

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2021

Zoom Meeting

Meeting @ 6:30 PM

Attendance: MaryJo Hoepner, Dorothy Kapaun, Shannon Lemons, Beth Geier, Sharon Soos, Gwen Ka'awaloa, Karen Harkin, Heather Petersen, Andrea Price-Valenzuala, Miranda Avila, Stan Adamson, Ginka Kubelka, Jon Haugen, Joan Clay, Anclaire Spaulding, Nicole Bizzarro, Christy Rawlings, Natalie DeFee Mendik, Cecilia Cox, Nancy Leonard, Maureen Mestas, Sally O'Dwyer

Proxies: Lesley Hill to Heather Petersen; Maureen Mestas to Cecilia Cox as needed;

Call to Order-President

Dorothy Kapaun

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by Dorothy Kapaun

Secretary

Heather Petersen

Approval of Minutes – January 2021 – **Sharon Soos made a motion to approve the January 2021 minutes as written, 2nd by Karen Harkin. Motion passed unanimously.**

Results of email votes entered into the minutes:

- March 2021 – Executive committee approval of revised budget for the 2021 Adult Amateur clinic – unanimous approval.
- January 2021 – RMDS Executive Board approval of allocation of additional funds for the 2021 RMDS Magazine – Approved with 2 abstentions.

Treasurers Report

Sharon Soos

Funds as of February 28, 2021

RMDS Checking Account	\$30,501.12	
RMDS PayPal (as of 12/19/2018)	\$ 1,412.51	Total \$31,913.63 operating cash total

Restricted Funds as of February 28, 2021

Database/Website	\$ 0.00
RMDS Scholarship	\$ 4,592.29
Reserve	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$36,505.92

Funds as of March 10, 2021

RMDS Checking Account	\$29,209.57	
RMDS PayPal (as of 12/19/2018)	\$ 1,117.00	
Issued checks	\$ 9,424.83	Total \$20,901.74 operating cash total

Restricted Funds as of March 10, 2021

RMDS Scholarship	\$ 4,592.29
Reserve	\$ 0.00
Issued checks	\$1000.00
Payable	\$1000.00
Subtotal	\$ 2,592.29
TOTAL	\$23,494.03

Presentation by Sharon of how our dues are spent and split out. The board asked that we share this with the membership as well. Excellent power point.

President Report

Dorothy Kapaun

Now that our short, intense blast of winter appears to be over, hopefully we can all get back to riding and preparing for a full show season! There has been a change to the AA clinic; it will now be with the Amazing Bill McMullin! Bill is

a wonderful AA clinician and I am sure everyone that is fortunate enough to ride with him will come away with new skills and understanding.

There have been a few ZOOM meetings provided by different clubs and they have been very well attended! I do hope this continues, as it provided all of us opportunities to expand our knowledge from the comfort of our homes. Please be sure to share your clubs upcoming ZOOM meetings with everyone, not only on the calendar but on the RMDS FaceBook page also. FaceBook posting are free if they are educational. Providing education to our members is our number 1 endeavor.

I want to ask you for any ideas that will make our 50th Anniversary Championships extra special! Please remember that this is YOUR club, without members there would be no club. Don't feel that if you share an idea, you will have to implement it; however, any and all participation is greatly appreciated! The more participation by the members the more benefits the club can provide. The two ideas we have so far are – Celebrate any horse/rider combinations whose age equals 50 (Verena Diaz) and Acknowledge the 10 longest-standing members.

Vice President Report

Gwen Ka'awaloa

So excited to have seen and read our RMDS Magazine, what a wonderful piece of work. Thank you to the team who built this. Nicole, Natalie and a few more.

As we negotiate thru the next few months I am hoping we can remain optimistic about the season for learning and shows.

Some of our members enjoyed time in the Sun in Florida and California. They were fortunate enough to get some good training and I hope those of us who stayed behind had time to learn as well.

Let's make 2021 a year of growth for our horses and ourselves.

Central Office

Beth Geier

Membership

- Registration – 470 members as of 3/1 for 2021 –; 39 new horses since October 2020
- See Reports with chapter membership totals.

Shows:

- For 2021: 8 RMDS shows: 33 USEF/USDF recognized shows which includes Championships and Regionals. 2 for 2022.
- Freedom Rein's in August is cancelled, so 7 RMDS shows as of 3/11/2021.

Omnibus:

- See Nicole's report – gross income: \$11,570.00
- Bulk mail went out March 1, 2021.

Database/Website:

- Currently have raised \$21,161.91 as of 3/3. Asking people that have refunds if they want to donate – most say yes.
- Please ask your chapter members to see if there is a donor in the group or if they know of one.

Banquet:

- January 15, 2022 – confirmed.

General:

- Chapters receive free email blasts for educational purposes.
- RMDS Executive Board members get ½ price admission to RMDS events.

Next Executive Board Meetings (2nd Thursday odd months-exceptions noted) – 2021

TD Clinic: Mar 20

AA Clinic: April 17-18

Summer Intensive: June 24-26

Adult/Team Competition: June 27

Championships: Sept 3-5

RMDS Sport Horse: Sept 8

Executive Board Meetings: May 13, July 13, August 5, **Sept 9**, Oct 14 (budget)

**RMDS MEMBERSHIP -
 YEAR-TO-DATE**

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Members:	470	636	700	725	752	756	779	694	827	797	868	773	945	1030	1008	1036	1019	1151	1177	1162
Horses:	39	109	159	161	91	93	59	63	59	135	123	132	132	166	246	262	234	207	337	274
AV	29	39	39	36	39	25	29	26	27	25	27	24	15	26	12	-	-	-	-	-
BV	101	138	151	162	159	182	168	171	180	182	190	200	188	205	172	178	179	199	208	230
FH	47	51	56	70	57	73	79	76	64	65	71	72	75	76	77	74	73	109	103	115
GV	59	78	80	77	91	95	71	55	71	53	65	83	87	105	102	88	92	93	98	77
HP	90	117	162	164	169	149	156	151	176	190	208	226	256	265	260	259	251	267	283	278
NC	52	57	64	75	69	77	77	89	94	93	110	132	107	124	137	137	139	162	151	150
NM	14	33																		
OB	27	40	37	38	49	43	42	33	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PP	38	62	87	77	89	63	70	63	62	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WC	12	20	23	25	29	22	18	19	23	27	31	22	21	25	25	32	34	44	55	64
No Chapter	1	1	1	1	1	3	5	11	12	13	15	14	25	14	16	22	21	34	36	24
CS				-	Dissolved	24	35	47	52	63	115	124	115	127	126	143	130	137	155	134
PN				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Dissolved	inactive	12	13	13	14	15	14	13
PR				-	-	Dissolved	10	11	18	14	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TS				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Dissolved	36	51	68	90	86	91	74	77
WA				-	-	Dissolved	19	21	26	28	24	24	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		636	700	725	752	756	779	694	827	797	868	773	945	1030	1008	1036	1019	1151	1177	1162
Juniors	25	54	66	73	80	86	88	95	120	117	120	134								
Amateurs	104	140	217	205	195	163	152	176	209	220	239	230								
Education	11	11	14	18	21	17	16													
Business	11	12	12	9/2																
Life	43	35/1	33/1	32/2																

Permanent Committee Reports Continued:

Adult Amateur

Anclaire Spaulding

The AA clinic in April 2021 will be conducted with Bill McMullin instead of George Williams. I have 1 slot left to fill. Joan Clay and Dolly Hannon will select most likely an upper level rider who doesn't necessarily need to stable overnight at Faith Farms. I will try to offer lunch each day but for sure, I will have coffee and snacks. I plan to do goody bags for all the riders as well.

Jan Tracy resigned her AA position. I have another lady interested, Cecilia Madison. Do we need to vote so that Cecilia can take over after the April clinic? Dorothy asked that the board appoint Cecilia to fill the term. **MaryJo Hoepner moved to support Dorothy's appointment of Cecilia Madison. 2nd by Stan Adamson. Motion passes unanimously.**

Awards

Shannon Lemons

Awards for last season are all done and ready to mail out. We went with standard rates for various numbers of items, which made things a bit easier when contacting people about postage due. I have emailed all winners requesting postage before I mail them, but there are still a lot of them hanging out at my house! Please remind your members that if they have awards from 2020, they need to pay the postage first. Most of those with ribbons and plaques have responded, but lots of plates still waiting to be mailed. If we don't receive postage by the end of the month, I guess I will add to this year's awards, providing they are picked up at the banquet or postage is paid. There are still trophies that I have not received back into inventory, so at this late date I will require them to be returned at Dressage for the Cure. Please remember, if you are awarded with a perpetual trophy, they are ALWAYS due back by September 30, and there are plenty of opportunities to return them at shows. We talk about it at the banquet, we make everyone sign a form, the email reminds them of it, yet there are always a few who act surprised and as if there was no notice. We have always been very understanding as everyone always has an excuse as to why they can't return them and have not charged late fees in general, but it is extremely frustrating to try to do my job when I don't have the inventory in hand when I need it to get things ordered and to the trophy shop. Perhaps we need to consider having these late fees enforced from the President/Executive Board as people tend to ignore me ☺. And I'm also a sucker for a sad story.....

Total cost for actual awards (ribbons, plaques, plates, postage, and supplies) will be around \$1300-\$1400 for 2020, well below our normal budgeted amount. This does not include the ongoing cost of the storage unit, \$133/month.

Have contacted 4imprint, which I use for volunteer gifts and glasses, and applied for a \$500 grant that is given out each month to support RMDS. They request a specific event, so I have listed Championships. They would provide \$500 in goods such as promotional bags or t-shirts if we are selected.

Communications

Nicole Bizzarro/Sally O’Dwyer

The Magazine:

It’s real! I hope by the time we meet later this week, that all of you have received your new RMDS Magazine. It feels like a dream to have finally realized this re-envisioning of this publication. I have already heard from many members who reached out to say how pleased they were to see this first issue.

It was a huge effort by a ton of people and I am so grateful to have had the encouragement and the help to see this project go from concept, to a finished product we can hold in our hands. Huge thanks to Beth, Natalie, Heather, Gwen, Dorothy, and Sharon, as well as everyone for making this possible. I am very proud of how it came out, and am very much hoping we can do a fall issue later this year.

RMDS Magazine Budget Recap

The estimate, and the reality.

Publication facts: 418 were bulk mailed out of Parker March 1st. We had a total of 58 advertisements, just shy of the all-time high on 60 in 2013. Total hours in design and production was 134.50 which is a new high, beating the 130 hour spent in 2007, but not by much considering this was a brand new design, look and feel and new size, full-color, etc. It should never take this long again, as now there is an existing style and document with which to start.

To consider: moving the indicia for the bulk mailing from Parker to a post office closer to the Central Office. Do we want to drop our indicia all together? We can use our printers non-profit presort indicia, and we may get a better rate with them. It benefits RMDS to give the printer more freedom to source this.

Do we care where the indicia comes from? It might be a cost savings and/or time savings but it wouldn’t say it came from Colorado. The printer said to maybe move it to Louisville (not Boulder) or drop it entirely.

Nicole Bizzarro made a motion that we drop our indicia, 2nd by Miranda Avila. Motion passed unanimously.

Thoughts about the new format? Who prefers this, who prefers the old format?

Discussion of how to tier sponsorship of the organization / ad space / etc.

2021 RMDS Magazine	s				
	ESTIMATED	REALITY	ESTIMATED	REALITY	ESTIMATED REALITY
Advertising	\$12,000	\$11,570.00			
Prize List	\$25.00	\$25.00			
Postage	\$2,000	\$422.63 (but more to come)			
Printing	\$7,053 +1825 =	\$8,878	\$7,782 + 640 =	\$8,422	
Production / Design	\$6,500	\$6,500			
Production / Content	\$1,500	\$1,500			
Other (USDF License)	\$200	\$125			
Subtotal	\$12,025	\$11,595	\$17,253	\$16,969.63	-\$5,228 -\$5,374

Additional

Sally and I have put our heads together to strategize the best hierarchy and information flow to report event synopses and news reporting, from chapters, to RMDS, to the parent organization, and we have a plan to best meet the needs of all while prioritizing the timely dissemination of info to members before non-members and rm ds communications before rm ds social media, but while hitting all the channels in due time.

Partner and Sponsor model for whole of RMDS

I would like to see RMDS strengthened by a Partner and Sponsor model that lifts the entire organization rather than its individual parts. I am looking to find a solution to the way we can offer advertising with a tax incentive and to reduce the sense of one arm of our organization competing against another for the same dollars and support.

e-Centaur
Going along!

Una Schade

Website/Data Base

Beth and Heather have a few little projects to update but otherwise the learning curve is slowly getting there.

Plan for RMDS Social Media 2021

Communications Update for the Board

GOAL: Use Social Media, ecentaur, and emails to build a base of support, engagement, club leadership, and participation in RMDS.

Facebook Update. We currently have 1,720 likes and 1,899 follows. Recommend more consistent posting to improve our visibility on social media (algorithms) and attract more members.

Suggested topics for our communications could include:

- Promote membership, volunteering
- Promote all events, clinics, shows to demonstrate club value
- Garner more participation from members, demonstrate the club as an educational institution, encourage all newcomers to the sport to come out and enjoy dressage.
- Demonstrate leadership Many of the chapters share our posts—

For Board Approval

Photo Gallery--Communications would like to seek photos from members of their horses—to build our photo gallery and use in communications.

Photo Release--Communications requests a photo release for RMDS members—to use in our communications or can this just be a verbal. Can we use photos that were submitted for the website for social media and ecentaur?

Instagram--Communications requests an Instagram Page from the Board

Volunteer of the Month. Requesting that we have an Ecentaur feature of a volunteer each month. Sally O'Dwyer met with Miranda Avila regarding volunteering on 3/1/21. We discussed way to encourage volunteering, including an article on "Why Volunteer?"

Podcast. Considering creating an RMDS Podcast. Would like to pursue this possibility. This Podcast would feature RMDS members and the wonderful things they are doing. We would start with 10 interviews before releasing.

Social Media and Publications policy: Communications recommends developing a social media policy that would include: branding, types of posts and photos that are appropriate, hashtags to attract newcomers to Colorado and dressage, ensuring all posts include a link to our website, etc. Seeking permission to develop.

It was discussed to do a policy/guidelines for posting for Instagram and/or Facebook that would come back before the board. We can shutter our Twitter account. **Sally O'Dwyer moved that we start an Instagram account for RMDS. 2nd by Stan Adamson.** Some discussion on details. **Motion passed unanimously.** Discussion again then followed and Sally is going to monitor and publish on our social media accounts for now.

Education

March 20. TD seminar. Via Zoom. Dial in details will be sent to those registered. Currently 16 people registered.

MaryJo Hoepner/Pam Phillips

Junior/Young Riders

I am super excited for the 2021 Summer Intensive, June 24th – 26th. As previously discussed, the cost will now be \$495. Using this increase in income, I will be having two lessons per rider each day. I have reached out to Sara

Cassandra Dipentino

Storch and Gigi Brittain to be clinicians since I had them lined up for last year. I will also be reaching out to local judges to do a ride a test on the last day.

Would like to do an Instagram or Facebook page for the Junior/Young Rider.

Marketing

Nicole Bizzarro/Christy Rawlings

Goal 1 : To increase membership quantity, but to also increase membership activity.

- Remind riders why it is Beneficial to be a member.
 - Email member (past and present) an article/flyer on perks of being a member in a way that can be shared and encourage members to forward and share it to their horse friends or post in their barns.
 - Social Media Blast top 3 reasons to be a member ask them to share. With link to membership.
 - Maybe take a pole on what would make this membership better?-on Facebook?
 - Flyer Blast to each chapter



- Give the Gift of a membership
 - Offer for Birthdays...Just because...Christmas...Good grades...



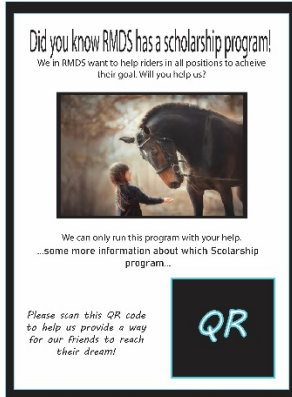
- Option in enrolling in Text Reminders
 - “Guess what! The Triple Creek Dressage Schooling show is now open for registration”
 - “Quick early bird registration closes tomorrow for The Triple Creek Dressage Show! <link provided>”
 - We would add this option onto their membership forms as an option to opt in
- New Member Perks
 - Can we give them a “we are so excited for you to join gift?”
 - Can we assign a buddy to them
 - Have someone sign up to be a mentor to that new member at their first show. (we all know the stress that comes to a new environment) we could even add it to the Volunteer bingo cards?

Goal 2: Increase Funding for RMDS Programs

- Looked in to a simpler way to get more donations.
 - There are several sites that only charge 2.9% processing + \$0.30 per donation with no platform fees per month. We pair this and a QR code. Which might have a monthly fee (have to contact them to get pricing)
 - DonateKindly: no platform fee-2.9% processing + \$0.30 per donation
 - MightyCause: no platfrom fee- .81%-2.2% processing + \$0.29 per donation
 - GoFundMe: no platform fee-2.9% processing + \$0.30 per donation
 - Or we just have a QR code that goes to the payment link on our current website

- Most of these would also have widgets for our website and Facebook page. We are just trying to make it easier and more convenient for our friends to donate.

If we can place these QR codes on flyers at each event with specific categories (like Education class, or Scholarships, or sponsor a rider, website at each event that RMDS holds). We can hope that best that we will get more donations.



Professionals

Joan Clay

1. The Professional's Clinic with Lilo Fore that was scheduled for April 24-25, 2021 has been cancelled due to Lilo's concern with traveling during the pandemic. Lilo is booked to teach the RMDS Professional's Clinic for April 23-24, 2022 and Tomora is available to host on that date.
2. Gwen Ka'awaloa has proposed an idea for an alternate activity for RMDS Professional's education this year. Lisa El-Ramey (S) has developed a program geared toward professional coaches/instructors called The Rider Project (see attached description). Lisa and Gwen are currently working on an "Introduction to The Rider Project" that could be presented via Zoom to our RMDS Professional Community and would utilize video clips of our own riders. The purpose of this introductory program would be to create interest and enthusiasm to bring Lisa El-Ramey out to Colorado later in the year to do an in person "Rider Project" weekend with RMDS Professionals. If there is interest in having Lisa come out to Colorado, Gwen has offered to host the clinic at her farm. Gwen spoke during the meeting on this topic a bit more. Getting to know your body with equitation. Lesley Eden is interested in being a co-chair and will serve out Kathy's term.

Scholarship

Natalie DeFee-Mendik

The Executive Board voted at the January RMDS meeting to approve the following scholarships for 2021:

- The Beverly Swanson Memorial Adult Amateur Scholarship: Amber Benson & Cindy Petersen
- Junior/Young Rider Scholarship: Sophia Still & Emily Schmid

Each recipient will receive a \$500 award, divided between two payments, as outlined in the bylaws. All recipients have emailed, thanking RMDS for this opportunity.

Shows – Championships

Anclaire Spauling/Heather Petersen

Heather: Things are moving along. The board still needs to find enough arenas, set a volunteer coordinator, etc.

Appointed Committee Reports:

1. Western Dressage

Simone Windeler

WDACO is planning several clinics this year

- April 17 - clinic in Wyoming
- May 1 - Cavaletti clinic in Brighton
- May 22 - perfect ride clinic in Castle Rock
- August 14 - the annual Summer Sizzler Show

Many schooling and RMDS shows are also WDACO recognized.
For more information check out the website at wdaco.org

2. Nominating Committee – Chapter Presidents

Stan Adamson

Stan Adamson volunteered to head the committee again for 2021.
Treasurer, Secretary, Awards, Education, Marketing, Professionals, Shows
Need nominees for 1 year: Vice President

3. BOG - November 20, 2021

Heather Petersen

We have the Renaissance

4. Banquet –

Beth Geier

January 15th, 2022. Reserved at the Renaissance.

5. Volunteers –

Miranda Avila

Reached out to chapters for feedback on previous volunteering experiences and increasing volunteer engagement. I received great feedback and ideas to encourage engagement. The recurring comments centered on volunteer training opportunities and recognizing volunteers through a variety of methods. There is a virtual scribe training being put on in April that would be great to promote through Facebook and email to members. I am putting together a best practices document and a list of all the job descriptions and skills/knowledge required to do them. I would also like to put some general FAQs on the volunteer page of the website. Can we discuss putting together a recurring volunteer spotlight feature in the e-Centaur? This could be five simple standard questions the volunteer answers and then provides a photo of themselves to be included. I believe this would be a great way to “get to know” our volunteers, promote a sense of community, recognize them for their hard work, and inspire others.

6. Region 5 Report

Heather Petersen

What a winter our Region has had so far (and truthfully quite a bit of our country!). I hope everyone is staying warm and enjoying as much horse time as you can around some of these odd weather systems. The show season has gearing up a bit down in Arizona and the northern parts will hopefully see some shows starting in May. It will be nice to have a bit more of normal year, though we will still see Covid protocols in place for our USDF/USEF recognized competitions and events.

Fundraising efforts are once again under way for the USDF Region 5 Juniors and Young Riders as they try to qualify and travel to the 2021 FEI North American Youth Championships. The Championships will be held August 9-15, 2021 at the Great Lakes Equestrian Festival in Travers City, Michigan. It is going to require a tremendous amount of funding to send our teams though thankfully the distance will enable us to drive the horses. We hope we will be able to send 8 riders with their horses, grooms and Chef d'Equipes. In addition to the transportation to the show, there are the expenses of hotel, team uniforms, chef expenses, feed, bedding and oh so much more that they need help with. If you would like to contribute or help with their fundraising efforts, please contact Joan Clay, our Region 5 Jr/YR FEI coordinator at jnclay@comcast.net or 970-420-0877. If you are interested in competing in NAYC, the application and fee should be turned in to the USDF office by March 16, 2021 in order to avoid stiffer fees. If you apply by March 16th, the fee is only \$50. Applications submitted between March 17th and April 27th are \$100 and the final application deadline is May 11th, but it will cost you \$300 to apply between April 28th and May 11th. Absolutely no applications will be accepted after May 11th.

If you are interested in being a delegate to the Board of Governors meeting, please contact our Nominating Council representative and have your name added to the ballot for Participating Delegate. Please contact Dorothy Kapaun at dorothykapaun@yahoo.com and let her know your interest and she can provide you with more details on the potential responsibilities. PM Delegate nominations are due in to the USDF office no later than April 15th.

If you have any educational event you would like listed on the Region 5 website, please don't hesitate to let me know and we will get it posted!

Old Business:

- **No old business.**

New Business:

- Nicole brought up that we should start up the Instagram account under one of the RMDS emails and not linked to someone's personal account.

Chapter Presidents:

1. Arkansas Valley

Nancy Leonard

AVDA is continuing to be very active with clinics and preparing for our first show. We have an upcoming clinic on March 21 with Sharon Sarchet. This clinic is full. We are looking forward to our first show on April 10 at Pathfinder Park. We are having an RMDS recognized show on June 5 and will closing the year with a show in October. We are so excited that there is light at the end of the tunnel in this crazy year. We have been able to meet regularly by zoom and have had the ability to ride our horses using safe distancing. Looking forward to an exciting year of riding together and increasing our knowledge in regards to this amazing sport. Hope we can all get together in person this year. Ride Safe, but ride!

2. Boulder Valley

Stan Adamson

We had a great meeting via Zoom on February 8, 2021, with a great presentation by Sue Martin on "The Million Dollar Dressage Horse." We were pleased to have many guests, making this perhaps the largest attendance ever! The presentation helped us understand the characteristics of highly prized (expensive!) horses, as well as the less than perfect horses most of us ride. Great learning experience.

Our online auction benefit for RMDS netted more than \$1,000, which has been given to RMDS. This was a great and fun experience, as well as profitable to help RMDS further reduce its outstanding costs for the new database and website. Five helmets remain from the Colorado Tack donation, so if anyone is interested in a Charles Owen helmet, including two eventing helmets size 3 and 4, please contact Stan Adamson, adamsons100@msn.com.

Our show committee met on February 1 to begin coordination and planning for the July 31-August 1, 2021, show at the Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont. We are hoping the Fairgrounds will be up and running to accommodate this show.

Our ever resourceful and innovative member Sally O'Dwyer has started a BVDA Book Club, and our first book is *Dressage for the Not-so-perfect Horse* by RMDS's own Janet Foy. This wonderful book helps riders learn how to work with the idiosyncratic behavior of their horses and teaches strategies and exercises for every challenge at every level. The book club will have its first virtual meeting the evening of April 5; read the book over the next month, and we will have a lively discussion. Sign up through our web site.

We have planned a "Dressage Training with Obstacles" Clinic at Diamond Double T Farm with Monique Potts on April 17. Monique will work with each horse and rider to use the special arrangement of obstacles to improve dressage performance. This clinic is open to non-BVD riders and their horse, and to outside auditors for a slightly increased fee. Please see our web site, bouldervalleydressage.org.

3. Foothills

Cassandra Dipentino

Foothills had a meeting on 2/15 and are starting to get in a groove with our newer board members. So many great ideas regarding clinics for this year and our shows look very promising. Nothing major or new to report as of yet.

- June 6th Spring Into Summer- Julie Haugen
- August 29th Last Chance - Debbie Riehl- Rodriguez

4. Grand Valley

Karen Harkin

The Grand Valley Dressage Society's (GVDS) hard work is paying off in 2021 with lots of new offerings for members. We have embraced that more than half of our members do not show or are western dressage riders or are singularly focused on training their horses. Our programs and clinics serve the broad interests of members, in addition to our five shows (schooling and recognized) which appeal to those with competitive goals.

- January 19 was the beginning of our first program, MELT for Equestrians, a top selection in our member survey. Karin Denny, Intrinsic Body Works conducted the session, which had participants using their MELT rollers to work out “stuck” spots in their bodies. Over 25 people attended the zoom class. It was so well-received, that 17 people signed up for a weekly MELT for Equestrians zoom class. Participants reported a significant improvement in their riding, as well as improved sleep, less neck pain, and a complete elimination of TMJ pain. We will likely conduct a mounted clinic with Karin later this year.
- Linda Chadwick-Wirth, the communications committee chairperson, was responsible for the total replacement of our website with an integrated e-newsletter. We are very excited about the end product as are many members. Check it out <https://www.gvds.org/>
- January 19 was our 2020 awards celebration which was presented via zoom. Like everyone else, we had far fewer award winners this year, but those that were able to show, deserved to be recognize. The power point presentation accompanied by the “prize buckets” full of donated and purchased items, were a hit with the winners.
- Jen Wright, Happy Horse Saddle Fitting, provided an awesome Saddle Fitting Basics zoom presentation on February 6. Nearly 30 people attended a Saturday night session, which says something about the importance of the topic.
- Our first clinic of the year, a TDF sponsored event with Sue Martin, was over-the-top popular! What an amazing well-rounded clinician! She had “something for everyone”, including the auditors. We had 10 riders each day for two days and 7 riders on a third day. The 25 auditors received as comprehensive an education as the riders. We also had a zoom Q&A session as a bonus. We are thankful to TDF for helping to offset the cost, for Roy Yates Horse Training for the use of the facility and to Judi DeVore for hosting Sue at her home. We are looking forward to having Sue back in June.
- In preparation for our first schooling show on April 24-25, we have several special events planned:
 - “Let’s Dance” Freestyle Program with Julie Barringer-Richers on March 22, zoom presentation.
 - Dressage Scribing 101 with Amber Benson on April 10, live clinic.
 - Ride-A-Test with Megan Bretey (and live scribe practice) on April 10-11, live clinic.
- We have redesigned our sponsor benefits and are pleased to have 10 platinum and five gold sponsors this year. Inka Spatafora is ensuring that sponsors receive the full benefit of their sponsorship, including e-newsletter ads, Facebook mentions and live interviews and a sponsor banner for our horse show winner’s circle.
- All our schooling shows are WDACO approved, and most are WDAA approved. Our Supporting Membership is appealing to our western dressage riders. We are working cooperatively with WDACO about potential co-sponsored clinics later this year.
- Our by-laws have been updated and should be approved this month by the membership. They will be sent to RMDS for their approval.
- Everyone is extremely excited about the new Omnibus and we are especially grateful to Nicole Bizarro for designing our ad. She was a pleasure to work with and is a talented professional. We look forward to working with her again in 2022.
- Our upcoming programs are:
 - Equine Massage with Krista Nobilo on April 26, zoom presentation.
 - Cavaletti and Prix Caprilli with Tammy Fagan, May 1-2, live clinic.
 - Horse Show Trends in Clothing and Tack with Tiger Adams, Horse in Sport, May 25, zoom presentation.
 - Alternative Equine Therapies with Carrie Washburn, Performance Equine, late June, zoom presentation.
- We are looking forward to assisting with the RMDS Championships and remain ready to do what we can to help make this 50th Anniversary event special.
- Thank you to all the other chapters for opening their zoom presentations to all RMDS members. Some outstanding topics that are appealing to a broad group of members.

5. High Plains

Andrea Price-Valenzuela

High Plains has had a great year thus far.

The first event we had was a Zoom session with a personal trainer on things to keep in mind when training for show season. She provided us with a great fitness routine with options for both beginners and advanced workout aficionados. We had very positive feedback and hope to host a few of these sessions in person as the weather warms up and we can be outside more regularly.

The second Zoom seminar we did was with Amelia Newcomb. Amelia is a dressage trainer based out of California who has been successful in online based training. She put together a course on the training scale of dressage for us and the seminar was very well received by members and we were pleased with the participation.

The third Zoom seminar we hosted was this prior week with Joseph Newcomb and Jessica Greenstein of Exclusive Dressage Imports on what to look for when purchasing your next horse. We compiled questions ahead of time to provide more of a Q&A style seminar. We had great engagement and felt like this brought the members a lot of valuable information.

We are currently preparing for the Youth clinic with Sara Storch and Kelly Boyd on March 20th at Happenstance Barn in Parker. We are completely full with a waitlist and we hear the kids that are participating are looking forward to this event.

We are working on filling up the clinic for the Adult Amateur clinic which will be with Colleen Diamond on April 24th at Meadowbrook in Sedalia.

The year has been off to a great start!

6. New Mexico Dressage

Maureen Mestas

Membership Total: 18

Financial: Operating Account Balance \$4,414.61

Donation Pledges Outstanding (Monetary and In-Kind): \$3,500.00

FUNDRAISING : NMD-RMDS Board of Directors currently have a fundraising goal of \$10,000.00. by 1 May to support the 15-16 May show weekend.

GMO MEMBER RECRUITING & RETENTION: NMD-RMDS has established a direct-contact new and renewing member drive for January through May. Beth Geier has been great to help us with the issue of our prospective members not being able to indicate their chosen chapter on the RMDS new JOIN page. She is following up with joining members to confirm their chapter of choice. THANK YOU, Beth!! Our new website will have a JOIN feature in order that we may capture new and renewing members data by allowing them to link with RMDS member website through our www.nmd-rmids.com website. This will allow us to reach out to members immediately; recruit volunteers; and confirm membership status for year-end awards.

SPONSORS: The Show Committee is continuing to reach out to potential sponsors for the May shows, as well as organizing and continuing to fundraise for the Region 5 Championships. Sponsorship and fundraising campaign for October shows will begin this spring.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM: NMD-RMDS has completed its Volunteer Best Practices and Recruiting Program plans for 2021. Miranda Avila, of RMDS, has generously offered to help with organizing volunteers from areas outside of New Mexico. THANK YOU, Miranda!

YEAR END AWARDS: NMD-RMDS will announce its 2021 Year End Award Program in March. There are many great categories in which an NMD-RMDS member may win great prizes, trophies, recognition and more! Our Volunteer awards include categories that acknowledge all our fabulous volunteers for 2021 – both members and non-members. It doesn't happen without volunteers!

EDUCATION:

NMD-RMDS' HOOF IT UP! University for members will be available starting in April. Members earn credits for online learning through USDF; Dressage Today; Independent Online Trainers; NMD-RMDS Volunteer opportunities and other approved independent online and in-person education. There will be year-end awards for credit levels and demonstrated proficiency in areas of dressage training, riding, horsemanship, health care and nutrition.

A working group is organizing to submit a grant application for a 2021 2-day Symposium with a working title of *Trouble-Shooting the Persistent Training Challenge In Your Horse*. A panel of judges, certified trainers and biomechanical/locomotion experts (panelists TBA) will work with riders and horses in clinic, as well as discuss in

lunch-time presentations, on how to evaluate and solve training issues that keep a horse and rider from progressing. Auditors are welcome and NMD-RMDS members receive HOOFF IT UP! University credits.

The 2021 Jeremy Steinberg Dressage Clinic Series that benefits NMD-RMDS Education Program will have its clinics at Hipico Horse Park:

1-2 May

19-20 June

31 July – 1 August

4-5 September

30-31 October

More 2021 dates may be added by Jeremy. We are also excited to re-open the clinics to auditors! A portion of auditor proceeds goes to NMD-RMDS.

COMPETITIONS:

Recognized Shows

15-16 May NMD-RMDS Swing Into Spring! I and II, Hipico Santa Fe

Each day is a USEF licensed show

15-16 May WDAA AQHA Recognized Western Dressage Show, Hipico Santa Fe

Each day is a WDAA and AQHA licensed show

16-19 September USDF Region 5 Championships & Open Show, Hipico Santa Fe

17-18 October 2020 – NMD-RMDS Fall Flaunt It! I and II, Hipico Santa Fe

Each day is a USEF licensed show

If COVID prevents holding in-person recognized shows, NMD-RMDS will host online shows with USDF Judges, ribbons and awards. Both in-person and online show results for NMD-RMDS members go toward NMD-RMDS year-end awards.

USDF Schooling Shows

7 November at Enchantment Dressage, Caballo NM – a USDF recognized Schooling Show that is also an NMD-RMDS 2021 Schooling Show Championship in which riders from NMD-RMDS, NMDA and SFDA who have participated in a schooling show for 2021 and received a minimum score of 55% may compete for Schooling Show Champion awards. This concept is still in the working group phase.

GMO CHAPTER WANTS & NEEDS:

Volunteers and Sponsors!!!! We have a very full, very exciting 2021 show season planned. We want to give our loyal renewing members, as well as our new members a year that shows we value their support and presents the activities and events they want.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: 25 March 2021 via ZOOM. All NMD-RMDS members may attend.

7. Northern Colorado

Jon Haugen

NCDA is moving into Spring in full swing. On Feb 27, NCDA hosted a tack sale/swap at Phantom Hill in Fort Collins. The sale/swap hosted a number of seller tables and a very healthy number of buyers as well. NCDA was able to provide a safe, socially distanced venue for horse lovers to gather and find things they needed, it was a nice fundraiser for NCDA, expertly organized and executed by Anrdea Chirich.

Entries are now open for the April Ride-a-test at Kathy Coulson's Hobby Horse Farms with Julie Haugen as the clinician. May will feature a Saturday Schooling Show judged by Sharron Sarchet at Tomora, and a Sunday clinic at Phantom Hill farm. We will return to Tomora in June for a Simone Windeler judged Saturday schooling show and a Sunday Clinic hosted at James' Redcliff Ranch. In October, we will host a Sandy Hotz Halloween themed clinic at Blue Roof Equestrian.

NCDA is also exploring the opportunity to bring in a nationally recognized clinician in 2022. Stay tuned for more details.

We have also launched an online store where visitors can pick from any number of articles of clothing and have them embroidered with the NCDA logo. This was made possible through the dedicated efforts of Katie McGivney, Melanie Newkirk, and Kellee James.

8. On The Bit

Ginka Kubelka

We are excited that Christy is now in charge of our website and Facebook page, so it will have a more personal touch soon and will finally be up to date about our events and meetings again!

On June 5th we will be offering a Ride-A-Test with Kathleen Donnelly at Jane Swanhorst's facility in Cheyenne, WY. More information and entry forms can be found on our website www.onthebitdressage.com.

Our fully recognized show will be on July 24th and 25th (two shows) in Laramie, WY, with Sandy Hotz (S, CO) and Agnes Billington (S, FL) as our judges.

We are currently working on bringing Ulf Wadeborn from California to Laramie for a weekend clinic in late summer or early fall. Please check our website for updates!

We will continue to hold our monthly meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm on Zoom and/or at Altitude in Laramie. Feel free to join us if you are interested in what we are offering or contact us through info@onthebitdressage.com or through our Facebook page!

9. Pikes Peak

Shannon Lemons

Pikes Peak has not been active yet this year as far as any meetings. We have a small core of about 5-6 members who attend but are having trouble getting folks to be involved even in the Zoom meetings, making it hard to get clinics and events organized. We have asked Lisa Berg to be our Facebook guru, so hopefully she can help get the word out and we can get more involvement from members.

I have been working on possible dates in April/May for a member clinic. The plan is to use some club funds to subsidize the cost of lessons and I will provide a budget at our next meeting 😊.

We have plans to run an RMDS show this summer if possible, pending finding a facility, as we have an entire show staff among our members 😊.

We are inspired by the great ideas from some of sister chapters with their Zoom meetings and have some great ideas to bring to our members, so come to our next meeting, virtually or in person!!!

10. Western Colorado

Lesley Hill

We at the WCC have no new news (!) to report. We have an active group continuing to do clinics with Simone monthly up here, and our snowbirds are beginning to come back to the valley from CA and Wellington. We are tentatively planning on doing a schooling show here at the end of the summer: if vaccinations and logistics allow!

Next Meeting is May 13th meeting.

9:00 pm Stan Adamson made the motion to adjourn. 2nd by MaryJo Hoepner. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Petersen