



HOOFPRINTS

St. Louis Area Dressage Society



May 2007

*SLADS is a USDF Charter Group Member organization.
This organization's members are automatically USDF Group Members.*

President's Message

Members,

I received an electronic copy of the Region 4 mid-year meeting minutes from Sarah Patrick. It's nine pages long so I have not included it in the newsletter. If you would like me to email you a copy, please let me know. There is some interesting information including volunteering, championships, and statistics for our Region.

The June show is right around the corner. This is going to be a large show for SLADS. Libby is still receiving entries. We are well over 140 stalls/horses. We are doing everything we can to make this show run smoothly and show people in our Region that St. Louis is capable of hosting an outstanding Regional Championships this fall. It's important for us to show case our event in June so people will want to come back in the fall.

There are going to be many exciting events going on at the June show. Before the Competitor's Party, we will be hosting a lead line exhibition. Several children in the area have signed up and I know they are very excited to ride in the exhibition. We will also be holding the upper level rides during the Competitor's Party so spectators can dine and watch some of St. Louis's best horse/rider combinations. If you did not attend the Barn Party on Friday night last June, try to stop by this year. It's just a little barn party some of us have organized as a way to get together, relax, and eat. Details are on the next page of this newsletter. Last year, each stable brought in a different theme of food. We will do this again this year. Sometimes it's difficult for us to get to know each other when we ride with different trainers, different barns, and ride in different classes. This is a great way for all of us hang out together and make new friends within the club.

I wish you all the best of luck in June. Have a great show and happy spring!

Colleen Murphy, SLADS President

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Calendar Of Events

19
Brier Bank Farm schooling show in Marine, IL. Contact Gay Anderson at 618-887-4439 or Brierbankfarm@juno.com. Prize list at brierbankfarm.com

26-27
Wolfgang Scherzer Dressage Clinic at Hamilton Stables, Wentzville, MO. Riders and auditors welcome. Limited stabling. www.hamiltonstables.net or contact Julie Snitzer 314-704-7441 or Julia.snitzer@us.pwc.com

June
1-3
SLADS Summer Festival I & II. Prize list at www.slads.org

16-17
Clinic at Meadowbrook Equestrian Center with Stacey Schettkoe. \$175 per lesson. Contact Marnie at mbec@centurytel.net for details.

23-24
Wolfgang Scherzer Dressage Clinic at Hamilton Stables, Wentzville, MO. Riders and auditors welcome. Limited stabling. www.hamiltonstables.net or contact Julie Snitzer 314-704-7441 or Julia.snitzer@us.pwc.com

BARN PARTY AT THE JUNE SHOW!

WHEN: 6/1/07

WHERE: NEC after the last ride in the main arena. Party will be in the main isle of barn 1. Tell everyone in your group to bring something to munch on.

WHY: We did this last June and it was a blast. This is a great way for all the barns to get together, mingle, and relax after a long day at the show.

Find me at the show if you have questions, Colleen

June
8-10
Thomas Ritter Clinic at Shepard Hills Farm in Grant Fork, IL. Contact Sherry at srodenmeyer@whisperhome.com or 618-792-3365.

20-24
CDCTA Adult Dressage Camp with USDF certified instructors Sarah Martin, Gina Krueger, and FEI trainer Wick (Elizabeth) Hotchkiss @ William Woods University. Contact Holly Rice, greyhorsecomm@aol.com or 573-999-7337 for more information.

July
7-8
Summer Days at Longview I & II. Check USDF Region 4 competition calendar for contact info. This show is held by KCDS and SLADS recognized.

28-29
Wolfgang Scherzer Dressage Clinic at Hamilton Stables, Wentzville, MO. Riders and auditors welcome. Limited stabling. www.hamiltonstables.net or contact Julie Snitzer 314-704-7441 or Julia.snitzer@us.pwc.com

August
11
Brier Bank Farm schooling show in Marine, IL. Contact Gay Anderson at 618-887-4439 or Brierbankfarm@juno.com. Prize list at brierbankfarm.com

September
1-2
Wolfgang Scherzer Dressage Clinic at Hamilton Stables, Wentzville, MO. Riders and auditors welcome. Limited stabling. www.hamiltonstables.net or contact Julie Snitzer 314-704-7441 or Julia.snitzer@us.pwc.com

15
Southern Illinois Dressage Classic, Marion IL. Judge Lisa Holderle "L" graduate. Intro-Second Level. Call 618-684-4185 or cld_south@yahoo.com

October
6-7
Wolfgang Scherzer Dressage Clinic at Hamilton Stables, Wentzville, MO. Riders and auditors welcome. Limited stabling. www.hamiltonstables.net or contact Julie Snitzer 314-704-7441 or Julia.snitzer@us.pwc.com

12-14
Region 4 Championships at the National Equestrian Center. More info later.

November
3
Tentative - SLADS Schooling Show at Buder Park. Managed by Gerri Muldrow and Gail Pflieger. Details coming soon!

10-11
Wolfgang Scherzer Dressage Clinic at Hamilton Stables, Wentzville, MO. Riders and auditors welcome. Limited stabling. www.hamiltonstables.net or contact Julie Snitzer 314-704-7441 or Julia.snitzer@us.pwc.com

To post your event to the SLADS newsletter email:
fafetza@hotmail.com

Wolfgang Scherzer Dressage Clinics

At



Wolfgang resides and trains in Birmingham, AL but was born, raised and received his certification in Germany. He trained and rode under the tutelage of many great trainers before coming to the US over twenty years ago. Wolfgang has trained multiple horses to FEI levels including Grand Prix. He and his wife Holly now ride and train in the Southeast primarily. They both train with Conrad Schumacher annually (mainly on a clinic basis.)

Wolfgang is a fun, positive trainer who works well with all levels of riders and horses. He is patient with a beginner and yet can really help advanced rider/horse combinations too. His training is non-controversial and he will also ride a horse, if asked. He won't push you beyond your comfort zone, but you will find yourself taking away something to work on for next time. *More than anything - he is fun and a good teacher.*

Wolfgang does a great job with younger horses, schoolmasters and also has helped many of us get ready for shows. He has been coming for several years now to Hamilton Stables and his regular riders are doing really well at local shows and at regional championships.

Rides are \$125 for 45 minute sessions and limited stabling is available. Auditors are welcome at \$15 per day. Hamilton Stables, LLC is located at 3955 Hoffman Rd, Weptzville, MO 63385

2007 Clinic Dates

April 28-29

May 26-27

June 23-24

July 28-29

Sept 1-2

Oct 6-7

Nov 10-11

Please contact Julie Snitzer at 314.704.7441 for more information



Lake St. Louis Stables Hosted the 2007 Symposium I on April 14 The Progression of Dressage Training and its Relationship to Overall Horsemanship

Though the weather was definitely not a sign of spring, having had bad storms the night before and dawning on an exceptional cool day for the season, we had a great turnout of attendees to learn and enjoy the valuable information our panelists presented. We expected over 100 audience members, but we welcomed about 75, as the weather made traveling and attending difficult for some. It kicked off our year of education programs and focused on:

- **Safety** presentation with tips by **panelists**.
- Things to consider when **starting the young horse** with emphasis on every horse being different. **Nick Ivanovich** presented.
- How to use **transition exercises to develop throughness**, and how to check for it. Also how to recognize the difference in the quality of transitions based on horse level (beginner, mid-level, and advanced). **Michele Inman** presented.
- Demonstration of correct **Leg Yield, Shoulder-fore, and Shoulder-in** exercises to help horse balance and as a set up for later movements. **Liz Drew** presented.
- Developing a more **defined set of aids for Shoulder-fore, Shoulder-in, and Half Pass**. Recognizing the difference in the quality of movements based on horse level. **Debbie Hubbard** presented.
- When and how to use the **different seat positions**: Jump seat vs. dressage seat. **Brody Robertson** presented.

Panelists provided demonstration riders, which helped clarify the points of their presentation and showed the differences between beginner, mid-level, and advanced horses.

We provided survey cards to all attendees in their leave-behind packets and received valuable feedback as follows:

- 100% of respondees thought the day was well organized.
- 100% of respondees thought attending the symposium increased their knowledge.
- 100% of respondees thought it heightened their interest in dressage.
- 94% of respondees thought it introduced them to new resources available.
- **Transitions and Correct Leg Yielding** were the two most relevant topics.
- “What did you like most about the symposium today” elicited these comments:
 - It was really well presented – each segment
 - It was great to see each of the trainer’s different techniques
 - Showing all levels
 - Variety of speakers
 - Everything
 - Different trainers
 - Excellent presentation

The evaluations also elicited many suggestions for future programs including scribing at future shows, show prep, developing a sitting trot, breeding, flying changes, complex relationship between horse and rider and trainer, and correct aids and riding position.

We hope to see you at the next symposium which is planned for the summer timeframe. Look for the next announcement in the Slads newsletter and website.

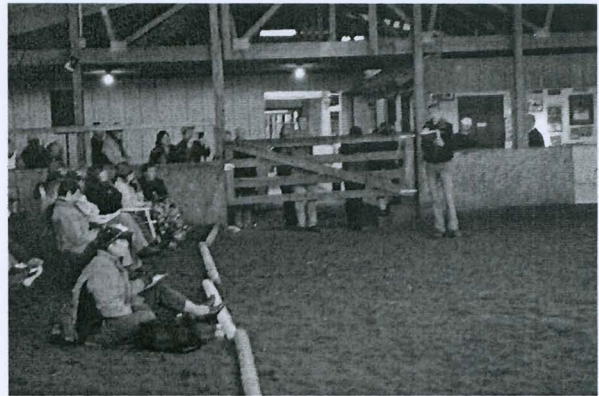
1st '07 Symposium

Thank you Lake Saint Louis Stables for hosting the first symposium of 2007! A special thanks to the trainers involved: Michele Inman, Debbie Hubbard, Liz Drew, Nick Ivanovich, and Brody Roberstosn.

Here are some pictures from the event. SLADS had over 60 people attend.



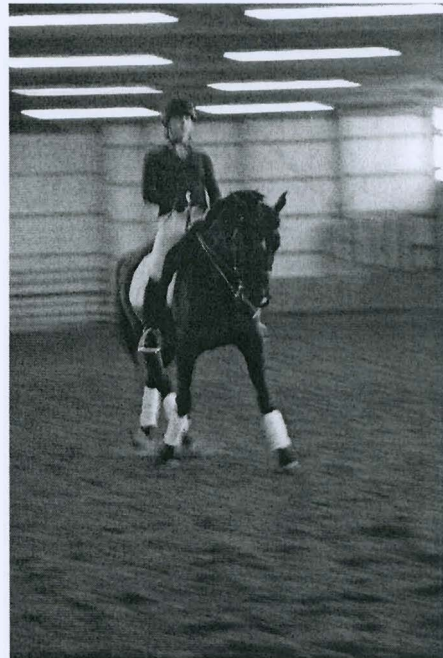
Brody Robertson explaining the difference between a dressage and jump seat.



Michele Inman discussing transition exercises.



It was a cold day! Many attendants wore coats and hats.



Demonstration rider working on developing a more defined set of aids .

News from USDF

Changes at KHP

Lexington, KY – With the 2007 Spring show season quickly approaching, the Kentucky Horse Park (KHP) recently announced several changes which will affect those who wish to compete in upcoming competitions. These changes include updates to the equine health protocol, new regulations regarding electrical equipment, and the addition of a trailer grounds fee.

In response to the recent outbreaks of the Equine Herpes Virus and their concern over the continual health and safety of horses, the management of the KHP announced a specific health protocol to all exhibitors who plan to travel to the KHP for any events this year. The state of Kentucky requires that all horses entering the state provide a negative Coggins test within one year of entry as well as a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (Health Certificate) signed by a licensed veterinarian within 30 days of entry. Horses originating within the state of Kentucky are required to have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection within 150 days. Complete details on the health protocol are listed at www.kentuckyhorseshow.com.

It is additionally recommended that all horses be vaccinated for Equine EHV-1 (either modified live or killed vaccine) prior to entry and that the date of vaccination be noted on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. To facilitate the inspection process by Kentucky Department of Agriculture personnel, this paperwork must accompany the horses upon arrival and be available throughout their stay.

Another change that the KHP announced was to add new regulations regarding electrical equipment. In compliance with the State of Kentucky Fire Code, the KHP will no longer allow any of the following in stalls, barns or tents: any 2 prong plug appliances (fans, etc.); any 2 prong plug extension cords; light duty cords for indoor use; any 3-way adaptors unless specifically for outdoor use; any adaptors without 3 prong connections and any equipment not in compliance is subject to confiscation.

Because of the inadvertent damage done by trailers and tied horses to the grounds and show areas, the park has been incurring rising costs to keep those areas clean and well maintained. To address these costs, the park is implementing a few changes to relieve some of the stress on the grounds and amenities. One of the changes is a Trailer Grounds Fee for all competitors who compete at the park without renting a stall, which can be purchased through the show office for \$20 per day or \$75 for the season (the national standard amount). Through the collection of these fees, the KHP will be able to increase and improve trailer parking areas including adding better lighting and parking surfaces. In effect, every competitor will benefit directly from the implementation of this fee. For more information on the Trailer Grounds Fee and other changes, contact Sheila Stovall, 859-259-4205 or Sheila.stovall@ky.gov.

The park needs the cooperation of its competitors to ensure that it maintains a beautiful setting while continuing to provide a safe environment for competitors and their horses. By making these changes, it will help to keep the KHP one of the world's finest equestrian facilities for many years to come.

Further requirements, recommendations and information are available online at www.kentuckyhorseshow.com.

Calculating the Equine Attention Span

Using operant conditioning, scientists have quantified horses' attention spans, and they have drawn some conclusions that could help horse trainers and owners better understand their charges and how they learn.

The researchers at Switzerland's Université de Neuchâtel, with collaborators at Switzerland's Haras National d'Avenches and at France's Université de Rennes, taught the horses in the study to touch an object after specific cues were sounded, and the animals were given a reward for a positive response. If the horse touched the object before the cue was given, they did not receive a reward, meaning they had to wait. The time between the audible cues was extended during the experiment phase to measure how long the horses retained their focus.

Researchers found that the average maximum continuous attention span of the horses in the study was 11.8 seconds.

Through statistical analysis, the researchers found that the horses' age groups had the greatest impact on the duration of their attention spans. Breed, gender, and family links had no discernible influence. The young (3- to 7-years old), intermediate (8- to 14-years-old), and old (15- to 23-years-old) horses showed significant differences when asked to repeat the tests three weeks later.

"Comparing the two tests, none of the young horses improved its performance while more than half of them decreased their performance," said Véronique Rapin, MS. "Most of the old horses showed no difference, although some individuals tended to increase slightly."

Rapin said the results of this study can provide useful guidelines for training and repetition, particularly for young horses.

"With a young horse we have to do short sessions of training," Rapin noted. "It's the same as with young children--it is better, for example, to spend five minutes with a new learning task, take a short break or do a known exercise, and then do the new exercise again."

Rapin said immediate positive reinforcement for desired behavior is also important.

"You have to recompense a lot immediately at the first good new response," Rapin said. "The recompense can simply be a short break or a word. It's better to do two good minutes of an exercise, and that the horse associates this. We also have to remember that the attention span is very individual to each horse."

This study was published in the February 2007 issue of *Schweiz Arch Tierheilkd*.

St. Louis Area Dressage Society (SLADS) 2007 Membership Form

SLADS is a USDF Charter Group Member organization

Members are automatically USDF Group Members

Membership Categories

New (please include a short bio for the newsletter) **Renewal**

Individual (\$47) **Family** (\$64) **Jr/Young Rider** (\$37) (All members receive SLADS newsletter)

Other organizations I belong to: **USEF** **USDF** (Participating Member) **USEA** **MHSA**.

General Information

Name: _____

This will be the "Primary" if Family Membership

Address: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone(s): _____ (primary) _____ (alternate)

Birth Date _____ USDF No. _____

E-mail address: _____

Horse's Name/Breed: _____

I keep my horse(s) at: Home / Board at _____

Family Membership Information (Two included for SLADS family memberships) - Added names are \$17 each

Family member is defined as members in an immediate family who either live at the same address or who have the same legal address.

| Name | USDF No | Birth Date |
|------|---------|------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Jr/Young Rider = Under 21 yrs. Adult = 21 yrs through 38 yrs Jack Benny = Over 39 yrs & Under 50 yrs George Burns = Over 50 yrs

Year End Award Nominations: Rider Awards (FREE for EACH Riding Members): (Select the appropriate age group)

Every rider in a membership is entitled to a free nomination!

Jr/Young Rider

Adult

Jack Benny

George Burns

Rider Name / Birth date

Jr/Young Rider

Adult

Jack Benny

George Burns

Jr/Young Rider

Adult

Jack Benny

George Burns

Year End HORSE Award Nominations: Horse Awards (\$5 each): (Select either or both per horse) **Horse Name**

Dressage

Eventing

Dressage

Eventing

Dressage

Eventing

Membership fees: \$ _____

Nomination fees: \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____



Get Involved... WE NEED YOU! Please volunteer to support our shows

Make checks payable to: SLADS Mail fees & form to:

Dawn White, 6009 Wild Wood Ct, High Ridge, MO 63049 (horseridermom@sbcglobal.net)