

Pomona Chapter News Flash

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Written, Edited, and Published by: Rachel Friedrichs

CDS Sponsored Clinics

Each year the California Dressage Society sponsors an Adult Amateur clinic. This year, in addition to the Adult Amateur clinic, CDS hosted it's first Junior/Young Rider clinic. Just like the Adult Amateur clinic, the JR/YR clinic was hosted regionally, North and South, and was exclusively for riders from the particular category. Each year, when CDS hosts it's Adult Amateur clinic, the Pomona Chapter sponsors a member from the chapter to attend the regional 3 day event. This year the Pomona Chapter sent active member Wendy West. Wendy W. has been a member of the Pomona Chapter for a number of years and recent took on the responsibility, with some friends, of coordinating volunteers for the chapter shows. Wendy has written an excerpt about her weekend and everything that she learned from clinician, Rachel Saavedra, along with her riding partner, Devon.

Romancing the Rhythm with Rachel Saavedra

By: Wendy West

Thank you CDS and Pomona Chapter for providing me with the opportunity to participate in an inspiring weekend 'romancing the rhythm' with my equine partner and renowned dressage clinician Rachel Saavedra at the CDS Southern California Adult Amateur Clinic held at Shadow Ridge Equestrian Center. It was an incredible experience!

Participants arrived Friday evening at Kathy Pavlich's beautiful Shadow Ridge Equestrian Center in Highland, tired but in good spirits with our caring grooms and equine partners in tow. The weekend started Friday evening with a lovely "meet and greet" at Kathy's beautiful home. Carol Tice warmly greeted us at the door, had dinner ready, and did a fabulous job leading us through what would be an extraordinarily inspiring weekend. The twelve riders and grooms shared hopes, fears, and information about themselves and their horses with our clinician Rachel who immediately put us all at ease with her calm understanding and wisdom.

Saturday morning our rides began at 8:00am. Throughout the day we heard terms such as "bilateral uberstreichen", "look through the ears" and "knees down". Rachel was enthusiastic, encouraging and a remarkable teacher. She did a fantastic job assessing each of our individual strengths and weakness and figuring out what were the best elements for us to work on. My work was all about my seat position and I went away Saturday evening with so much to think about but with a very clear direction of what I needed to do to improve.

After a good night's rest, we came back Sunday to review what we had learned and add some new elements. It was quite amazing to see the positive

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changes in everyone's riding and the smiles that accompanied. My horse was forward and happy as long as I remembered not to deviate from my position. This event was my first time away from the barn without my trainer and I had been very nervous. But after my ride Sunday, I was energized by the results.

At our lunch break, Rachel surprised us with music and dance. All the riders and grooms participated in learning dance steps while keeping the rhythm of the Pata Pata. We were all smiling and laughing when it was over. The message being, learning the dance steps and keeping the rhythm was parallel to our dressage work but we needed to remember to smile, laugh, and have fun while riding as we had done during the Pata Pata.

The weekend ended with a nice breeze sweeping in over Shadow Ridge as happy horses and fulfilled, though tired, riders packed up and departed. We all left with new tools in our kits and lots of great information to bring home to our trainers and friends.

A big 'Thank You!!!' to Wendy West for being such a great representation of the Pomona Chapter at this year's CDS Adult Amateur Clinic.

If you think you might be interested in participating in this extraordinary opportunity next year, check out information at the chapter website.

New this year, was the CDS Junior/Young Rider Clinic. This clinic is set up with the same mentality as the Adult Amateur clinic. The Pomona Chapter was fortunate to send one of the JR/YR members to this newly established clinic. The rider representing the chapter at the first ever CDS JR/YR clinic is Susie Davidson and this is the account of her experience.

Junior Clinic by Susie Davidson

I had such an incredible weekend with my horse at the clinic. It was really cool to meet other juniors who I hadn't known before. It was also a really good way to measure where I was at in my riding. I loved being able to talk about dressage theory the first day and then applying it with a lesson.

The clinician, Christiana Nolting, was very helpful, kind and knowledgeable. I hope to ride like her one day. She helped me with straightness and really challenged me with shoulder ins on the centerline and extended canter. Also I got some advice the first day on one of my problem areas: ten meter circles. Christiana made it seem simple and very applicable. I just needed more outside aids and balance. The whole weekend was so much fun and full of great information. I really hope that this clinic happens again and that I get to take part in it again.

Thank you Susie!!! We are so glad you had such a wonderful time at the CDS JR/YR Clinic!!!

Summer Fun!

What a great start to a summer full of exciting events around the Pomona Chapter. The Alfredo Hernandez Clinic was a well attended, two day event held at the facility of our bronze sponsor, Hillcrest Equestrian Center. This clinic offered an array of educational information for every level of rider. The auditors at the clinic represented every riding level and all commented on the breadth of information they left with. Here is an account of a participant of the clinic.

Thank you Pomona Chapter and Tiffany Kell for arranging the Alfredo Hernandez clinic! After meeting and hearing the clinician speak at the CDS Annual Meeting, I knew he was a special kind of educator. With a clinic being arranged so locally, I knew that I could not pass up the opportunity to ride and learn from this outstanding clinician.

From the moment that I started my warm-up in front of Alfredo, he immediately picked out my area of opportunity. Alfredo identified that I needed to work on the position of my hands and elbows. Alfredo gave me tools to use on my own to practice maintaining the correct position. Fixing my position immediately required that my horse also work correctly underneath himself. This small fix in my position did wonders for my riding and the connection to my horse.

I really enjoyed the fact that though Alfredo is a specialist in the area of passage and piaffe, he worked on whatever the rider needed to work on. This included, in my case, working on my position and connection to my horse. I appreciated the fact that though Alfredo could have spent his entire time working passage and piaffe with my horse, he chose to spend the majority of the time working on what I needed to work on most.

Thank you again Pomona Chapter! Please put me on the wait list for the next time that you invite Alfredo Hernandez to clinic for you again.
Rachel Friedrichs and Jag

UPCOMING EVENTS

SHOWS

CDS and DASC rated – August 5, 2012
Maverick Ridge Riders Arena - West Covina, CA
Closing date is July 26th

CLINICS

Gerhard Politz - July 28-29, 2012
Hillcrest Equestrian Center, Chino Hills
Contact: Tiffany Kell Brinton
714*364*7300 or teamtcell@aol.com

Rider Subsidy:

Congratulations to the most recent recipient of the Pomona Chapter Rider Subsidy: Susan Foley!!! Thank you for applying for this education reimbursement!! If you want to apply for an education reimbursement please apply for this quarter by June 30th!!!

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