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NEWSLETTER March 2011

The Ohio Dressage Society (ODS) is a Group Member Organization (GMO) of the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) and its members are USDF Group Members. The Ohio Dressage Society is in Region 2 of the USDF.

Upcoming Events!

March 12 & 13 - Dancing Horse Farm, L Program, Session B

March 26 - General Membership Meeting; Panera at Maxtown Rd.; 5-7p.m.; Program - Joints by Dr. Snedden, DVM; Flying Horse Veterinary

April 2-3 - Gigi Nutter Clinic; South Wind Stables

April 5 - Executive Board meeting; 6 pm Panera at Polaris

April 7-10 Equine Affaire; Ohio Expo Center

April 16 or 17 – tentative; 2011 Test review by Jen Roth; Gypsy Woods Farm

April 30-May 1 –Dancing Horse Farm; L Program, Session C

May 3 - Executive Board meeting; 6 pm; Panera at Polaris

May 21-22 - MODA Schooling show; Delaware, OH

Announcements / Reminders!

Long time member Pat Whalen-Shaw recently lost her equine friend, Harley. Many of us have gone through this experience and it is never easy. Please let Pat know you are thinking of her.

Still time to sign up for the Gigi Nutter Clinic, Check the ODS website for the sign-up sheet. Mail to Chris Gemmel-Gnidovec.

Have you renewed your membership for 2011? A 2011 membership blank is attached with this newsletter. Fill it out and send it along with a check to Carolyn Byrd, Treasurer.

A copy of the ODS Constitution and Bylaws is included with this newsletter. Download, print and keep it for future reference.

ODS Year End Awards Program Grid is attached with this newsletter. This is the latest version, still a work in progress.

ODS DownCenterline Prizelist for June 11 & 12 will be out soon.

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### ODS Shows for 2011 at Delaware Fairgrounds

**June 11 & 12** DownCenterline 1 & 2, USEF / USDF recognized; Judges: Nancy Harris, "S", FL and Elaine Gibala, "R", KY

**August 13 & 14** DownCenterline 3 & 4, USEF / USDF recognized, Judges: Sarah Michael, "S", MI and Marie Johnson, "R", WI

**October 8 & 9** ODS Schooling Show, Judges TBA

**Pony Classes** added to the class offerings for the DownCenterline Shows. Check them out. Save dollars - eliminate USEF / USDF membership fees by showing in only the **Opportunity Classes!** Show info at [www.ohiodressagesociety.com](http://www.ohiodressagesociety.com)

**ODS Bucks** can be earned by volunteering at the ODS shows listed above. 1 hour of volunteering earns \$3 of ODS Bucks. ODS Bucks can be used toward future show entries, clinics, and ODS membership.

### Membership Meeting Minutes & Notes

#### **PBJ Connections Program at February 27th General Membership Meeting.**

Glenda Childress and Holly Jedlicka gave an informative talk about PBJ Connections and its goals. Holly was the main speaker during the video, however, both Holly and Glenda fielded the questions during the following question and answer period.

PBJ specializes in assisting at-risk youth and their families to understand and control acting out, improve self esteem, gain insight into mental health issues, communicate more effectively, and learn about the connection between themselves, their families, their communities and the world.

They offer individual, group and family therapy with horses in non-riding activities that are appropriate to the needs of the clients.

PBJ Connections has a licensed mental health professional facilitating all activities. Assisting the mental health professional is a team of equine professionals and an extensive herd of horses. Currently sessions are held in two locations, the Otterbein Equine Facility and the farm belonging to Glenda Childress.

PBJ has a budget of approximately \$100,000 a year plus all the costs of the horses, mowing, etc. Clients in the program pay only what they can afford for each session which can range from zero to the whole session fee. Additional funds come from scholarship fund grants, private donations and county funding.

When asked, Holly mentioned ways that members could help the PBJ Connections program. First of all, they can always use monetary donations - big or small. They'll gladly accept any amount. Secondly, they are in need of your time - as board members and / or as volunteers. And last of all, if you feed your horses Tribute or Triple Crown feed save the proof of purchase labels on every bag. PBJ can get money for each one! Just collect them and send them to Glenda Childress at PBJ Connections, 9800 Jug Street Rd. NW, Pataskala, OH 43062.

Holly or Glenda can be reached at 614-395-1395 or at [info@pbjconnections.org](mailto:info@pbjconnections.org).

Chris thanked Holly and Glenda for the presentation.

Several announcements were made for all present: Jen Roth will be conducting the New Test Under Saddle program at Gypsy Woods Farm in Richwood, OH on April 16th.

Amy announced the Youth Scholarship recipients. The \$1000 scholarship will be divided and awarded to Jessica Miltimore, Myki Duvall, and Kailey Gehl.

Gigi Nutter Clinic will be at South Wind Stables on April 2 & 3.

March General Membership Meeting will again be at Panera at Maxtown Rd. on March 26, 5:00 - 7:00p.m. Program will be given by Dr. Snedden of Flying Horse Veterinary. She will be speaking on Joints!

**Ohio Dressage Society General Membership Meeting**  
January 23, 2011; 5-7p.m.; Panera's at Maxtown Rd., Columbus

Present: Chris Gemmel-Gnidovec, Ann Miltimore, Jessica Miltimore, Carrie Vacolas, Tracy Bright, Mary Jo Weingart, Mr. & Mrs. Bailey, Alexis Bailey, Amy Rothe-Hietter

Amy Rothe-Hietter attended the USDF Symposium in December and brought back information on the new dressage tests. Amy presented lots of good information on Introductory through First Levels.

Amy explained the four big changes in the new tests:

- \* Now only 3 tests per level, Introductory through Fourth Level

- \*Rising trot is now optional in First Level

- \*Stretchy circle now appears in Training Level, starting with Test 1

- \* Introductory Level now has a Test C which introduces the horse and rider to canter

Amy talked through every test for each level, Intro through First. She gave the listeners many tips and insights into the directives, movements and requirements for each test and level. Such as:

The directives for the levels and tests are very well done and give the rider a better idea of what the judge is looking for at that level. They are a **must** read for the rider before performing the test for the first time!

Rising trot is **required** in the tests of Introductory Level. Intro Test C has just a little bit of canter, picked up in the first quarter of a 20meter circle and dropped in the last quarter of the circle.

At the end of the program those present got to view several new tests being ridden. Amy and Chris had taken turns riding and reading the new tests while Renee video taped them so everybody could see how the new tests flowed.

After the program, Alexis Bailey presented a request for a donation from ODS for the Hunter's Run Pony Club. It will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Carrie Vacolas requested ODS consider adding breed classes to the prize list for the DownCenterline shows. She pointed out the lack of USEF/USDF recognized shows with Sport Horse Breeding divisions in the Ohio area. In fact, local breeders would have to haul several hours to find a show where their babies could be showcased and long hauls are not good for young horses. The ODS board will consider her request at the next board meeting.  
Ohio Dressage Society

**Minutes for ODS Executive Board Meetings**  
**Ohio Dressage Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - January 10, 2011**

Members Present: Chris Gemmel-Gnidovec, Mary Jo Weingart, Carolyn Byrd, Madeline Bletzdecker

Members Absent: Jimmy Gerhart, Sheena Little, Amy Rothe-Hietter

Chris called the meeting to order.

Items of business:

1. Due to Mary Jo being elected club secretary in the election of officers, she now "technically" has 2 seats on the ODS board (Competition Organizer and Secretary). The ODS Constitution and Bylaws (Article III, Section 3-1) states the Board of Directors "consists of 8 members - President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, Competition Organizer and 2 Board Members". Those present felt the intent of the Bylaws listing 8 members for the board was an attempt to provide additional input and support to the 4 officers and that an additional person should be added to the board to occupy one of Mary Jo's 2 seats. Since Section 3-3 of Article III states "If any officer or committee member is unable to complete his/her term of office, the President shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of their term, unless otherwise provided in this Constitution and Bylaws". After some discussion, it was decided that Chris would appoint Ann Miltimore to the vacant seat.

2. Several questions from the survey were discussed:

List 3 activities for ODS to sponsor... clinics, schooling shows, recognized/rated shows, eventing, clinics, adult camp, picnic, trail ride, youth team, and sponsor 4-H at state fair.

Day of week and time best for meetings...

Just about every day of the week was chosen as the "ideal" meeting day by survey respondents. However, the majority seemed to feel weekends would be best.

Central Location for meetings...

The meeting room at Panera's at Maxtown Rd. seemed to be o.k. for most everybody.

List clinicians you would like ODS to sponsor...

Gigi Nutter was listed several times, Others mentioned were: Alex Girding, Chris Hickey, Scott Hasseler, Linda Zang, Michael Barisone, Hilda Gurney, Steffan Peters, Debbie McDonald, Silke Rembrantz, Thomas Ritter, and Jane Savoy.

Many of the names listed would need lots of publicity and planning ahead. Most could probably not be gotten until next year at the earliest. Board members will attempt to contact as many as possible to check on their fees, schedules etc. and get info back to board.

Those present felt that getting Gigi Nutter back this spring was possible as it had been discussed as a possibility when Gigi was here in the fall. Mary Jo moved we attempt to get Gigi for a 2 day clinic in April. Lesson fees would be paid by participants. ODS would not subsidize any lessons. However, ODS would pay her airfare, insurance and the fees for 1 lesson

for Amy in exchange for the use of her facility. Madeline seconded. Motion carried.

3. Review of financial accounts:

Current ODS club account balance - approximately \$8,712. Discussion concerning low balance, causes and areas over budget: Awards fees for 2010 equalled \$540 while the expenses were \$1777.98. Awards program again needs to be discussed at February board meeting. All board members need to be thinking of possible solutions to receipts vs. expenses of awards program - email to all board members before next board meeting (February 1, 2011 ; 6p.m. at Panera's at Polaris.

Carolyn made a motion to continue to sponsor the 4-H Dressage at the State Fair. ODS will fund the judge's fees and expenses, as well as the cost of the awards. Madeline seconded. Motion carried.

Show account balance at the end of 2010 - \$5,000. Show account starts each year with a balance of \$5,000 to cover start-up expenses each year. The June 2010 DownCenterline 1 & 2 shows brought in \$10,794 and paid out \$11,225.13 in expenses. The August 2010 DownCenterline 3 & 4 shows brought in \$12,905.73 and paid out \$13,113.77 in expenses. The October schooling show brought in \$5,632 and paid out \$4,935.18 in expenses. Additional show expenses such as ribbons, numbers, printing, etc. totaled an additional \$2559.65. At the end of 2010 the show account transferred \$1,590.83 back to the ODS club account. Since the club account gave the show account an additional \$2400 in July over and above the initial start-up amount of \$5000, this figures out to about a \$1,000 loss for the show season.

4. Additional business:

2011 Calendar:

January 23 (Sunday); General Membership meeting at Panera's at Maxtown Rd., 5-7p.m. Program: Amy will present information on the new dressage tests Introductory through First Level

February 27 (Sunday); General Membership Meeting at Panera's at Maxtown Rd., 5-7p.m.  
Program: Presentation by PBJ Connections

March 20 or 27; General membership meeting; Actual date, time and program topic to be determined. Program on eventing has been suggested.

April 9 & 10 or 16 & 17; General membership meeting; Program: Riding session on new dressage tests; Jennifer Roth and Amy Rothe-Hietter possible presenters. Location to be determined (Gypsy Woods Farm a possibility).

May 2011 - Possible eventing clinic

ODS Board meeting will continue on first Tuesday of the month at Panera's at Polaris.

Due to the low balance in the club account Madeline moved and Carolyn seconded a motion that only \$1,000 would be spent on the Youth Scholarship this year.

Some discussion on the USDF Convention - if the club funds continue to be low, no delegate would be sent to the convention.

Publicity for the January program on the new dressage tests was discussed. Chris will send out an email to the members and put it on the ODS website.

ODS Bylaws allow for two board members at large on the ODS Board. Sheena Little and Madeline Bletzacker served ODS in this capacity in 2010. These positions are for one year terms. Chris will send an email to all members asking for volunteers willing to take on this responsibility. Members will need to respond back to Chris by the January membership meeting on the 23rd.

Some discussion on the prize list for the DownCenterline shows.

Some discussion on the need for a Winter newsletter to include a copy of the club bylaws, current membership list and 2011 membership form.

Meeting adjourned.

## **Board of Directors Meeting - February 8, 2011**

Members Present: Chris Gemmel-Gnidovec, Carolyn Byrd, Madeline Bletzdecker, Jimmy Gerhart, Sheena Little, Amy Rothe-Hietter, Ann Miltimore, Jessica Miltimore, and Mary Jo Weingart

ODS Board of Directors meeting for February 1, 2011 was rescheduled for February 8, 2011 due to winter conditions.

Chris called the meeting to order.

Items of business:

1. Discussion on Alexis Bailey's request for ODS to sponsor the Hunter's Run Pony Club: At the January ODS membership meeting, held at Panera Bread on Maxtown Rd. on January 23, 2011, Alexis requested ODS consider becoming a sponsor of her Pony Club. A decision was deferred until the next board of directors meeting. The sponsorship involves a donation of \$25 to the Pony Club for their activities. Amy moved ODS become a sponsor of the Hunter's Run Pony Club. Ann seconded. Motion passed.

2. ODS Adult Scholarship inquiry: Chris will inform the member that she should send her request in writing, per the Adult Scholarship Guidelines posted on the ODS website ([www.ohiodressagesociety.com](http://www.ohiodressagesociety.com)), to the Chris. Upon receipt, the Board of Directors will consider the request at the next Board meeting.

3. Possible clinicians: Jennifer Roth has been in contact with Linda Zang. Linda is checking her calendar regarding the possibility of a clinic after a schooling show, perhaps in October.

4. ODS Awards program: Discussion about Awards program not bring cost effective. With funds in club treasury down due to low entries in shows, etc., discussion centered around how to sustain the quality of the current awards program but at the same time make it more self sustaining. A lengthy brainstorming session generated many and varied ideas - such as, raise the fee to participate or pay fees by division and level or charge an extra \$10 fee for each additional level; change the current practice of any and all scores counting to only scores from ODS approved shows counting towards awards; set a strict budget; purchase less expensive ribbons; add a volunteer hours requirement, etc.

Most ideas were tabled for later discussion, but Ann made a motion to charge a \$10 fee for ODS sanctioning / approval of schooling shows so the scores from those shows count towards the ODS Awards program. Sheena seconded. Motion passed.

Ann made the motion to participate in the ODS Awards program each member is required to volunteer 4 hours at any of the ODS or ODS approved shows or pay an additional \$20. Jimmy seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6 yes to 2 no votes.

5. Youth Scholarship: Amy reported the committee this year consisted of 3 members: Amy, Megan Huey and Linda Smolak. There are 3 applicants. The committee has decided to divide the scholarship among the 3 applicants. They will be notified by letter before the end of February as required in the scholarship guidelines. The results will be announced at the next meeting February 27th.

6. Sport Horse Breeding and USEF / USDF recognition: At the previous membership meeting Carrie Vacolas asked the ODS board to consider adding Sport Horse Breeding Classes to the DownCenterline Dressage Shows. Currently, very few shows within haulable distance offer these classes. While the board members thought this might be possible for future shows it would not be feasible for the 2011 season. Carrie will be contacted concerning possible sponsors for such classes in the future if ODS continues with the USEF / USDF recognized shows. Board members discussed the possibility of dropping the recognition for the DownCenterline Shows and having schooling shows instead. The 2010 DCL and schooling shows

were not profitable. The board felt this idea should be postponed until after the 2011 season to see if the changes being made to class offerings will make a difference.

7. Banquet locations for next year: Jimmy will look into possible locations since the current location, Miller's in Newark, has gone out of business.

8. Madeline and Sheena will continue as board members at large as there were no other volunteers.

Sheena moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ann seconded. Meeting adjourned.

### **The ODS Executive Board Meeting scheduled for March 1, 2011 was held February 27, 2011 in**

conjunction with the previously scheduled general membership meeting at Panera at Maxtown Road, Columbus.

Board Members present: Madeline & Karl Bletzacker, Carolyn Byrd, Jimmy Gerhart, Amy Rothe-Hietter, Sheena Little, Chris Gemmel-Gnidovec, Mary Jo Weingart, Ann Miltimore and Jessica Miltimore and her guest.

Chris called the meeting to order.

Items of Business:

1. Carolyn made a motion to not vote on anything at this and future board meetings that was not listed on the agenda. Carolyn explained that she felt it was not fair to vote on non-agenda items because board members not present at a meeting would not have the chance to express their opinion on the item before a vote was taken. Ann seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5 yes votes and 2 no votes.

2. Horse / rider Awards Program - Chris presented the grid used to explain the awards program guidelines. Discuss followed and revisions were suggested, i.e. state pre-qualifications to be \$15 plus 4 volunteer hours or \$20, clarification of "professional", eliminate MODA under schooling shows since MODA and ODS already have a reciprocal agreement. Sheena moved that the updates for the awards program be approved. Carolyn seconded. Motion passed.

3. Further discussion / review on the sanctioning form, and the volunteer hours reporting form. Several suggestions were made. Chris will revise and send the next version out to the board to be voted on at the next board meeting.

4. Clinic contract for Linda Zang - Discussed and a few changes were made. Sheena volunteered to be the organizer for the clinic and will contact Linda about the arrangements and handle the contract.

5. After all agenda items were discussed Carolyn mentioned several items:

--Thank You card ODS received from Hunter's Run Pony Club for the \$25 sponsorship

--Receipt of a solicitation letter from the Hartford Fair about ODS sponsoring 4-H dressage classes for 2011. Carolyn asked that this be added to the agenda for the next meeting per her earlier motion. Since all the board member were present, Mary Jo made a motion to sponsor 3 classes for \$57. Madeline seconded the motion. Motion passed.

--Carolyn mentioned she really needs to have receipts when the ODS debit card is used. Recently, Carolyn had filed paperwork at the bank on what she believed to be fraudulent charges on the club card. She later found out the charge was genuine after the paperwork was filed and the club had been issued a new card. Carolyn requested that she be given a receipt for anything charged to the card so she could keep better track of the charges and eliminate problems in the future. Sheena moved that the debit number only be used by Carolyn or with prior board approval. Ann seconded the motion. Motion failed due to lack of a vote as the board moved to the general membership meeting.

### **ODS Officers and Board of Directors for 2010**

**President:** Chris Gemmel-Gnidovec; 740-862-8640; cgemmel@sprynet.com

**Vice President:** Jimmy Gerhart; jsgerh7@aim.com

**Treasurer:** Carolyn Byrd; 614-873-1111;

**Secretary & Competitions:** Mary Jo Weingart; 419-468-7556; weingart@bright.net

**Past President:** Amy Rothe-Hietter; 614-218-9217; amy\_rothe@yahoo.com

**Board Member:** Sheena Little; 614-537-1274; shnlittle@earthlink.net

**Board Member:** Madeline Bletzacker; 614-314-7249; kbletzacker@aol.com

**Board Member:** Ann Miltimore; 740-323-4313; amiltimore@roadrunner.com