

Foothills Chapter Report

March 12, 2015

We began the year soliciting interviews from our membership. The input/ideas of those who volunteered to be included are summarized below:

1. It is a lot more difficult for a new person to become involved with dressage than it used to be.
 - a. The cost of showing and preparing for shows is beyond the means of the average person.
 - b. On lookers associate dressage with stress and formality.
 - c. "Dressage used to be fun."
2. We need pathways to interest more people in dressage and to keep them involved.
3. Dressage doesn't exclusively mean showing to everyone. Dressage means training.
4. We need events that are inclusive and fun.
5. We need to encourage more people to join our chapter and hence RMDS.

As a result of these discussions four new events are planned for 2015:

1. A western dressage clinic with Frances Carbonnel will be held on Sunday, April 12. This clinic is sponsored by our chapter and sanctioned by the Western Dressage Association of Colorado.
 - a. The purpose of this clinic is to expose people to dressage who might otherwise be turned off by the perceived artificial and formal nature of dressage.
 - b. Correct dressage training is beneficial to all horses.
 - c. Western dressage serves as an alternative to training methods that might otherwise be detrimental to the horse's physical and psychological wellbeing.
 - d. We hope to convert new people to traditional dressage (and RMDS) through western dressage.
 - e. Western dressage also serves as a new show venue for current dressage trainers and riders.
 - f. The Foothills Chapter's geographical area will be home to at least four shows this year that feature western dressage classes.
2. A Show Preparation workshop will be held on April 20.
 - a. We hope to introduce new people to showing and to make showing sound fun.
 - b. We will also encourage new people to become volunteers at our shows.
3. A Ride-A-Test Clinic with KC Parkins-Kyle will be held May 3 at Table Mountain Ranch.
4. A schooling show on June 7 will culminate our above efforts. Stephanie Soule will judge.
 - a. We hope to provide mentors for anyone new to showing who does not already have a trainer/coach.
 - b. We will also provide low-key opportunities for those new to volunteering..
5. Our traditional fall Last Chance RMDS show will be held on September 6 at A Rising Star Equestrian Center.

We hope to have an end-of-the-year celebration which honors traditional show achievements and volunteer contributions, also Foothills events participation and all kinds of personal accomplishments of our members. We want to celebrate the success of everyone!

If anyone reading this wants to help in any way, please let me know.

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