



# Oklahoma Dressage Society Newsletter

## November 2008

Newsletter Editor: Lee Ann Alf  
(leeannalf@gmail.com)

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Nov 1** SOS Schooling Show  
www.sosdressage.org
- Nov 2** NCC Schooling Show  
Rainee Boyd at 580-761-7951  
www.nccdressage.org
- Nov 8** Eastwick Stables Schooling Show  
www.eastwickstables.com
- Nov 8-9** Stephan Kiesewetter Dressage Clinic  
Robin Hessel, 405-747-7121  
robin@stillwaterdressage.org
- Nov 8-9** Lars Peterson Symposium  
Los Colinas, TX  
www.larspetersensymposium.com
- Nov 8-10** Fran Dearing Clinic  
Contact: Judith Brown
- Nov 15** ODS Schooling Show Championships  
[www.dressageoklahoma.org](http://www.dressageoklahoma.org)

**JANUARY 2009—ODS ANNUAL MEETING  
AND AWARDS BANQUET**

### ODS SCHOOLING SHOW CHAMPIONSHIPS

and

### Open Show

**November 15, 2008**

**(closing date Nov 10th)**

**GET YOUR ENTRIES IN!**

**Tulsa Expo Center, Tulsa, OK.**

**Judge: Bonnie Griest**

STALLING and TACK areas available

To Qualify:

- 2 qualifying scores at the highest test of the level
- from 2 different judges
- at 2 different shows (ODS Approved)

*If you have 1 qualifying score you may obtain the second qualifying score at the OPEN SHOW of the Championships.*

Qualifying scores are located on the ODS Site under Resources.

Entries and Flyer is available online on our ODS Calendar. Or Print your entry form from this link: (You must have a updated adobe reader to view pdf files)

[http://www.dressageoklahoma.org/files08/SSchamps\\_Entry\\_2008.pdf](http://www.dressageoklahoma.org/files08/SSchamps_Entry_2008.pdf)

For more information, contact show manager: Rainee Boyd at  
[raineboyd@itlnet.net](mailto:raineboyd@itlnet.net).

Dear ODS members,

The Championships are over! This is a letter to express our appreciation of the efforts of our club members and guests. You were amazing. There are so many people to thank but we would like to highlight those people who went above and beyond the call.

Let's start with Bee Pape. We only hope that we have the same amount of energy Bee Pape had on her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday when we reach that milestone! Bee organized our volunteers, found hotel rooms, and entertained our officials each night. Rainee Boyd was saddled with two very large tasks. She organized the vendors and the golf cart rentals. She also assisted the barn manager. She was pretty tired by Thursday night! Speaking of barn manager, Darrell Reed did a terrific job helping with issues that surfaced in the stabling area.

Wendy and Michael Curlis did an amazing job in the announcer's booth. They kept the music playing, announced riders, and did a terrific job with the awards ceremonies. Wendy has a real talent for finding the right words even under pressure. Anne Kuhn was our awards guru. She kept track of 3 types of ribbons, jackets, coolers, and special awards. Not a single mistake was made.

Diane Smith and DeDe Wasemiller organized the wonderful silent auction and raffle. They gathered donations and ran the events. Their creativity was inspiring. Jolie Pressler and Nicole Burris helped organize our wine and cheese party and Saturday night hoedown. Additionally, both Jolie and Nicole proved to be master salespeople and were instrumental in securing some very large donations. Christina Harmon prepared the welcome baskets for our visiting officials. The baskets were overflowing with special treats. Debbie and David Nutt took charge of the check in party. It was fun to look out over the stabling area on Thursday night and see kids riding bikes, dogs playing ball, people shopping, laughing, and eating. It was a real picnic. Debbie also organized our merchandise and volunteer shirts. Her order was spot on as we sold almost every item ordered.

The program was beautiful. Judy Rivers spent weeks building advertisements, rider photos, officials profiles, and required pages. The visiting officials were impressed with the quality of our program. Grace Klinger performed her usual tremendous job organizing and staffing the used tack sale. We had such a good response that additional tables needed to be secured.

Competitors winning a Great Plains championship class were thrilled by their prizes. In addition to cash, they won a quick sketch of their horse. Nancy Johnston donated her time and materials to provide those prizes. The sketch will hang in their home long after the cash is spent.

Scoring was a breeze with Paul and Terri Hadley at the forefront. They learned a new scoring system quickly and were posting scores in record time without error. Competitors loved being able to check scores on the computer located in the lobby or on their laptop from the stabling area. Susan Peacock set up the electronic scoring system which competitors so appreciated. She also coordinated travel arrangements for our officials.

Nancy Litsch and Linda Powell helped everywhere but especially in the office. Pam Hogg kept good care of the checkbook, as well as scoring or scribing each day. Along with Anne Kuhns, transporter of the rings, ring setup and tear down was the job of Lee Ann Alf and Sue Twitty. This was not a small job considering that we had three arenas and plenty of decorations. In addition, Sue always made herself available for every kind of duty.

We had a fabulous group of scribes including Sheila Dooley, Deryn Stewart, Susan Lang, Sherry Guess, Fran Ferrari, Kay Kamish and Christine Hammon. Sarah and Amanda Hester ran tests from the arenas to the scorers all weekend. Peggy Sue Blair, Kathy Jones, and Beth Richards helped in scoring. Our gatekeepers and bit checkers included Kathleen, Pam Rawlins, Carole Miller, Karen Askew, Sally Chionsani, Joy Quinn, and Nancy Coss.

This is not an exhaustive list of volunteers. Please know that everyone who contributed to running the show and securing sponsorships is appreciated. If we try to thank everyone, we will inevitably leave someone out. This was a huge undertaking. It could not have happened without the efforts of our wonderful members. Thank you. Sincerely,

Stacia West-Gray  
Show Secretary

Roberta Clark  
ODS president

ODS is a USDF Group Member Organization and the members of ODS are automatically USDF Group Members.

From the Editor: My apologies to those who sent classified ads last month. The classified page was inadvertently omitted (oops!). The ads are on the web and in this issue. *LA*

**ODS NEEDS YOU!**

Please consider serving on the board. There are several positions coming up for the January meeting. It is a chance to contribute and guide the club for the future.

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*Announced on Saturday night at the Regional Championship Show... and speechless... was*

**REGION 9 - 2008 HORSE PERSON OF THE YEAR---SALLY CHIONSINI**

**In recognition of her dedication, sportsmanship, and pursuit of excellence to improve dressage in the region and nationally.**

Sally is a Texan, born in Houston, grew up in Jasper, graduating from Jasper High School, where she held numerous positions of leadership. Attending Southern Methodist University, University of Texas, and Lamar University where she graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor Degree in Business. She has lived in Texas, Connecticut, London, and Singapore and traveled extensively in Europe and the Far East. 53 years of marriage to AE, has provided them with two wonderful daughters, three grandchildren and one great grandchild.

A horse named Charley was her first love as a teenager. Sally had to put riding on hold when she married and started her family. Resuming her riding interest in London, she became a certified member of the British Horse Society, participated in jumping and cross country events, and did volunteer work in the Queen's stables.

Her dressage career began in Connecticut. She has participated in many facets of dressage from show management, showing Training to Grand Prix Level, and judging. She has earned USDF Bronze and Silver Medals, and has qualifying scores toward the Gold Medal. Always a frequent volunteer at Region 9 Championships and many other competitions, Sally is a good sportsperson, always cheering on and encouraging other competitors.

A licensed USEF Technical Delegate, certified to measure ponies; a USDF "L" Graduate; served as Region 9 Technical Delegate Coordinator for 7 years; and currently serves as Chairperson of the USDF National Technical Delegate Council.

Congratulations Sally... on a much deserved award.

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**Congratulations to the GAIG/USDF Champions from ODS**

- Training Level-Amateur: Shelly Williams/Wersache
- First Level-Amateur: Susan Peacock/Drosselmeyer
- Second Level-Amateur: Susan Peacock/Drosselmeyer
- Third Level-Amateur: Marty Hunt/Daphene
- Third Level-Freestyle: Angel Ozer/Vertical Limit C
- Fourth Level-Open: Kristin Knutson/Passadena
- Grand Prix-Freestyle: Angel Ozer/Loki

**Congratulations to the Great Plains Champions from ODS**

- Training Level-Amateur: Shelly Williams/Wersache
- First Level-Amateur: Susan Peacock/Drosselmeyer
- Second Level-Amateur: Susan Peacock/Drosselmeyer
- Fourth Level-Amateur: Marty Hunt/Daphene

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*Condolences to long-time member, Clydette Womack, on the recent loss of her mother. Our thoughts are with you.*



### NCC Chapter News

The NCC of ODS is having an open membership meeting on Wednesday Oct. 29th at Pizza Hut in Ponca City, Ok. Meeting will start around 7-7:15 but the room is ours from 6:30 -till....? We have an upcoming final show of our year at A Little Bit of Heaven this coming weekend on Nov. 2nd with

Roberta Clark as our judge.

We will be having our Christmas party on Dec.15th at the home of our Vice-President Jenna Dickison and hosted by Joanna Dickison. As usual please bring your \$10-\$15 Dirty Santa gift exchange to participate in the hilarity! We are going to have a Pilates meeting in Nov so that we all can get fit for the holidays or at least find a way to help to keep from gaining Weigh too much during them. We invite everyone to our show on the 2nd so please come and have fun. If the show is small we will have some games to play on horseback afterwards with the remaining time.

Happy Transitions  
Rainee B.Pres.  
NCC of ODS 2008

### GCC NEWS

Green Country Chapter  
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE  
November 2008

Green Country had a busy month in October. On October 12, the club held a grooming clinic at Glenbrook Farm in Claremore. Clinicians Paula Walker and

Laurie Hedlund demonstrated the steps necessary to produce a well-groomed, show-ready dressage horse. All aspects of the process were covered, from proper nutrition for a glossy coat and healthy hooves to the final spit-shine before the horse/rider enter the arena. The clinic was well-attended, the weather was beautiful (if maybe a little windy!) and a pleasant time was had by all.

Next on the docket was GCC's final schooling show for 2008, held on October 25 at Rocking C Stables in Inola, with Vickie Sharp judging. The show started on the dot at 9:00 a.m. and ran until a little after 6:00 p.m. Whew!

Those "in the trenches" doing the scoring, running, scribing and judging were glad to see that last ride leave the arena at A, although it was fun to see so many exhibitors having fun with their horses on a beautiful fall day. One item of note was the huge costume class, filled with junior and adult riders in all manner of dress from a scarecrow to an airplane, a Phantom to an Indian Princess, knights in shining armor to a camouflaged huntress, and all in between. It was so difficult to judge, in fact, that Judge Vickie opted out and made her scribe, Robin Bushong, pin the class!! The class was great fun with lots of laughter, applause, and cameras snapping those memorable "Kodak" moments, such as



Patty Couch's airplane wings wobbling uncontrollably and Richal Flannery's Dartagnan walking stoically around in a gigantic pair of overalls. This MUST become an annual event!

The month of November will be relatively quiet insofar as GCC activities go. But don't think for a moment that the hard-working year-end awards secretary, Anne Kuhns, won't have her hands full compiling all those scores and determining who the big winners are for 2008. All scores are to be submitted on the year-end awards form to Anne by no later than November 4.

These awards, along with the presentation of the Junior Multi-Club Award (sponsored by Rocking C Stable), will be presented at our annual meeting and Christmas Party on Friday, December 12, beginning at 6:30 p.m. This year we will converge on Sandy and Mike Thompson's Wind Valley Farm in Chelsea to eat, drink and be merry. As always, we will have a Dirty Santa gift exchange with a \$10 minimum/\$20 maximum price range, and a fabulous pot-luck dinner. We hope that many of our GCC members, their spouses and families will come and help us celebrate the season.

*Liz Logan*, GCC President

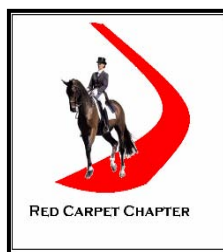
**GCC members:** Starting this year you are responsible for submitting your scores to Anne Kuhns for GCC year end awards. You can find the 2008 Year End Awards Form and the Year End Awards Program document on the GCC website. In short, you need five scores from three judges in the level in which you want to qualify. At least one of those scores must be from the highest test of that level. You are to list all of your scores on the Year End Awards Form, along with the date, judge, and location of each show. A minimum of four volunteer hours are also needed and you will need to list that on the form as well. Please read all of the requirements on the Awards Program document for complete details.

The form is due to me by Nov 4, 2008. It may be either mailed or e-mailed (I don't have a fax) and received by that date. I must have it in my hands by then-not just post marked. Our awards dinner is December 12 and it takes a while to get scores verified (yes, I'll be checking on you!) then awards need to be purchased, and embroidered-that takes time! Thank you in advance for helping in making this new process a success and good luck to all of you in the last few schooling shows of this year!

Anne Kuhns

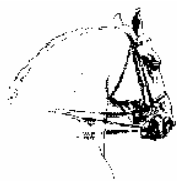
### RCC Chapter News

*NONE REPORTED*





*Last Opportunities To Qualify For The Schooling Show Championships*



*The Spirit of the Sport Dressage Club  
Halloween Show*

Dressage Schooling Show, November 1, 2008  
Indoor Arena at Majic Stables, Norman, OK

(ODS Recognizes This Show For Award Purposes Only)

Judge: TBA

For more information and entry form: [www.sosdressage.org](http://www.sosdressage.org)

**NCC SCHOOLING SHOW**

**November 2, 2008**

**Judge:** Roberta Clark "L" Graduate

**Location:** "A Little Bit of Heaven" in Newkirk, Ok.

More Information at [www.nccdressage.org](http://www.nccdressage.org)

Contact: Raine Boyd 580-761-7951

**FALL DRESSAGE SHOW—EASTWICK STABLES**

**ODS Recognized Schooling Show**

**November 8, 2008** Classes start at 12:00 Noon

**9601 E. Wilshire Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK**

**Judge:** Lyn Francik "L" Graduate

**Show Manager:** Kathryn McKinney

**Directions:** From I-35 take Britton Rd. East. Continue east past Sooner Rd., Air Depot, and Midwest Blvd. After Midwest Blvd. there is a bridge. Once you've crossed the bridge, look for a windmill on the south side of the road (right). Just after the windmill is Post Rd. Turn right. Go south to next intersection and then turn right on Wilshire. Continue west on Wilshire until you get to the facility (about 1 mile) which is on the right.

More information: [www.eastwickstables.com](http://www.eastwickstables.com) or call Kathryn at 405-771-3752, [ladyco@cox.net](mailto:ladyco@cox.net)

**Open Show Previous To The Schooling Show Championships**

**November 15, 2008**

**One Qualifying Score May Be Earned (More Information: Raine Boyd 580-761-7951)**

**ODS annually sponsors several award and achievement programs.** They include the **Year-End Awards** for both *recognized* and *schooling* shows, The **GERA** (Gemstone of Excellence Rider Award), and the head-to-head **Schooling Show Championships**. Information and requirements for these programs are on the ODS website under the "Resources" page and will be published in upcoming newsletters. Several of the programs have "rider responsible" requirements (ie: the rider is required to send the USDF printout with their official scores to the Recognized Year-End Award secretary, Stacia Wert-Gray. Since the ODS award year differs from the USDF award year, this might require printing out 2008 scores earned before Sep. 30 and any scores earned after Oct. 1-the beginning of the USDF award year-in separate printouts.)

## *Fine Tuning Your Freestyle*

*By Angel Ozer*

YEAH! You've decided to ride a freestyle. Your horse has shown proficiency at the level and is capable of executing with ease and strength all of the required movements for that level.

Since this is not a "how to" article, I will not delve into how to put together a freestyle. I will assume you have chosen music to match your horse and adjusted the tempo to match his gaits. If you are not computer savvy, I suggest hiring a professional to do your music editing.

Choice of music is paramount to a successful freestyle and has a coefficient of 4 at the FEI levels. (It used to be a coefficient of 6!). Your music must match your horse, not only in beats, but also in the type of music. For instance, light, bee-boppy music would never suit a large, heavy-boned horse. When I hear Latin music, I think of a big, bold, dark bay or black horse. It wouldn't suit a refined, light-on-his feet, type of mover. Your music should never over-power your horse.

The next thing I will mention when choosing your music is, you must LOVE your music because your will listen to it a "bazillion" times. You must know your music inside and out. When I have completed a freestyle, I have extra copies of the CD made. I keep a copy in my car, one in my truck, one in the barn and 2 to take to the shows. You don't want to get to a show and find your one and only copy doesn't work or it has a scratch, etc. I even download my music to my I-POD and run to it. If you played my music and started at a random spot, within 3 notes I could tell you exactly where I am in the arena. That's how well you should know your music. We've all seen freestyle that look so disorganized as if the rider had no idea where he/she should be or what was to come next. Also remember, what sounds great blasting through your car radio, might not sound so good through the sound system at a show. You don't want a lot of blaring horns.

Now having said all that about your music, know this. Your freestyle will NEVER ride the same way twice, no matter how much you practice it. Sometimes, you didn't travel as far in a half-pass or you made a mistake and have to repeat a movement, etc. This is why it is crucial that you know your music so you know where you can make up time (if you get behind the music ((try cutting a corner)) or get back on track if you get ahead of your music. If you must repeat a movement (half-pass, pirouette, etc.) knowing your music will enable you to plan ahead and figure out where and when to put that movement in again.

Next thing I will mention is that freestyles are much more difficult to ride than a standard dressage test. Not only to you have to execute the movements (the technical score) but you also have to keep up with your music and adhere to your choreography (the artistic score). Again, this is why you must know your music, backwards and forwards. If your horse is green at that level or if you are inexperienced at riding freestyles, I suggest keeping your choreography fairly simple. When you and your horse are more proficient at freestyles, you can add more difficulty to the choreography. A judge does not want to see a horse and rider struggling throughout a test, whether it is a standard test or a freestyle.

Having said that about the choreography, let me add this: NO CIRCLES, PLEASE! Circles are nothing but a time filler and most judges don't want to see circles in a freestyle. It's better to keep your freestyle short and sweet than add circles as a time filler.

When I design a freestyle, I do the choreography first and then do the music. I have already made my music selections for the walk, trot and canter but it is much easier to add the music to the choreography rather than trying to match choreography to the music. I've done it both ways so trust me on this.

Also, no whips please. You are supposed to be dancing with your horse. Do you really want to give the appearance that you have to beat him around the dance floor? I know whips are allowed but you can't use one at Championships anyway and I personally do not like to see a whip during a freestyle.

The last thing I will say is HAVE FUN! Freestyles, to me, are the epitome of dressage, regardless of the level so enjoy and dance like there is no tomorrow (or at least as if there is no one sitting at "C")!

*(Angel Ozer has earned her USDF Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals, as well as her Gold Musical Freestyle Bar. All of the scores earned for these medals were on horses she has trained herself.)*



