



ODS NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2015

Editor: Lee Ann Alf
leeannalf@gmail.com

Dear Membership,

Happy Holidays! It is good that I am decorating because the weather is not conducive to ride. A couple of beautiful, warm, calm days and then this miserable, wet stuff. This weather makes it very difficult to keep horses exercised and in training.

This year the AGM is being held in Tulsa with a structure more as past times – meeting in late afternoon, followed by a cash bar happy hour to converse with your friends and family (even a little shopping), and ending with a delicious dinner and fabulous awards. As always, there will be a silent auction benefiting education due to your generous donations. Just bring those donations with you to the meeting and a volunteer will set them up for evening bidding. So mark you calendars for January 16th, 2016 at the Tulsa Summit Club. See insert in this newsletter.

The Annual General Meeting is the meeting where the board wants to share information about upcoming events and activities (past and future), but more importantly the board wants your input. Please plan on attending and participating in your organization.

Speaking of upcoming events, the ODS board through ODS Education Board member, Pamela Byers, hope to announce an exciting event. Pamela has been working hard for almost a year to secure this clinician for ODS members. Keep your fingers crossed that she can announce a date and place at the AGM!

Stay warm and pray for consistent riding weather.

Roberta Clark
ODS President

ODS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Do you know someone who has made a major contribution to our organization this year?-- someone you would like to see recognized for all of the time and effort they have spent influencing the development, growth, quality, and popularity of dressage in a meaningful and positive measure?

Nominees for ODS Volunteer of the Year may have:

- Contributed significant service
- Promoted dressage in some manner
- Promoted ODS by volunteering their time, expertise, or resources in a way that reflects positively on our club
- Made a unique or creative contribution
- Through their effort, increased the image of ODS

Please submit the name of your candidate for ODS Volunteer of the Year award and indicate how that person's attributes and activities have fulfilled this criteria. A committee will review the nominations and the final selection will be announced at the AGM in January. Please note that ODS Board Members are not eligible for this award.

Deadline for submission is January 6th.

It was great fun to see Amanda Edwards, Anthea Kin, and Kristin Knutson competing in Lexington, KY, for the USDF Finals. Congratulations on qualifying! Dede Wasemiller came as support. Marta Koenig came as a 4-day volunteer wearing her cast and zooming around on her scooter. I hope to see many ODS members in KY at Finals in 2016. The Finals will be moving in 2017 so come to KY before it possibly goes west. It is a spectacular show! -Anne Kuhns



**Great Plains Chapter of
ODS
AGM and Year-End
Awards Celebration
Sunday, December 6, 2015
2:00 PM**

**Valley View Equestrian Center
5417 York Road, Stillwater Oklahoma
74074**

Schedule of Activities

- 2:00 pm – Meeting to discuss 2016 chapter activities & elect officers
- 3:00 pm – Early dinner and awards presentation
- 3:30 pm - Close out of Silent Auction items

Please bring your family and friends and a covered dish to share.

GPC will provide beverages, and utensils. If you have folding chairs you could bring, please do so.

This event is free to GPC members and their guests.

Please consider bringing a donation for the silent auction.

RSVP with number attending and dish you plan to bring to Stacia at gtgray@aol.com by December 4th.

Western Dressage Report:

Thank you to all GPC members who competed or supported our western dressage riders at the WDAA World Championship Show in Tulsa on November 6-8. The show featured 200 horse/rider combinations from all over the United States and Canada with 620 rides completed. GPC members played an important part in making this show such a success and we appreciate their effort. Please thank the following members:

Stacia Wert-Gray - show secretary
Robin Hessel - apprentice judge organizer support
Chris Cashel - apprentice judge organizer support/scribe
Deryn Stewart - scribe
Paul Stewart - scorer
Travis Gray - runner/scorer
Marie Maloney - vendor
Susan Lang - scribe
Judy Rivers - scribe
Patty Couch - competitor
Angela Stokes - competitor
Laurie Hedlund - competitor
Janet Cagle - competitor
Lisa Yost - competitor
Shannon Braudway - competitor
Michelle Lundy - competitor

To see all results from the WDAA World Championship show and check out how our members placed, please visit www.horseshowconsulting.com.



Green Country Chapter News

Green Country Chapter concluded the 2015 show season on November 7 with our annual Schooling Show Championships. Competitors from Intro to Second

Level participated along with several Western dressage riders in an exciting day of riding; judge Susan Lang considerably offered constructive feedback to many riders.

Green Country Chapter's annual holiday party and awards banquet will be held Friday, December 18 at 6 PM at The Horse of Course tack shop in downtown Claremore. Drinks and desserts will be provided; attendees are encouraged to bring an hors d'oeuvre to share. Guests will also enjoy a 20% discount on their purchases at The Horse of Course during the party. If you're interested in attending, please RSVP to Annie Houchin at ahouchin@midcon-energy.com.

North Central Chapter News



None Reported.





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Annual General Meeting & Awards Banquet

Saturday, January 16, 2016

Tulsa Summit Club

15 W. 6th Street, Tulsa, OK
30th Floor



3:30 pm	Registration
4:00 pm	Annual Meeting
6:00 pm	Dinner and Silent Auction
7:30 pm	Year End Awards Presentation

Don't miss this opportunity to help shape ODS and socialize with other dressage enthusiasts! Learn what ODS achieved in 2015 and what we have in store for the membership in 2016. We need your input and participation to continue making ODS a success.

This year's event will be held at the Summit Club located in downtown Tulsa atop the Bank of Oklahoma Tower. We will be serving a Chef's choice buffet dinner (\$30) with cash bar and door prizes. Our host hotel is Aloft, located at 200 Civic Center, Tulsa OK, 918.947.8200.



Registration Form

RSVP by January 2, 2016

Name: _____ Current Member (2016): ☐ Y ☐ N

Number of Members attending dinner: _____ x \$30 = \$_____

Number of Non-Members attending dinner: _____ x \$33 = \$_____

Amount Enclosed: \$_____ Number attending meeting only: _____ (no fee)

Make checks payable to ODS and mail reservation form and payment to:
Amanda Edwards, 14534 S. Florence Ave., Bixby, OK 74008

Any questions can be directed to Amanda at rideforward@icloud.com

Attention all Recognized Show Competitors

December 15 is the deadline for submitting your scores for recognized show year-end awards. Please send your scores electronically or through snail mail to:

Stacia Wert-Gray
3420 E. 40th
Edmond, OK 73013
gtgray@aol.com

A USDF printout is terrific although copies of the front page of your test are fine too. As of November 23, the following people had submitted scores for year end awards:

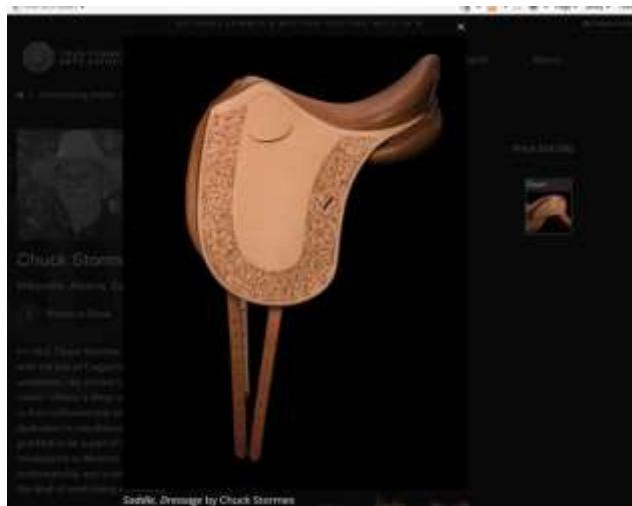
- Roberta Clark - Divino
- Robin Hessel - Waterfront
- Carolyn Hoekstra - Deacon
- Christina Harmon - Millennium Wind
- Anne Furstenwerth - Jurgen fan Bluffview
- Mary Lou Kultgen - D'artagnon

Stacia Wert-Gray

www.horshowconsulting.com

This past month was "Cowboy Crossings" at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Center in Oklahoma City. This is an exhibition and sale of both the Cowboy Artists of America and the Traditional Cowboy Arts Association. One of the works of art exhibited in the TCAA portion was this beautiful dressage saddle (See capture) made by Chuck Stormes of Millarville, Alberta, Canada. Mr. Stormes is one of the finest saddle makers in the world and had worked with a French saddle maker to make sure the construction was correct since making a dressage saddle was a first for him.

(Submitted by Marcia Clevenger, Guthrie, OK)



Stall in small private barn available to lease. 12x12 stall with pen - daily pasture turnout and outdoor arena (with limited lights for night time riding). Could exchange feeding/cleaning a nights or mornings each week for reduced rate. Pass this on to anyone you know that might be interested. Email or call for details. –

susan@showsecretary.com – 405.760.0135

HORSE REGISTRATIONS-October 28, 2015

2015 Leo Son of Lion King CR
Richal Flannery - annual
2345 Scandia's Angel Eyes Tanja Cox
2346 Lazulite Marie Maloney
2347 Mr Mojo Risin Emily Moser
2348 Casaro Kristin Knutson
2349 Fiola Kristin Knutson
1250 Sandro Skip DeDe Wasemiller

DALLAS DRESSAGE CLUB

will be offering a

FREESTYLE JUDGING SEMINAR

with Joan Darnell

Feb 13, 2016 in Dallas.

Contact Education@Dallasdressage.org

Please note that the AGM registration form has been updated. Please use the form in this newsletter. THANKS!

The Nominating Committee has submitted the following to run for the ODS Board of Directors—Pam Rhodes, Christina Harmon, Robin Grain. They are qualified and willing to serve. Their submitted biographies follow.

Mark Your Calendars:

- Dec 1: ODS Board Meeting
- Dec 5: Thomas Poulin Clinic
- Jan 16: ODS AGM and Awards Banquet
- May 7: ODS Spring I and II

Board Nominee-Pam Rhodes

My name is Pam Rhodes and I am very interested in becoming a board member for ODS.

I was raised in Oklahoma, where horses have been a very important part of my life. My husband, Steve, and I have been married for nineteen years and we have a fifteen year old daughter, Lily (who inherited my horse-loving gene).

Growing up, I showed Quarter Horses throughout high school and was on the equestrian team at Lynchburg College in Virginia. I was introduced to dressage five years ago and Lily and I became members of ODS soon afterwards. We have been active members for four years. We have shown in local schooling shows and hope to show in recognized shows this year. Lily has a lovely Haflinger gelding.

In 2008, I began volunteering at American Therapeutic Riding Center. I became a PATH, Intl (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International) certified instructor in 2011. I managed the riding program at ATRC until I accepted a position at Bit by Bit Therapeutic Riding Center in September 2015, where I am currently employed. I feel very lucky to combine my love of horses and riders with special needs.

I look forward to serving on the ODS Board and supporting it's mission of education.

Thanks so much,

Pam Rhodes

Board Nominee-Robin Grain

Aloha,

My name is Robin Grain and I am interested in serving as a board member for ODS. I moved from Hawaii to Oklahoma just about 3 years ago to accept a job offer. During the 2nd week that I was here - and not knowing anyone other than my employer - I attended the ODS show at the State Fair. It was there that I met my first wonderful Oklahoma Dressage enthusiasts who have since become very dear friends.

I have ridden horses for most of my life and in my youth I was involved in the 4-H Horse

Program and also rated up to the C2 level in my region Pony Club. I must admit that my first dressage experiences were begrudgingly doing some dressage test required because it was for a Pony Club Rally or as needed to compete in our combined training horse trials. At the time dressage was too rigid, definitely boring, and way too unexciting for someone who tore around on her horse bareback with just a halter and lead rope!

Well, years later after the passing away of my original horses, I acquired a new American Quarter horse. Some of you might know Lemmon Gray aka "Woody", who prior to my ownership was a western roping horse. I went back to square one with Woody, doing ground work and re-training him English style. We had a few years of hard knocks but then we found a very knowledgeable, patient and beloved dressage trainer back in Hawaii. At first every ride that didn't end in a disaster was a triumph and I would mark off each success much like a fighter pilot marks on the nose of his plane after each victory Building upon the stages in the Dressage Training Pyramid my horse and I finally began to "click" and bond together and I looked forward to each ride, truly enjoying my horse. I came to realize the benefits and discipline of dressage training, and also how by educating him (and me) through dressage, his other qualities improved as well. Through dressage, my horse and I have learned to communicate better to each other and he has developed into a fabulous pleasure and trail horse that I can have fun with! We still have quite a journey ahead of us as we are still doing basic and lower level work, but we are also fortunate that Oklahoma has very fine dressage instructors who are very patient and encouraging.

Woody thinks "he's all that and a bag of chips" and I consider it quite a blessing to have been able to compete and show him during 2014. But I also recognize that there would be no competitions if there were no volunteers. I believe I have a true appreciation for those who work to put on the events, and have tried to put myself in their shoes as much as possible. I am indeed grateful for those who open gates,

watch warm-up areas, help with parking and the other duties that are so necessary. And as a "bit checker" I have also found great enjoyment in meeting new people, getting to see all the pretty horses and realizing that congratulations after a nice performance goes hand-in-hand with encouragement after a disheartening ride. As an amateur rider I may also have different perspectives on showing and horse organizations as they relate to all members and would like to encourage more member participation and educational events. I would also like to find more ways to utilize the youth in our organization as I see them as an untapped resource – and most of them can ride the pants off of all of us old farts!

I would consider it both an honor and privilege to be involved as an ODS board member.

Thank you,
Robin Lee Grain

Board Nominee-Christina Harmon

Like most of us, I grew up having a love and passion for horses from a very early age. I can not ever remember a time that I didn't have horses on my mind. I had a friend and neighbor that rode Hunter/Jumpers with her little appaloosa gelding and she introduced me to riding along with the sport of Dressage. I was mesmerized by the beauty of the horses in Dressage and decided right then, that was what I wanted to ride. However, growing up in Southeast Kansas at that time it was not a hot-bed for Dressage. It wasn't until I moved to the Tulsa area, graduated from the University of Tulsa and became settled, that I could make the dream of owning horses a reality. So, a little 2 year-old Arabian mare name Millennium Wind came into my life. (not the best idea I've ever had...but I love her for all of her quirks). Several years ago, a second horse came into my life, named Gold Dust (aka Dancer), that I absolutely love for his steadiness and less quirks! Through both horses, I have learned so much, along with the help of my wonderful trainers!

I have been a member of the Oklahoma Dressage Society for over 15 years. During that

time, I have been active in ODS, volunteering and attending numerous events such as symposiums, shows, clinics and educational events. In addition, I have also consistently been active with the Green Country Chapter through the years, regularly volunteering for shows and events and even served on the GCC board in the past.

I feel that education is an important part of learning Dressage and in addition to attending as many of the local clinics I can, I have traveled to the Dallas area to audit clinics with trainers such as Steffen Peters, Conrad Schumacher, Hilda Gurney and Betsy Steiner. By expanding into other clubs and areas to learn, it has given me a new perspective on what some of the other clubs are offering and doing, as well as giving me an appreciation of what ODS has to offer.

My professional background includes pharmaceutical sales and most currently working in the oil and gas industry in both an administrative and executive capacity. I have had to learn how to deal with all sorts of personality types and situations and I can bring those skills to the ODS board. In serving on the ODS board, I hope to positively influence the club with new ideas for educational events and planning. I also want to give back to the community that has been so supportive in my Dressage journey. I am grateful for your consideration for the board.

Christina Harmon



2016 OKLAHOMA DRESSAGE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

ODS is a Group member organization (GMO) of Region 9 of the United States Dressage Federation (USDF).

New Membership _____ Renewing Membership _____ Information Change only _____
Last Name _____ First Name _____ USDF ID# _____
Address _____ City/State Zip _____
Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____ Cell _____
Email _____

USDF membership year is Dec 1 through Nov 30. Membership dues are late after November 30th.

ODS Membership – Select One Category. For family memberships consisting of more than two family members, please check both boxes for that section (Family and Add third family member).

- ☐ \$50 Adult Please check any that apply. Open Amateur _____ Vintage (50+) _____
- ☐ \$20 Charter / Life (for ODS founding members and those members who have lifetime memberships)
- ☐ \$40 Junior, under 18 as of Dec 1 of the current membership year _____ Birth date _____
(For example, must be under 18 Dec. 1 of 2015 for 2015 membership)
- ☐ \$60 Family (for two family members) Name of second family member _____
- ☐ \$10 Add third family member Name of third family member _____

Please include birth dates for junior family members

Chapter Membership – Check which chapter you would like to join. Chapter membership is not required, but is required to participate in the Chapter awards programs. Chapter membership cost is the same for an individual or a family.

- ☐ \$10 Green Country Chapter (GCC)
- ☐ \$10 North Central Chapter (NCC)
- ☐ \$10 Great Plains Chapter (GPC)

_____ OPTIONAL donation to ODS. ODS is a tax exempt 501.c organization.

_____ ***\$5 DISCOUNT for memberships received before November 30th.***

_____ **TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED**

Please tell us about your USDF/USEF accomplishments by checking any of the following boxes that apply. We plan to publish a list of member accomplishments on the website and in the directory.

_____ Gold Medal _____ Silver Medal _____ Bronze Medal _____ USDF Rider Performance (training, 1st, 2nd)
_____ "L" judge _____ USDF Instructor Certification

ODS membership is an opportunity to promote Dressage in your community. The club is ONLY as good as it's most ACTIVE members. We need your help! What are your skill sets? Please circle all that apply.

Scribing _____ Scoring _____ Organization/Management _____ Accounting _____ Spreadsheets _____
Arena Set-up/Tear-Down _____ Photography _____ Fund Raising _____ Other _____

I hereby release the Oklahoma Dressage Society, it's officers, members, employees and agents from any liability and all claims of every kind, including costs, expenses, or attorney fees that might result from damages, injuries, or losses resulting directly or indirectly from the negligent act or omissions of the officers, members, employees or agents of the Oklahoma Dressage Society Club. I agree and sign below:

Signed: _____ Date _____ (Parent/guardian must sign for Junior Rider.)

Mail this form, with check payable to "Oklahoma Dressage Society" to: Fran Ferrari, 5624 N. Barnes Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73112 fm4re55@gmail.com Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for processing by USDF.