link from the USDF home page and you will be able to subscribe at the USDF member-discount rate.

Regional Championship Competitors Take Note:

Your home region, or region of residence, is based on the address USDF has in the database for you. You can compete in any Regional Championship, however, if it is not your home region, you must file a **Change of Region Form**. This must be done annually if you plan to compete at a championship outside your region of residence and can be done after December 15. Be aware of deadlines and fees as indicated on the form.

Where to get the new Dressage Tests

USDF Introductory, Materiale and Sport Horse Tests may be found on the **USDF Web site**. USEF Training Level through Fourth Level Tests may be found on the

USEF Web site. **FEI Tests** may be found on the FEI Web site. For questions on locating dressage tests please see the **USDF Test FAQs page**.

Online Education

Visit **e-TRAK**; USDF's new online learning center. As a USDF member, you can access hundreds of videos and articles on equine health care, training, and much more! Be sure to log into the Web site to enjoy the online education.

This month check out items featuring **Steffen Peters** and Ravel, **Adequan/USDF Grand Prix Horse of the Year**. Log in and use the e-TRAK Search feature to find all the information. **Need help?**

Visit **USDF's Education Calendar** for many online educational opportunities including courses offered at **My Horse University**, **Equine Nutritional Solutions**, **Tallgrass Animal Acupressure Institute** and **DressageTrainingOnline.com**. For a list of USDF University Accredited Online courses and videos visit the **USDF Education Calendar. Questions?**

The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) and Premier Equestrian, LLC once again have partnered together to produce the "On The Levels" DVD set that details the new versions of the 2011 USDF and United States Equestrian Federation dressage tests which became effective December 1, 2010.

Dressage riders, instructors, trainers and judges will all benefit from the new DVD, which features elements of both training and judging the new tests and allows the viewer to see and hear how each of the newly designed dressage tests should be ridden. The tests include USDF Introductory through USEF Fourth Level—Test 3. Viewers can watch over three hours of test video from the comfort of their living rooms or in a clinic setting where the DVD set could be used as a visual aid.

The DVD features FEI judges Lilo Fore and Gary Rockwell. Lilo Fore, a well-known dressage trainer and FEI "I" judge from California, comments on each ride giving a trainer's perspective on how to successfully ride each test. Gary Rockwell, who lives in Florida and one of only three US FEI "O" judges, gives the judge's perspective, scoring each movement of each test and giving a final score. The combination of expertise from these two judges creates a comprehensive training tool for students and trainers alike.

To order "On The Levels", visit the USDF online store at www.usdf.org or call 859-971-7828.

The Dressage Foundation is so pleased to announce that we have a record amount of funding available this year - \$240,000! We have grants and scholarships available for ALL levels and ages of dressage riders. Contact us at:

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The Dressage Foundation
1314 'O' Street, Suite 305

Lincoln, NE 68508
402-434-8585
www.dressagefoundation.org

Looking for a saddle:

Hi: I have two young students: 12 yr old and 9 yr old girls who are looking for English Saddles for 4H and possibly pony club. Does anybody out there have small saddles outgrown? The 12 year old is already 5'3"; slim and growing - so probably a 17" saddle will work. I'm not sure how tall the 9 year old is but she proudly told me the other day that she was only 55 lbs and doing the best she could! Likes being in the "Jockey" position as she calls it! Also - let me know if you know of a reasonably priced well balanced all purpose saddle that would be available in catalogs. Thanks Barbie.

Barbara Bell
Crooked Creek Equine Sports
307-548-7079
tipper@tritel.net

USDF Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination Deadline!

Take the time to fill out a nomination form for a candidate you would like to be considered for the 2011 USDF Hall of Fame or Lifetime Achievement Award. The deadline, May 1st, 2011, is fast approaching. This is a great opportunity for you to assist USDF in recognizing those individuals or horses that have made a significant contribution to the sport of dressage in the U.S. or in their service to USDF.

Nomination criteria for both awards, as well as the nomination forms, are available online at <http://www.usdf.org/halloffame/> or contact Kim Sodt in the USDF office at (859) 271-7876 or ksodt@usdf.org

Governance News

Last chance to send in your nominations for Participating Member delegates in your region! Nominations must be received in the USDF office by April 15, 2011!! E-mail all nominations to nominations@usdf.org . To accept the nomination, and if elected, a PM delegate nominee must: 1) Be a current USDF Participating Member; 2) Be a current resident in the region for which they are running; 3) Agree to serve a one year term, from the time of election in 2011 until the election in 2012; 4) Attend the 2011 Adequan/USDF Annual Convention. Any questions should be directed to the Nominating Committee liaison, Sarah Jones, at sjones@usdf.org, or the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Miki Christophersen, at mchrist0@kc.rr.com.

Heather Robertson Dressage Coming to Colorado June 4-5, 2011

RMDS and The Dressage Foundation Sponsors the AA Clinic

Edward Gal protege parlays her experience to benefit riders and horses of all stripes and skill levels. For Clinic registration information and auditor registration, please go to www.rmids.org.

Judge and Lifetime Trainer Lilo Fore Signed for USDF Adult Clinic Series

The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) announced the signing of judge and popular trainer Lilo Fore as the clinician for the USDF Adult Clinic Series. This series will consist of nine clinics over the next two years beginning in the fall of 2011 in Regions 4 and 8.

Lilo Fore is an FEI "I" Judge and began her judging career in 1974. In addition to judging, she owns a successful dressage training facility located in Santa Rosa, CA, and helped to develop the USDF Instructor Certification Program. Lilo's students have gone on to become successful professionals and horses bred by her have earned Grand Champion and Champion awards in breed shows in both the US and Canada. Throughout her career, Lilo has remained involved in many educational projects including hosting clinics all over the US and South America.

Lilo was a featured presenter at the 2010 Adequan/USDF National Symposium and is the voice of instruction, on the newest edition of USDF's On the Levels video, soon to be released.

For more information about the USDF Adult Clinic Series, or to find specific dates and locations for the series (available after May 1, 2011), visit the [USDF Web site](#) or contact the [USDF office](#).

An introduction to the new USDF 2011 tests will be directed by Dolly Hannon on April 17, 2011 in Loveland, CO. There will be a lecture, power point presentation and demonstration rides. \$45 advance until 4-11, then \$50 at the door.

8:30 registration - Lazy J Bar S

9:00 Lecture and Power point, Lazy J Bar S Conference Room

11:00 - 12:00 Lunch and travel to Hobby Horse Farms (short 10 min. drive)

12:00 - 4:30 Demonstration rides (2 rides at each level Intro - 4th), Hobby Horse Farms

Directions to Lazy J Bar S: Exit 255 from I-25 onto Hwy 402, turn left and head west 8.2 miles, to the stop sign at CR 21. Turn left and go ½ mile south to CR 16 (not CR 16H). At CR 16 turn left and ¼ mile on the right is Lazy J Bar S (3756 WCR 16)

Hobby Horse Farms Address:
2165 E. Hwy 402, Loveland

For More Information Contact:

Jon & Julie Haugen
defiancesport@q.com
970-217-7820

USDF Headgear Rules Change:

Responsibilities of Competition Management and Officials for Dressage Protective Headgear Rules Enforcement

Effective March 1, 2011, for dressage: Anyone mounted on a horse must wear protective headgear except those riders *age 18 and over* while on horses that are competing *only* in *FEI levels and tests* at the Prix St. Georges level and above (including FEI Young Rider Tests, the USEF Developing Prix St. Georges Test and the USEF Brentina Cup Test). [Please refer to the attached document entitled "Protective Headgear Rules for Dressage for a detailed explanation of these rule changes.]

The changes to DR 120.5 details the new headgear requirement and emphasizes that it applies at any time when mounted on the competition grounds. It further requires that, "***Any rider violating this rule at any time must immediately be prohibited from further riding until such headgear is properly in place.*** Any *other* exhibitor may wear protective headgear at any level of competition without penalty from the judge.

Protective headgear is defined as a riding helmet which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag. The harness must be secured and properly fitted...."

The USEF Executive Committee recently passed another rule change, also effective on March 1, 2011, to clearly provide an enforcement mechanism for violations of new protective headgear rules for dressage. This change, to DR124, reads as follows:

DR124 Elimination.

1. Horse and rider combinations shall be eliminated from the competition (for .a, .f and .i, below) or from the current or next class depending on which is closest to the time the incident occurred (for all others), under the following circumstances:

b. Dress code violations ***inside the competition ring*** at the discretion of the Ground Jury, ***except elimination is mandatory***

for failure to wear properly secured protective headgear when required. (DR120); 2. ***Except as noted below, only the officiating Jury may eliminate a competitor for a rule violation listed under DR120 or DR122, only from the test in question, and (except for late entry into the arena) only after the competitor has entered the arena. Members of the Ground Jury have no authority to eliminate under any other circumstances, except during a test, for use of illegal equipment, non-compliance with protective headgear rules, not wearing a number, cruelty and abuse or leaving the arena without the judges' permission.***

Authority for rule enforcement outside the competition ring rests solely with the Show Committee (see General Rules, GR1217). Competition Management/Show Committee has the authority to eliminate for use of illegal equipment ***or violations of protective headgear rules*** during a test that ***are*** discovered after the competitor has left the arena. ***Competition Management also has the authority to eliminate entries and/or remove individuals from the competition grounds for violations of protective headgear rules as described in DR120 and GR801.***

GR801.2 states: "A Show Committee must bar riders without protective headgear from entering the ring for classes in which protective headgear is required." GR801 also supports compliance with the statement "Any rider violating this rule at any time must immediately be prohibited from further riding until such headgear is properly in place."

GR801.6 further supports DR120.5 and specifies that "...It is the responsibility of the rider, or the parent or guardian or trainer of the junior exhibitor to see to it that the headgear worn complies with appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use, and is properly fitted and in good condition, and the Federation, Show Committee, and Licensed Officials are not responsible for checking headgear worn for such compliance."

If management or officials are aware that a rider who is required under DR120 to wear protective headgear is obviously not in compliance (e.g., no headgear in warmup, top hat in warmup, helmet without harness, unhooked chinstrap, changing to top hat for the test), management or the judge must eliminate from the appropriate test.

According to Dean Moran, of SEI: “Any manufacturer can claim compliance to ASTM F1163 but with helmets that bear the SEI logo you are assured of compliance. This is why the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) and other groups require that ASTM/SEI certified helmets be worn for competition events. “