

# Straight Forward News

California Dressage Society, Marin Chapter Aug/Sept 2005

## No August Meeting

*There will not be an August meeting because of the CDS Northern Junior/Young Rider Championships at Rancho Murieta, August 11-14. I hope to see you there watching our Junior/Young Riders show off their stuff!*

## Wild Horse Update

H.R 297, the bill sponsored by Rep Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) to stop the slaughter of free roaming horses and burros has now been referred to the subcommittee on Forest and Health, and this issue is apparently still in play. A second bill, H.R. 503, sponsored by Reps. John Sweeny (R-NY) and John Spratt (D-NY) has been introduced. This would ban the slaughter of all horses in the US. Although there is no market for human consumption in the USA, horses are slaughtered here and the meat sent to Europe and Japan for human consumption. This bill is also in play.

Thanks to Virginia Chatham at Bits and Bridles ([webmaster@bitsandbridles.com](mailto:webmaster@bitsandbridles.com)) you can visit our website at <http://www.marindressage.org>. Check it out.

I know that this is not a dressage issue, but as dressage riders, we have an

appreciation of horses that non-riders (*i.e.* most of the rest of the world) don't. Horses are our companions and our partners in a sport that we love, and I think it is safe to say that we would prefer that people not eat them. I also think that most of the people in this country, whether they ride or not, are opposed to the slaughter of wild horses. Let them know what's going on. An aroused public is the best chance we have to protect our buddies in the horse world. For a better idea of what can be lost if this legislation fails, see below.

## Wild Horse Sanctuary

(by your saddle sore editor)

Last year at Dressage in the Wine Country, my wife, Wendy, won a drawing for a weekend at the Wild Horse Sanctuary in Shingletown, CA (about 30 minutes northwest of Red Bluff). On July 15<sup>th</sup>, she, Caitlin (our 16 y/o daughter) and I met Janet Winegarner (another Marin CDS member) and her adult daughter, Samantha, in Red Bluff where we spent the night before driving up to the WHS on Sat morning. Janet and Sam had done this ride together 10 years ago. After meeting the WHS staff and the other 4 people who would join us on the ride (a young couple + a mother and 14 y/o daughter), we saddled up and headed up

the hill to the cabins where we would spend the night.

As we started our ride we first encountered some wild horses just a short distance after leaving the corral. They observed us with some interest, and several walked a short distance with us. We thought they were considering joining our "herd". Later on we saw several wild burros, and after a lunch break, we found a second herd of horses at a spring where we stopped to fill our water bottles.

The trail was fairly open at times and narrow and lined with brush at others. After about 4 1/2 hours in the saddle and about a 2500 ft. climb, we reached the cabins where we were greeted with salsa, chips and margaritas (the latter much appreciated since we had chosen to do this on the hottest weekend of the year).

The cabins faced a meadow containing a small vernal pool (in early spring the entire meadow is a shallow pool) and a herd of about 25 wild horses. The horses were quite comfortable with our presence (due in part to the fact that at this time of year the WHS staff puts out some hay for them to munch on). You could often walk to within a few feet if you were gentle about it, but the only one you could touch was a mare that had been adopted out, domesticated, and then returned to the herd. There were perhaps 8 or 10 foals of varying ages, the youngest just a few weeks old, and a couple of mares who were due deliver foals at any moment.. Coleen, the 14 y/o, worked tirelessly to pet some of the foals, but briefly touching one before it jumped away was close as she got.

The pre-dinner entertainment (in addition to a refill on the margaritas) included

watching Coleen bring us an aquatic garter snake she found by the pool followed by Sam, our resident herpetologist, wading into the pool to catch a monster bullfrog (15+ inches from nose to toes). There were quail in the tree outside our cabin. A coyote wandered through the meadow and sat down for a bit to check us out, and Scar, the stallion, mounted one of his mares. He seemed completely unfazed by the fact that we were all sitting fifty feet away on the porch watching.

Scar was all stallion, and managed his mares closely. His color was something between copper and gold, and when the sun shone on him he looked like he had been painted with metallic paint that was still wet. I've seen metallic highlights in a horse's coat, but never anything like this. It was unreal. And watching horses just being horses was a rare gift.

Supper included steak and chicken grilled over an open fire after which we wandered off to our candlelit cabins to go to sleep. We woke to the sounds of horses wandering among the cabins, and after a leisurely breakfast of scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, cinnamon rolls, pan-fried potatoes and fruit (the latter to keep the calorie count down...), we said "good bye" to Scar and his mares and headed back down the hill.

You don't have to take my word for all of this. Just call the Wild Horse Sanctuary, 530 335-2241, and go see for yourself. Spring or early summer would be best while there is plenty of water in the pool and it isn't too hot. It's an experience you won't forget.

## Warmblood History

(Karen Piper explains how Warmbloods are named, and more...)

Clare Long put on a fun CDS meeting last month. She brought out lots of different types of horses for people to see and guess the breed. I wanted to win, but didn't. One member guessed 7 correctly and received a gift certificate! Congratulations!

I gave a brief talk on breeds and the different registries. It went something like this: The Hanoverian is 1 of the group of regional breeds of N. Europe, which are collectively known as Warmbloods. Warmblood-horse breeding has been traditional throughout Europe since the eleventh century. Horses were used for general agricultural purposes as well as coach and Calvary mounts. After WWII tractors replaced the horse. At this time they started breeding a lighter sport horse.

Before unification of Germany in 1871 Germany was made up of different states. The German Ministry of Agriculture owned most of the Stallions. The farmers would bring in the mares for breeding and the foals were then taken to auction. This began the development of their current Auction system and still today the farmers breed horses as a cash crop. Thus horses bred in Hanover were known as Hanoverians, Schleswig Holstein, known as Hosteniers, Westphalia, Oldenburg etc. The verbands are different registries for what are now different regions of Germany. Many of the Stallions are approved for several different Breed Societies or Verbands.

There is a very sophisticated breed tracking system used in Europe. They

believe that the mare is responsible for 60% of the foal's qualities and is, therefore, very important to the breeding system. The Warmblood breeders have, over time, taken a certain percentage of high quality Thoroughbred, Arab and Anglo Arab Stallions to upgrade and lighten the breeds. Shogun and Prince Thatch are Thoroughbreds. The offspring are named after the same letter as the Stallions name. For instance, Brentina is by Brentano, Weltmeyer is by World Cup I, Donatelli is by Donerhall. Rubenstein by Rosencavelier etc. The Trakenher breed does it differently starting the name with the Dams first letter. The Dutch name according to the year the foal is born, using the alphabet.

In the 1700's the State Stud in Celle, Germany was opened and funded by The King. Today it is still very active. In the fall they do the Hengst Parada, or Stallion Parade. It is a wonderful showing of both Dressage and Jumping Stallions doing all kinds of athletic feats.

Some registries are stricter than others. Some will take in mares that are TB or mixed bloodlines for inspection if they meet certain criteria, and they will be listed in one of several approved mare books. That is why people will say, "he is an Oldenburg" when in fact it is a Thoroughbred. What would be more correct is to say the "he is registered Oldenburg".

The Warmblood history is complicated to understand but very fascinating!! Hope this helps a bit. Karen

## **The Pebble Beach Show**

By Karen Piper

Jeanette Derammelaere rode Menslage in his 3<sup>rd</sup> Intermediare 1 Class. She did well and was pleased with the way her horse performed. The atmosphere was quite electric with flags flying and 5 arenas going at once as well as a continuous watering and grading of the arenas!

Her students that went were, Julie Dobb with Kiwi, Camille Kusin with Little Joe, and Jennifer Schmidt with Dexter. The girls did well in this rather large and fancy show. Parents and helpers were there and it was a fun four days for everyone! The Juniors appreciated the high level of judging and how well the show was run. They are all confident now and looking forward to the Jr. Championships.

The show staff put on two parties and had breakfast out every morning. The CDI show was going on at the same time and it was fun to see Leslie Morse and Kingston warming up. She also had Tip Top out and he is really nice. He can really sit down and does a beautiful Piaffe and a spectacular Freesyle. There were lots of nice horses and riders.

Tanya Vik showed Divinity 3, PSG and I1. He was a bit exuberant here and there. He preformed well, but I am sure Tanya could have done without the childish antics during the test !! Christine Rivlin-Henke showed Falcon, Larissa Jaz and Di Caprio.

Mary Schrader was there and Sandy Sherman was handing out the tests and awards.

I showed Di Caprio, and won the First Level Adult Amateur award, which was fun. I had my picture taken and got to

hold the perpetual trophy! Chris showed him 2<sup>nd</sup> level for the first time and had some high scores. He was a good little trooper and enjoyed his first big show! The grounds were very nice and it was near the ocean so it was cool!! Thank you to Jeanette for coming to the rescue at the last minute with a felt pen, as I had the wrong number for him and had to improvise!

Don't forget the Jr. Show is coming up at Rancho Murieta, and Mary Schrader is looking for Volunteers. It is a great way to learn what the judges are looking for and to contribute to the sport! August 11<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> is the show.

## **A Dream Left Behind**

By Caitlin Evans (Junior Rider)

Ever since I can remember, horses have been present in my life. Before I was old enough to learn to ride, I dreamt about them day and night. I find now, looking back, that I have almost forgotten the feeling of belonging, of rightness, that I once felt in a busy, working stable. That community is something that I left behind when I moved with my family five years ago. We took our horses with us, and they live on our property.

The more I think about it, none of us can really be called "rider" anymore. True enough, my father is still active in the Marin Chapter of CDS, but in other ways we have lost touch with the horse world. Being so detached from the horse community has made all of us move on. My mother has started to work again and no longer has time to ride, and my father is working for ever-increasing chunks of the week. And I, last but not least, have entered the world of High School. I no

longer have the pretense that this high-pressure world and the world of saddle and bridles and shows and training can co-exist. Without realizing it, the door has closed on that section of our lives, and we are beginning to see that there is no turning back.

When we moved, the community slipped away as school and work and life became the center of our lives. Only now are we starting to truly realize this loss, and truly grieve for it. However, it is too late to turn back. I have succumbed to the pressures of high school. I constantly worry whether my GPA is high enough and whether I will get into college. For me personally it has been a struggle to ride twice a week.

As I truly stop and consider the entire situation, I realize that it is not just school that stops me. Since we left the community of our former barn, the entire idea of going to the ranch and just playing with your horse and your friends has been shot. I know girls where I used to ride who would go to the ranch together and just have fun in the arena with their horses and each other for hours. Then maybe they would groom their mounts for awhile, braiding their tails and talking and laughing. I can no longer picture that like I used to. Now when I ride it is always in a big, empty arena or at a barn close by. This solitude has sapped the joy of riding for me, making it more of a chore than a passion or a hobby. And I know now that there truly is no turning back. Perhaps in the future I will reawaken the passion I once felt, or perhaps not. But for now that door is shut and new ones are opening.

(and we moved to the country thinking that we would have *more* time with our horses...Comments on the above article

and/or contributions from other Junior Riders would be appreciated. Ed.)

### Paula Kierkegaard Dressage Clinic ( August 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2005)

Paula is a nationally recognized clinician and instructor. Her background includes dressage, side-saddle, three-day, hunters, jumpers and western. She has competed both at the national and international levels. She places great emphasis on equitation and becoming a thinking/feeling rider.

- \* USEF "R" Dressage Judge
- USDF Certified Instructor
- Co-Author of the USDF Instructor's manual
- Over 45 yrs of experience riding and training
- Member of the 2005 USDF Instructor/Trainer Council

Paula has trained and ridden thru FEI levels, including Grand Prix. Several of Paula's students have, with Paula's direction, trained their own horses to Grand Prix (two of these rider's have trained multiple GP horses). She is equally amazing with her work at the lower levels. Paula also practices and teaches in-hand work and ground driving.

Paula has a deep understanding of the theory that underlies all we do in Dressage. With this knowledge she is able to really make a difference in a short amount of time. Her clinics are always educational and thought provoking.

**Dates:** August 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

**Location:** Cayetano Ridge Equestrian Center-Livermore

**Cost:** \$125/ride or \$300/all three days  
(payment due in advance to secure your spot)

**Stabling:** available

**Auditors:** Welcome, however, please bring your own seating and shade (it gets hot!) please RSVP, as you will need a security code to enter the gates.

**Contact:** Mary Mitchell 510/612-3555

## **CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS**

My name is Julie Dobbs and I'm 12 years old and about 5'2". I need to find a 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> Level gelding to full lease for the coming show season or longer. He needs to be about 15.3 to 16.2 hands tall and be reasonably easy to trailer and take to shows. He would be kept with my trainer, Jeannette Derammelaere in Novato. If you have or know a horse that I can lease, please call me at 415 898-0301. Thank you!

**FOR SALE:** CHAMBORD 16 yr 16.2hd Westfalen gelding beautiful chestnut, white blaze, white socks. Shown thru PSG. Has earned three riders their bronze medals. Great schoolmaster, sound with no vices. Very steady, consistent horse to ride. Owner's priority is finding him his best new home. Call Marion Shippey 415 488-0196. Asking price 25K.

**FOR SALE:** Passier Optimum saddle in excellent condition. 17.5 seat and medium wide tree (28.5 cm tree width). Gusseted panels and extra deep seat. Pictures available through e-mail. \$1500. call/please leave message: Maria 415 898-1513.

Marion now trains at Meadowbrook Farm, Nicasio, CA. 415 662-2288.

**Logo wine glasses & coffee mugs for sale.** Etched with the Marin Chapter logo, \$7.00 each. Contact Kathy Goldstein at 415 892-4560.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Dressage at Riverside Show Series  
Location: Riverside Equestrian Center,  
7600 Lakeville Hwy, Petaluma.

All shows are USEF, USDF and CDS recognized. Show Secretary: Ellie Armstrong Kennedy 415-927-7966 or [Armstrong\\_ellie@yahoo.com](mailto:Armstrong_ellie@yahoo.com).

Sat. August 20, 2005  
Judge: Tracey Lert (S)

Participants will earn points toward merchandise and gifts donated from Goode Rider, Lake Web Design and Photography and others. Look at [www.christinerivlindressage.com](http://www.christinerivlindressage.com) for details on how to qualify and earn points at each show.

Also offered:  
High Point Champion Ribbons  
High Point Average Hanoverian Ribbon  
High Point Trakehner Ribbon

**AUG 11-14 \*\*\* CDS Northern Junior  
Young Rider Championships (Rancho  
Murieta) Judges E Stine-Masic, U  
Schmitz, D Vlatten, G Bergman-Wailes  
contact Mary Schrader 415 479-3104**

AUG 20 \*\*\* Dressage at Riverside  
(Petaluma) contact Ellie Kennedy 925 798-  
8465

AUG 21 \*\*\*Fieldstone Farm Dressage  
(Santa Rosa) contact Sandra Labrucherie  
707 837-8997

AUG 27-28 \*\*\*Fairwind Farm (Santa Rosa)  
Judge M Creswick, Gen Burton contact  
Mary Schrader 415 479-3104

**OCT 12-16 \*\*\* CDS Championship Show  
Murieta (Rancho Murieta) Last day to Q  
8/28/05 contact Glenda McElroy 818  
841-3554**

Straight Forward News is published bi-monthly and sent out to all CDS Marin Chapter Members. Contributions to this newsletter are welcome and encouraged. Please contact your editor with anything of interest. Dick Evans, 4200 Green Valley School Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472-9712, 707 829-8721, [2horsey@mindspring.com](mailto:2horsey@mindspring.com).