

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Romano's Italian Restaurant – 720-344-9530

September 8, 2011

Attendance: Pete Soos, Sharon Soos, Laura Speer, MaryJo Hoepner, Simone Windeler, Lori Mitchell, Shannon Lemons, Cathy Van Berg, Beth Geier, Heather Petersen, Nicole Bizzarro, Susie Reed, Paula Lunberry, Mary Rae

Proxies: Dolly Hannon to Lori Mitchell, Michelle Anderson to Heather Petersen, Inka Spatafora to Beth Geier, Kim Lampert to Beth Geier

Guests:

Call to Order by Simone Windeler at 6:31 pm.

Simone Windeler has received the resignation of Cindy O'Shea at the previous meeting as RMDS Jr/YR Committee chair due to her new job's commitments effective July 19th, 2011. Simone therefore appoints Julie Haugen as the Jr/YR coordinator. Julie will hold the post with the help of Jon Haugen.

The July 19, 2011 Minutes:

Motion made to approve the minutes as corrected by Sharon Soos, 2nd by Lori Mitchell. Motion passed.

Budget Planning session:

Treasurers Report by Sharon Soos

Balance in each account as of August 31, 2011:

Checking Account	\$31,530.94
Scholarship Account	5,118.83
PayPal Account	100.00
Money Market	44,439.16

There is a large difference in the checking account right now as compared to 2010 due to the timing of the RMDS championships.

Donation disbursements: We have now added paragon to the disbursement list since the sponsorship was approved at the last meeting.

Budget for this year and planning for next year: Sharon will email an actual expense versus 2011 projected budget to the board. She has also emailed the actuals to committee chairs so they can better create budgets for 2012. Are people comfortable with email or would they prefer to have a budgeting meeting in person?

The proposed budget meeting would occur October 13, 2011. **Sharon Soos moved that RMDS have a budget planning session/meeting on October 13, 2011 at our current meeting place, Romano's Italian Restaurant. 2nd by Heather Petersen. Motion passes.**

Beth asked a question concerning the insurance expenses of \$1069 listed on page 4 of the treasurer's report, under Club/Events for 2011. She asked if we could disperse these expenses to the actual events that incurred the insurance needs. Sharon agreed to move these expenses.

Office Manager Report by Beth Geier

- Membership is currently at 867, 15 are Centaur only. 137 new horses registered since September 2010.
- Beth asked about allowing recognition for the Sage Creek Dressage shows (4 shows in total) for 2012. Should we deny recognition or give them another chance? For 2011, both the manager and the secretary were not members as required in the RMDS By-Laws and the results still have not been received at the time of this meeting (the show was in July). After some discussion, the consensus of the board was to give them one more chance for 2012.
- MaryJo Hoepner has completed all of the requirements to become an RMDS technical delegate and just needs approval of the board. **Heather Petersen moved that MaryJo Hoepner be granted approval as an RMDS Technical Delegate, 2nd by Shannon Lemons. Motion passed.**
- Td reports were presented for Autumn Hill Sunday Series #2 and #3, Centaur Rising #3 and Boulder Valley Dressage. There were no major issues except for some inconsistencies with the Centaur Rising report. The Technical Delegate for the show was Libby Stokes who reported that the footing was excellent, but an RMDS board member visited the facility during the show and noted that the footing is better and they are trying but the judge says that there are still rocks. It was noted that the facility is trying to address this problem with rock pickers and such. Several folks asked if we should send a letter that notes some improvement has been seen but we would still like to see more level footing and less rocks. **Mary Rae moved that Beth write a letter to the Centaur Rising show management stating that some improvement has been seen but we would still like to see more level footing and less rocks. 2nd by MaryJo Hoepner. Motion passes.**
- Recognized officials: Folks have asked if the 2011 USDF Symposium can count for judges' continuing education. After some discussion it was decided that, no, it would not count for judges' continuing education as it was more of a training session this year but it was noted that there are judge education round tables that they can attend during the convention itself for full credit.
- Beth presented the RMDS Board of Governors Delegate Count for each Chapter:
 - Arkansas Valley – 2
 - Boulder Valley – 10
 - Colorado Springs – 6
 - Foothill – 4
 - Grand Valley – 4
 - High Plains – 11
 - Northern Colorado – 6
 - Platte River – 1
 - Wasatch – 2
 - Western Colorado - 2
- Centaur/omnibus advertising solicitations are going out and there is a new cover letter. We will simplify the mailing to just include the omnibus pricing and offer the more complicated pricing structure and guidelines for all publications on the website.
- We have received \$50 from the Grand Valley chapter for someone to go purchase a basket for the RMDS Awards Dinner. MaryJo Hoepner will shop for them. We will not force chapters to contribute or donate a basket but we would love to get a basket from everyone. It was asked if we should live auction the baskets in order to raise more money? Lori Mitchell's husband has been volunteered to do it.
- Tentative meeting schedule for next year...
 - January 12
 - March 8
 - May 10

- July 12
- September 13
- Board of Governors Meeting November 10th

Adult Amateur Report by Lori Mitchell

- The AA clinic with Heather Robertson went very well. We had a nice turnout of auditors, some were boarders at Capricorn and were allowed to audit for free, but we did manage \$180 in auditor fees. There was a nice sense of camaraderie and encouragement. Natalie Roach has submitted an article for the October Centaur on the clinic and evaluation forms for the clinic were sent to the Dressage Foundation. No additional funds will be needed from the Dressage Foundation as the clinic only shows a \$19 loss at this point in time.
- It was suggested that perhaps we give Capricorn Farm an RMDS Championship class sponsorship in return for their donation of the facility for the clinic. MaryJo Hoepner moved that RMDS give Capricorn Farm an RMDS Championships Class Sponsorship for 2011, 2nd by Nicole Bizzarro. Motion passes.
- The USDF Youth/Adult Region 5 Team Competition was well organized and participants enjoyed themselves. Beth and the volunteers that were there made the day run smoothly. The facility was perfect for this event also. There was a suggestion for next year to incorporate the “dads/husbands/grandfathers/etc” with BBQ cook off or some sort of team event the night before to try and encourage the team spirit more. It is still a big issue getting the team concept across. Profit from the event went into the rmds scholarship account.
- It was again strongly suggested that we run the USDF Youth/Adult Region 5 Team Competition through RMDS and not through Boulder Valley Dressage. Lori asked that we have it run by respective committee chairs on the RMDS board – Adult Amateur, Junior/Young Rider and RMDS Show Chair. It was noted that we should still stay away from recognition so that fun can still be had in different directions from the recognized shows.
- Need to set a date for 2012 for the USDF Youth/Adult Region 5 Team Competition, along with the RMDS Junior Camp.

Awards by Shannon Lemons

- Award sponsors update: 4th level freestyle will be sponsored by Andrea Doelling. We are still looking for a 2nd level freestyle. If no sponsor can be found within the next few weeks, Shannon will go ahead with purchasing a new award if possible within the current budget. Otherwise, she will add a plaque to the current bowl and continue to seek a sponsor for 2012.
- The 2011 preliminary ribbon order in. Spreadsheets are set up and the final orders for ribbons, plaques and plates will go out once the final scores come in from the central office.
- Letters have gone out asking last year’s trophy recipients to return their trophies to Championships or make other arrangements with Shannon. Score check reminders have been placed in the Centaur and the Central Office has sent out email reminders.
- Shannon asked for any changes that may be needed to the awards banquet program and she wondered what the start time was for the banquet. Seating is at 6pm. She is changing the format a little to make it more entertaining, including doing the baskets as a live auction and pushing the show package drawings. Julie Barringer-Richers will announce and Lori Mitchell’s husband will do the auctions.
- Shannon also needs the Chapter Volunteer of the Year information by October 15th and the information must include a short bio on the recipient.

- Shannon asked for RMDS Volunteer of the Year nominees and will email out the slate to the board for voting purposes.

Banquet & BOG– November 12, 2011 from Laura Speer

- Lori Mitchell is heading up the art show.
- Live auction of the Chapter baskets will take place during the awards presentation.
- Horse show entries drawing will once again take place and it was suggested we ask Kim Lampert to once again sell the drawing entries as she did a lovely job last year.
- Send the banquet sign up to heather for the championship show program.
- Shannon needs volunteers for unloading and setup and packing of the awards.

Communications by Nicole Bizzarro

- Facebook is growing, we currently have 273 fans
- Color tabs omnibus are being introduced this year and we hope to sell them all!
- Not much else is going on. Nicole is glad the marketing chair has been filled. Nicole and Sharon have a personal goal of selling every tab.
- Word of mouth – there has been some grumbling about email advertising blasts. No one on the board really thinks it's an issue as there have been no official complaints to the Central Office.
- Only 32 members are now without email!
- Cathy/Centaur - Have we received any kind of feedback about stallion ads? Laura would like to put one in, and one other response. Heather will help get some advertising after Championships.
- One extra color again for the Centaur Cover in December? The board decided to go with Green.
- Suggestions for additions and subtractions to the Omnibus need to be sent to Beth or Nicole.
- Website:
 - No news is good news...?
 - Marketplace:
 - 34 Services Ads (September)
 - 5 Classifieds (September)
 - The home page now has (it's been there for a while) a rotating slide show with captions. Submit your photos or solicit photos from people you know.
 - We have built up a good library of past Centaur issues: 89 issues so far.
 - Would a Centaur search engine be useful? The board voiced the opinion that, yes, a search engine would be very useful and we would love to see it.

Education Report by Michelle Anderson, proxy to Heather Petersen

Sport Horse Handling Clinic

- Sport Horse Handling Clinic was moved to Kaimana Farms in Elizabeth to reduce costs. There were 15 paying attendees (1 board member @ ½ price) and 7 attendee horses. Net loss was \$650.74. Gwen Ka'awaloa & myself donated some of our out of pocket expenses and Kathleen Bryan donated use of her pictures for the Centaur article.
- Changes I would make for future events: Trailer in fee if participants bringing horses choose not to stable. Separate fees for those who bring horses vs. those who only audit.
- The board asked that in the future, budgets be presented and approved by the board before any event takes place.
- "L" Continuing Education, January 21, 2012 at Sun Prairie in Peyton, moderator Janet Foy.

- Biomechanics lecture using A session of the “L” program, moderator Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez. Location and date TBD.
- TD/Show Management 2012 – is there enough interest/participants for a 2012 date? The board says yes, this is a required event for our technical delegates and there are a lot of show managers who like to attend. It should be continued on the 2nd Saturday of February.
- Professionals clinic geared towards teaching and training. Location, date & clinician TBD.

Junior/Young Riders Julie Haugen – no report, no proxy but just appointed

Marketing Sharon Soos

- In order to not “re-create the wheel”, Sharon’s initial goal has been to review the material to identify where marketing is in relation to the framework outlined by Heather McEntee in the 2010 BOG Marketing Report and the action items identified by Elaine Haberman in the RMDS Marketing Report dated January 13, 2011.
- The Media Kit and poster seem to be ready to go but we need a few better photos and perhaps different software. We will work on updating to the use of legal pictures and better formatting.
- Membership referrals: Who has the most for 2011 and how are we going to recognize these folks? Maybe we should allow members who haven’t been members for a long time to count for the referral program. We will look at changing it for 2012.
- Media kit: Pricing for producing the kit: It is cheaper to do a smaller one with staples in the middle than the spiral bound larger version
- Sharon has two potential major sponsors that we need to have nice things to take to. Sharon will finalize a media kit and work on delivery.

Nominating Committee by Mary Rae

- We are looking for the following positions: President-2 year term, Vice-President-1 year term, Secretary-2 year term, and Treasurer-2 year term.
- MaryJo Hoepner has been nominated for Vice President
- Heather Petersen has been nominated for Secretary.
- Mary Rae has been nominated for Treasurer.
- Lori Mitchell has been nominated for President

Scholarship MaryJo and Heather

- Heather received a progress report from Michelle Anderson and it will be published in the Centaur.
- We have a request for an award for deceased horse (rename a scholarship in honor of that horse). A suggestion was made that people donate money to the scholarship fund that would be acknowledged in the Centaur and listed on the website. **Beth Geier moves we that accept donations “in memory of” for the RMDS scholarship fund. These memoriams will be briefly listed on the RMDS Website and in the Centaur. 2nd by MaryJo Hoepner. Motion passes.**
- Had the following request from a potential applicant: If I qualify for more than one category, can I apply for more than one? It was noted that per the Scholarship rules, yes, they could apply for more than one scholarship but could only receive one scholarship.
- MaryJo received a status report from Lori Mitchell and this will also be published in the Centaur.
- We had requests from 2 potential applicants on July 28 regarding what volunteer opportunities were available. MaryJo responded with a list of shows / clinics / meetings.
- We sent a reminder of Scholarship opportunities to RMDS members on July 27 (thanks Beth). We received several questions after it was sent. It would be good to send another since applications are due November 15.
- No 2012 Scholarship applications have been received yet.

- There are refunds at horse shows that people overpay their entry fees by just a small amount. It was suggested we ask if shows would like to donate it to the scholarship fund.

Shows by Laura Speer

- Heather Petersen briefly outlined the parties that are going to be held during the Championship show and who will sponsor those parties.
- Heather Petersen also briefly mentioned our current Championship Sponsorships but noted the need for a lot more sponsors.

USDF Region 5 Update by Heather Petersen

- USDF Convention and Symposium is November 30-December 4, 2011 in San Diego, California. Registration information is available at www.usdf.org.
- A USDF National championships proposal will be put before the USDF Board of Governors meeting for approval.
- Agenda and schedule for the USDF Convention are available now at www.usdf.org.

Old business:

By-Laws for consideration

- Mission statement:

BYLAW:

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ARTICLE II.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

A. Purpose: Mission Statement

CHANGE?

1. **The Rocky Mountain Dressage Society exists to maintain a high standard of accomplishment in the region through educational support in Dressage. As a USDF Group Member Organization, RMDS is dedicated to providing educational programs to encourage quality horsemanship and horse welfare throughout our membership.**

- Beth had highlighted, but since it was changed in 2010, the board decided not to put it forward again for 2011.

- Western Dressage –

STANDING RULES:

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SECTION III.

RMDS RECOGNIZED/APPROVED COMPETITIONS

L. At RMDS only recognized shows, all US Equestrian Federation rules regarding competitions shall be followed with the following exceptions:

5. **Allow Western Dressage Classes as an exemption to DR 121.1 for those classes only.**

- There was some discussion of which tests they will ride and what it counts for or does not counts for. It will allow participation at some level for our Western Dressage folks. They will ride their own set of tests and it will currently not count for RMDS awards.

- Page E-15 SECTION V. AWARDS - YEAR END

E. Perpetual Trophies:

Add & renumber -3. New RMDS Awards requires that there be a minimum of 5 competitors in any chosen level or division in order for the Executive Board to consider approval of said award. This policy applies to all Horse of the Year Awards and Breed Awards. As the Executive Board must approve all new awards, our policy is that any new awards must be presented to the Awards Chairman by the end of June of the competition year. In order to be presented in the current competition year, new awards must be voted on in the July Executive Board meeting. Any award proposals made after June will not be presented and voted on until the following year.

- Page E-17 F. **Sport Horse Breeding** Show Year End Awards

4. Horse Awards

h. Year end Awards will be awarded to the horse with the highest median from at least **three (3) scores, two (2) shows, and two (2) judges** from any of the following categories:

- We will not be proposing this change to the BOG because it was just changed to this in 2010.
- Page E-18 SECTION VI. RMDS TECHNICAL DELEGATES PROGRAM
 - B. RMDS Technical Delegates Continuing Recognition Requirements RMDS Technical Delegates who meet the following conditions shall be approved to officiate at competitions recognized only by RMDS.
 - 4. Must attend either a RMDS or a US Equestrian Federation technical delegate-training program at least once every two (2) years since becoming a recognized RMDS Technical Delegate. **An hourly requirement?**
 - We will not be proposing this change to the BOG.
- Page E-18,19 SECTION VII. USDF “L” Graduate Program for RMDS
 - D. Must officiate at a RMDS recognized competition or dressage schooling show, which cumulatively includes a minimum of 30 rides (USDF Intro-USEF 2nd Level) once every two (2) years. **MSEA unrecognized events might also be counted.**

Russ Fawcett Award: There were 4 people nominated – Sharon Schneidman, Susan Rudman, Veronica Holt and Janet Foy. Shanon held a closed vote and the winner will be announced at the RMDS Awards Banquet.

New Business:

We received a nice Thank you from the Paragon Dressage CDI***.

Chapter Reports:

Arkansas Valley

Mary Rae

The Arkansas Valley Dressage Association has been relatively low key in the few months. The highlight of the summer was a schooling show which had a nice, although light, turnout. We were fortunate to have had Julie Burt judge our show and everyone was pleased with her comments. Our schooling shows offer an opportunity for the local dressage enthusiasts to test their skills. The majority of our riders participated in the Intro and Training level classes. The club will hold another schooling show October 8. This show is important to determine the new rider awards established this year. Meetings have been held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 at Village Inn in Canon City with approximately 35% of our membership attending. It is a great opportunity to exchange horse stories and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow riders. The club is excited is about a fall clinic with Ann Blake scheduled for October 15-16 which will allow participants to explore different options of riding with music. Although we have had a relatively hot and dry summer, everyone here is looking forward to mild fall weather to enjoy more riding.

Boulder Valley

Kim Lampert – PROXY to Beth Geier

Boulder Valley has approximately 183 members at this time. We had had our So Long to Summer show at Sextant Farms on the 28th of August. It was well attended. Our members were very happy to receive Boulder Valley Logo saddle pads this season. We need to order more since they are such a big hit. The officers and members are currently working on some volunteer associated projects. Patti Taylor, a BVD member, will be putting together some much needed volunteer “how to cards” which can be used to assist and train old and new volunteers. BVD has new web pages on both Unbridled Rider as well as Facebook. Three of our members travelled to Chicago with our horses to compete in the USEF / Markel National Young Horse Championships At Lamplight Equestrian Center. The program is getting more popular and the caliber of horses is increasing. It’s purpose is to help our breeders and young horses to have the potential to compete in the upper levels and FEI dressage. Boulder Valley hosts three qualifying shows for the championships at AHIEC and Somerset Farms. Our members Petra Warlimont, Debi Voigt and Kim Lampert had horses compete in this years’ Championships.

Colorado Springs**Shannon Lemons**

Plans are confirmed to go ahead with Dressage for the Cure in April (not Easter weekend!) at the Colorado Horse Park and Dressage at the Peak at Fountain Valley School in July for 2012. We will be having an educational event on “winterizing Your Horse”, presented by Colorado Equine, at our October meeting. In November, we will be electing several new board members and discussing some possible by-law and policy changes from concerns brought up by members.

Foothills**Dolly Hannon – NO PROXY**

We had a meeting September 6th at Tuscan Tavern in Evergreen. Last Chance show is September 18th and entries are doing better. Dolly Hannon will be in charge of the show. Dolly will continue on the Foothills board as President Emeritus for 2012. The 2012 board will be voted on at our next meeting October 25th at Tuscan Tavern in Evergreen. We will hold several educational events in 2012 including Heather Robertson clinics and a Ride a Test or two in addition to our Last Chance Show.

Grand Junction – no report**Inka Spatafora – NO PROXY****High Plains – no report****Cindi O’Shea – NO PROXY****Northern Colorado – no report****Susie Reed****Platte River – no report****Laura Speer****Wasatch Mountains – no report****Linda Nickerson – NO PROXY****Western Colorado – no report****Judith Family – NO PROXY**

Heather Petersen made motion budget proposal, Michelle Anderson, Motion passed.

Heather Petersen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 pm. 2nd by Lori Mitchell. Motion passed.

Nov 12=BOG – RMDS Committee host (2nd Saturday in November)

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Petersen, secretary