

POMONA CHAPTER NEWS FLASH

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BY: RACHEL F.

CONGRATULATIONS PO RIDERS!

Since the beginning of August the Pomona Chapter members have been busy! Our chapter has been well represented at local clinics, shows and CDS Championships. The Willy Arts clinic was at the beginning of August and was two full days of German riding instruction. Longtime Pomona Chapter member, Tiffany Kell Brinton, shares her experience with our newsletter. During the middle of August, the San Diego Chapter hosted the CDS Southern Regional Adult Amateur Competition and there was a plethora of Pomona Amateurs strutting their stuff in special tshirts. The chapter was well represented in a wide range of levels that weekend; way to go AAs. Mixed in the middle of these two great events was the Pomona Chapter show, Midsummer's Day Dressage. This was a great show with two full rings, delicious food, and wonderful weather.

Suddenly September was upon us and before the Juniors went off to their Championships in Del Mar, the Chapter put on a warmly received Ride Your Test Clinic.

Dear Pomona Chapter,

Thanks so much to all of the people who helped make my first experience at Junior Championships truly wonderful. As a newcomer to the Pomona Chapter this year, I really didn't know what to expect. When we first arrived, I was so touched to see that thoughtful volunteers had decorated my stall; there was also a cute basket full of yummy treats and helpful supplies. I was so grateful for the candy and the hand sanitizer! Everyone made Jazzy and me feel special and welcomed.

All of the people who put on the show were professional, helpful, and kind. I was proud of my horse and my teammates, and I am hoping to get the chance to come back next year. Thanks again to the Pomona Chapter for helping me make new friends and enjoy a great experience.

Sincerely, Kylee Michalski

Championships is always an experience that I look forward to the entire show season. The Pomona Chapter Divas are always a supportive and fun group to be around, and this year was no different. The change of scenery added to the excitement and the great weather was a special bonus. With only two years left as a junior, I really try to get the most out of every championship. Every year I am reminded why I am a Pomona Chapter Dressage Diva!

Olivia Jones

Pomona Chapter,

Firstly, I would like to thank Pomona chapter and all of the dressage divas for making my first experience at championships so enjoyable. Everyone was so helpful and supportive. They really made me feel welcome and I'm so happy that my first championship show went so smoothly. It was absolutely one of the best experiences I have had during this show season. I am looking forward to participating in championships next year and can't wait for all of the upcoming events!

Sincerely, Marissa Matthews

I had a great time at the 2011 CDS Junior Championships this year! I practiced very hard all year so that I could do my best. With the help of my trainer Faith, I was able to qualify at 1st level on my pony Goldie. One of my favorite things about the Championships is the team competition! I was on the Pomona team, the Diamond Divas. We all had matching team shirts and saddle pads with lots of bling! Everyone on the team did really well and we got Reserve Champion. The thing that made me happiest was working together my teammates, having fun, and being successful at the end. It's so cool that everyone on my team was cheering and encouraging the others to do great!

Goldie was a good boy and I was pretty happy with all of my scores. We got 3rd place in the First level Championship (17 and under) and we got 1st place in the equitation (13 and under). My whole family came down to see me ride. It's not so bad when my brother Matthew comes to my shows since my Mom and Dad won't let him boo me anymore!

It was kind of neat that the Championships were in Del Mar this year. The arenas and barns were really nice and we talked about riding down to the beach, but didn't get a chance to do it. Maybe next time!

Emily Andreano

I look forward all year to the Junior Championships with the Dressage Divas. Everyone works so hard all year just to be able to compete at Championships. Although I was nervous to show at Del Mar, I felt comfortable and had a great experience. It was my birthday weekend and my team was nice enough to watch all of my classes and cheer me on. I even got a birthday song while walking out of the arena after I finished a test. Thank you to all the people that support the Juniors!
-Hayley Buckingham

My experience at Championships was incredible and is now an irreplaceable memory. This was my second year at Jr/Yr Championships and I enjoyed the facilities and my show experience very much. There were major differences between the LA Equestrian Center and Del Mar, but I enjoyed them both very much. At LA, everything was close together for our chapter because of our barn location and they had wash racks. Del Mar was HUGE and beautiful. They did not have wash racks, but the weather was fabulous. As far as spooking horses (which I know very well), LA has walls for posters and Del Mar has wind, so both have their cons. Last year, I rode a skittish Appaloosa that I was put on at the last minute. From last year to this year, my show experience was greatly improved, and I had an amazing time! Our highlight was 2nd place in Equitation and we managed an overall 7th place. This year, I was placed on a horse at the beginning of the season, Espirit, and we had a whole year of practice together. He has a tendency to bolt out of the arena, and luckily when he happened to do it at Championships, we stayed inside the ring. With the total tally, we came out as Reserve Champion. Overall, Championships was the best it could possibly be.

Renee Monzon

Jolie and I compete at this years Jr. Championships at First Level. I had a fun time riding Jolie in the classes. Even though we had a few difficult moment, I am proud of how I handled those rough times. Jolie and I finished 3rd in the Equitation class, 5th in the Individual First Level Championships, and our team won Reserve Champion. I liked being able to spend time with my friends and watching all of my teammates ride their tests. I had a lot of fun hanging out with my friends and hope to be able to go to Championships again this year.
Angelica Oliver Mays

Willy Arts Clinic

Knowing how much time and effort goes into putting on a clinic, I am so grateful to Christie Cooper for taking on the task. This was my second time riding with Willy Arts, both at Brookside and both organized by Christie. I looked forward to riding with Willy again, as a trainer the tune up and extra eyes on the ground is sooo appreciated. Willy does an excellent job sticking with the basics and making sure that the foundation is solid. He also is artful at guiding the rider through a small pearly that makes a big difference in any and all movements from should-ins to pirouettes. It is always refreshing to hear instructions said in a way that clarifies my own teaching. Communication is the foundation to my business and to hear things said in different ways makes the experience invaluable.

Willy is firm, but fair to both the horse and rider. I rode a horse that had just come into my barn, who knew lots of "tricks", was not the typical "warm blood" type, and who, I felt, needed some holes filled in at the foundation department. Willy did not disappoint. He gave us an excellent building platform, recognized the horse's potential (regardless of breed), and encouraged us to do home and work toward our goals.

Thank you Willy, Christie, and Brookside!

Tiffany Kell Brinton and partner, Friesian gelding, "Mentor"