



8704 Cowpoke Road  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009

## General Membership Meeting

January 17, 2006

7:15 PM

Location: Jon and Allison Murphy's

8704 Cowpoke Road

Hostess: Allison

Co-Hostess: Billie Jo Hopka

Door Prize – We have 1 left from 2005!

Program: TBA

Bill Gentle	Tory Poulton	Allison Murphy	Sue Gentle	Nancy Olsen
President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer	Member-at Large
634-1743	214-7455	640-9222	634-1743	432-9026

### November 19, 2005 – Meeting Minutes

#### Election of Officers:

It is with great pleasure to announce your 2006 Cheyenne Dressage and Eventing Club officers. And I also want to thank last year's President Harline and VP Suzie Z and Member at Large Deborah Hawkins and as always Sue for keeping us in the black and coming back year after year after year...thanks everyone for working so hard and keeping up the positive energy of the club, thank you!!!

President – Bill Gentle  
 Vice President – Tory Poulton  
 Secretary – Allison Murphy  
 Treasurer – Sue Gentle  
 Member at Large – Nancy Olsen

President Elect's report  
 Bill Gentle  
 December 21, 2005

First I would like to thank the club members for electing me as president for the coming year. I do appreciate your confidence in me and I am ready and willing to doing whatever I can to help the club grow. I do think we have a very good set of officers this year and I am looking forward to working with them.

A this time of year is pretty hard to think about spring and summer and all of the horse activities everyone want to do, but time flies when you are having fun, and I know spring will be here before I am ready. I would really like to encourage all the members to get your dues paid as soon as possible. It is important that we have everyone up to date soon so we can develop a budget for the upcoming year.

I would also like to encourage everyone to try and recruit one new member this year. The club has grown nicely over the last few years but we always need new blood. New people have new ideas, and that is always good.

We have two big shows planned this year, our spring show in May and our dressage show in August, and they both take a lot of planning and effort to pull off successfully. We have good committee people working on the shows but they will always need more help. Please consider volunteering for both shows, we can't do it without you.

Again, thank you and I am looking forward to the coming year.

**Treasurer's Report – Sue Gentle –** . No changes as yet

Beginning Balance -	\$4685.22	
Income	\$ 40.00	
Expenses	\$ 250.00	
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Ending Balance	\$4,475.22	
CD Balance	\$5,456.70	Our CD will renew at a rate of \$3.25%

**Up and Coming Programs/Meetings – Tory Poulton**

It is now Tory's duty to find exciting and educational (or not so educational) fun programs for the club to enjoy. Please endeavor to help her create and organize the programs.

**November's Program – We** had a fantastic turnout and wonderful food. Thank you all for bringing the plethora of dishes. Once again it worked out fantastically there was just enough desserts, veggies, desserts, meat, side dishes, potatoes and desserts. ☺ What a great warm up to the Holidays! There was also a lot of fun in the gift exchange, thanks for participating!! CD&EC held a raffle for the left over glasses from the past two years USDF shows. I'd say there were several very happy people with full sets of glasses! Thanks Susan Baker!

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**New Show Arena - Tabled**

**WEBSITE** – Thanks to Veronica we now have a website that is up and functioning! We will be posting the monthly newsletter, all advertising, <http://www.cheydressageandeventing.com/> It is wonderfully put together! Please go visit the website and enjoy the links, updates, and hopefully we will be able to post clinics and schooling shows there as well!

**2006 USDF SHOW** – Show Manager – Bitsy Heckert Judge Debbie Riehl-Rodrigues Show Secretary – Veronica Harris Barn Manager – Tory Poulton Show Sponsors – Susan Baker

**LOGO** – It was discussed to address the lettering on our logo. There are copies on the website as well as some that were handed out to the general membership. We would LOVE to have your input on the way the logo should look! Please bring your ideas to the January meeting and we will hopefully have enough great ideas to bring it to a vote!

**Spanish Riding School – Harline Larkey**

On December 11, Nolan and I, along with Nancy and John Hanna (our former show photographers) were fortunate enough to attend a performance of the Spanish Riding School of Vienna, Austria. The school flew 30 stallions and 40 riders/handlers to the US for a 6 city tour. We attended the final performance of this tour in Houston. Their journey was a celebration of the 60th anniversary of the October, 1945 decision of General George Patton to place the school under American protection and to rescue a large number of horses, predominately mares, from certain destruction at the hands of the advancing Russian army in Czechoslovakia. A great-grandson of General Patton was a guest of the school at each of the performances.

I had waited for almost 50 years to see these horses and riders and a deepening understand of dressage and biomechanics in recent years heightened my anticipation. Like many of us, I had heard all the glowing descriptions..... "spectacular," "inspiring," "magnificent," and believed that this was the ultimate embodiment of the classical principles of riding and training, the epitome of communication and harmony between man and horse.

It's all true. It transcended my expectations and that makes it difficult to write about. All the superlatives have been used. So I will ask you to imagine, if you can, a tour of over 50 brilliant one-tempis with NO BREAK in rhythm, absolutely straight, withers rising above the ground with each stride, performed by a 26 year old stallion ridden on a single rein, one handed, and done with the ease of a child skipping.

Visualize the ultimate pirouette, never getting "stuck", always forward, the hind feet in the path of the front, with no loss of rhythm. Think of a "simple" working trot, the horse ever in self carriage, carrying himself lightly, gracefully, over the ground.

In about 2 hours of watching a variety of horses performing solos, pas de deux, Airs Above The Ground, (both ridden and in hand), a solo Grand Prix level test done all on the short lines and the ultimate tear jerker, the classic quadrille, there were very, very few breaks in the connection or the rhythm: the horses were powerfully engaged and collected at all times and you could almost feel the crackle of silent communication between horse and rider. Nowhere than in the ridden Airs Above The Ground was the skill of the riders more evident...they simply do not impede any of the movement.

Prior to the performance itself, one the Chief Riders, Jochaim Riegler, gave a short clinic, aided by a terrific master of ceremonies. The clinic featured younger and more finished horses demonstrating the various phases of training with an explanation there of and demonstrations of almost all the movements with a discussion of what to look for. Herr Riegler was a delight, charming, eloquent and surprisingly funny. The highlight came when he asked the advanced pair to demonstrate correct and incorrect pirouettes...after the gasps and applause that followed the flawless one, he said "I think they liked that...do another one" and they did. Then he had them demonstrate one in which the hind feet moved horizontally and therefore incorrectly. It was "perfectly" incorrectly done. Just in case we missed it, he asked them for several more, alternating between "good ones" and "bad ones". The difference was crystal clear, each was beautifully performed and Herr Riegler, the rider and the stallion were obviously enjoying themselves as this very difficult work was done in a playful manner.

A short Q & A session followed. One spectator stated that there were "obvious differences" in the riding and performance we had just watched and that seen at the Olympics and World Cup . It was clear she was not being complimentary of the latter. She asked why the school did not send teams to these competitions. Herr Riegler replied that the riders' rigorous training schedule left no time for competitions because it was their job as individuals and job of the SRS to preserve and keep pure the traditions of classical horsemanship. The applause that followed indicated that the audience understood his tactfully made point.

Those of us attending that afternoon received a special treat. It was the final performance of the 26 year old stallion and star solo performer (yes, him of the 50 one tempis) Siglavy Mantua I. Already retired in Austria this stunning stallion was brought to the US so that we could enjoy the solo exhibition he gives with one of the Chief Riders. The entire ride is done with one hand on the reins and the other holding a tall birch switch upright to symbolize a sabre .

There is so much more, all of it unforgettable. Even the MC's rendition of the National Anthym, was great! Incidentally, ours followed Austria's, a nice touch. That makes it hard to distill down all the gifts watching this performance gave to me, but I learned this for sure: This 400 year old way of training works. The training scale was developed and is followed for a reason. Being faithful to it is what leads to the heart-stopping beauty and perfection they displayed with staggering consistency.

Lastly, I will never be able to ride like that; my horse will not look like theirs. But if we continue down their path, even if it is bumping, stumbling and crashing through more moments of inelegance and frustration than not, we will with discipline and persistence, find moments of grace, beauty, harmony and joy. And that is the point.

### **Classifieds:**

Ads placed will be placed at a maximum of 3 months. It is the club member's responsibility to renew their ads. Also, Full-page ads will be a cost of \$15.00 per page, ½ page will be \$10.00 and business card ads will be \$5.00 per space. Business card ad space will be free to members. Stars after your ads denote how many months your ad has been posted, 3 stars and you're out unless you call and renew. Thanks!

### **Miscellaneous**

Please submit new ads

### **Horses For Sale:**

Please Submit new ads

**Schooling Shows:**

Attached a prize list for local schooling show in January @ LCCC

Attached prize list for Schooling show in Feb. in CO.

**Clinics**

Tom Ordway Clinic in February 4&5 in Cheyenne At Gentles Arena

Tom Ordway Clinic in Cheyenne April 29 & 30<sup>th</sup> Location TBD

Articles, additions, improvements and corrections to the newsletter and event calendar

Please email or call Allison Murphy 640-9222 (cell) 635-9222 (home) or [riding2horses@bresnan.net](mailto:riding2horses@bresnan.net)

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<http://www.cheydressageandeventing.com/>

<http://cdandhc.proboards39.com/index.cgi>

Advertising and Business cards must be renewed at this time. We will add them to the website under a link for club members.

Your membership list is included in this newsletter....please specify the type of delivery you prefer. That you will prefer to:

- A. Down load from Website,
- B. Snail Mail (aka US post office)
- C. Email.