

LEG Up News

Giving a leg up to horse sport

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May 20, 2009

WOODSIDE SPRING DRESSAGE

BURBANK, CA - Riders at the Woodside Spring Dressage Show, managed by Cornerstone Event Management know that they always have a professional, well-managed show to look forward to, but now they have a little something more: a chance to win a trip to Maui for their trainer. Glenda McElroy of Cornerstone Event Management decided to include the Trainer Incentive award because professionals are the hardest working people in this sport. Most trainers take few vacations, and when they do they are rarely extravagant. "Trainers are not recognized enough in our highly labor intensive sport. My staff and I thought that a special vacation and cash awards for professionals would be meaningful since they are the backbone of our sport," echoed McElroy.

"Love, love love the trainer incentive trip to Maui," said trainer Heidi Gaian of Villa Rosa. "I know all the clients are enjoying it, too, to see if they can get me to Hawaii." The Maui trip for the Woodside dressage shows will be awarded at the Woodside Fall Show based on points accumulated throughout the year. For complete details, see page 2 of the prize list (<http://www.cornerstonedressage.com/prizelist.asp>)

"I think it's absolutely wonderful," added Erika Reinig of Lucchetti Ranch. "It's a great thing to do." In addition to the Maui trip, exhibitors enjoyed some improvements to the facilities, such as the new and improved Four Winds Ring, which is big enough (250' x 200') for two dressage rings and a warm-up. Reinig liked the new footing in the arenas, but she especially appreciated the new wash racks, with gravel for drainage and mats for safety. In addition, the cross ties are separated so horses are further apart than before, or they can be straight tied. "It's a lot safer," Reinig said.

A new food vendor has stepped into the 2009 show season at the Horse Park at Woodside, and they have been well received. "The biggest improvement is the new food vendor that has a much improved and expanded menu, plus smoothies that are great on a hot day since Saturday and Sunday temps got up in the 90s," said Gaian. "We are really happy to be here," said Nicholas Johnson of Sweet Shop (sweetshopboys@hotmail.com)

Competition was keen at the shows, and Erika Reinig was the Open High Point Champion, as well as the Lower Level High Percentage champion with Fraktura (Joan Cinuini, owner). Reinig and the six-year-old Hanoverian won the First Level Test 4 with an impressive 75% on Sunday and 72.632% on Saturday, as well as winning Test 3 with 72.857%. Markel Insurance sponsors the various high score awards (www.horseinsurance.com)

This is the second year Reinig has shown Fraktura. Last year, she rode the mare to CDS Horse of the Year honors in Training Level and a USDF Region 7 Championship. She plans to take her all the way to Grand Prix.

Reinig also rode Rolf, a nine-year-old Oldenburg she co-owns with Diane Adamo. This was his first show in two-and-a-half years, and she was very happy with his performance. Together, they won the Second Level Test 3 on Saturday with 68.372% and the Test 4 on Friday with 64.048%. They were second in Test 4 with 65%.

Gaian and Villa Rosa had several students who did well at the show, including Jennifer Shearer and Matheus, who took the Prix St. Georges Am/Jr/YR on Saturday and Sunday with 65%. The 15-year-old Dutch Warmblood was imported 10 years ago, but Shearer just acquired him last year and is looking forward to taking him through the remaining FEI levels. "He's incredibly uphill with great gaits," she said. "He's super athletic. On his canter pirouettes, he puts his butt straight down to the ground."

Shearer has been showing at the Cornerstone shows for the past three years. "They do a great job," she said. "The shows are very well run and professional every time." She liked the new food vendor, as well as having a full-sized dressage court to warm up in for her rides.

Other Villa Rosa students who had great shows included Anya Bershada with Wonderboy and Melissa Richards with D'Ariel. Bershada was the FEI Jr/Am High Percentage Champion, thanks to a win in the PSG on Friday with 68.684%. She was second on Saturday with 63.421%. Richards won the Third Level Test 1 Amateur with 67.436% on Saturday and 62.564% on Sunday.

In the Grand Prix classes, Kelly Casey and Luzifer took first prize with 61.915% on Friday and 68.723% on Saturday. As a result, they were the FEI High Point Champion and FEI High Percentage Champion.

The next dressage show at Woodside is Woodside Summer Dressage (July 9-12). Complete results, prize lists, and other relevant information are on the Cornerstone website at: <http://www.cornerstonedressage.com/>

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