

Direct Rein

Volume 18, #5 and 19, #1

CDCTA Newsletter

DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022

THE WHEELBARROW LOAD

Thus endeth the warmblood experiment....

I saw him for the first time when he peered out at me from the grooming stall of a St. Louis dressage barn; he was big, black and beautiful and I couldn't believe that this majestic animal might actually be my next horse.

He wasn't perfect. The first time, I watched him being ridden by his trainer in the windowless brown box of an indoor arena and he was lovely. I asked them to see how he went outside and a look passed between trainer and assistant. "He has a few issues with outside" I was told. Since my limited at home facilities consist only of "outside", I smiled and asked them to ride him outside if at all possible, which they did-and he wasn't awful, so I put that down in the plus column, along with his aforementioned more superficial assets. He really was an astonishingly good-looking horse.

Readers, I bought him.

My instructor Crystal Kendrick told me I had purchased the equivalent of a college education, and that he would teach me all about riding real dressage. He was so talented and such a good mover. When he was good he was breathtaking, and I was awarded one of the Dressage Foundation Gifted Scholarships the year after I got him. The lessons I learned were hard ones though, and not without some heart in the mouth moments. The same athleticism that gave him his perfect gaits made it all too easy for him to leap fifteen feet sideways at a flapping plastic bag. I never did come off his seventeen-three frame but it was a close thing more than once. I got credit for being a much braver rider than I actually am!

Our show record was patchy. His potential was clear to the judges but I was never able to unlock it fully. Crystal had more luck, and even took him to a couple of events with successful results. I did lots of clinics and took lots of lessons but year three of our partnership rolled around and he began to develop an occasional hindlimb lameness. It wasn't debilitating, but it was enough that our canter transitions became difficult and our extensions problematic. I had a basic lameness performed but nothing dramatic was found, so I opted for the time honored tradition of rest and turnout for a few months.

I didn't feel he would benefit from completely being let down mentally though, and so during his down time I started working with Melanie Stolz-Brown, a former CDCTA member and natural horsemanship instructor. I learned a lot, and Wolfie learned some, but mostly he learned that he was not a horse that eagerly accepted someone as his leader.

Eventually we started riding again but it wasn't long before the nagging lameness cropped up again and it was time for the full on lameness workup, which resulted in a diagnosis of degenerative suspensory ligament desmitis. I know vet school was a long time ago for me, but I had never heard of that particular problem. Apparently it has been recognized since I graduated, and it afflicts mostly gaited horses but more and more we are seeing the extravagant-moving dressage horses coming down with it as well. There is no cure, and only palliative treatments of varying efficacy.

It was a hard blow. The most talented horse I had ever owned, or am likely to own, doomed to eventual non-rideability and worse. Although it is not unheard of to keep riding affected horses, his unpredictability even before diagnosis made any kind of serious work out of the question...and he never was a particularly reliable trail horse. All my daydreams of taking a really competitive horse to the dressage finals, or maybe even to Florida for a week or two in the winter, evaporated into the reality of keeping a large, lame horse as essentially a pasture ornament.

Horses break our hearts all the time and many others, club members included, have had to deal with this sort of situation. He was still a beauty and fun to have around, king of the barn always. He even had a (very) brief career as a riding horse for one of my boyfriends. *[If you want to read that story again look up the summer newsletters from 2019-editor].*

Only a week or so after his annual vaccinations this year, he developed a large swelling in his prepuce that did not respond to the easier treatments. His usual cocky arrogance leaked away, along with his appetite, and on December 9 I made the difficult decision to let him go. Thank you to my Dressage Posse, which has been called into action more often than I would like to help with this type of situation: Lisa Morrissey, Rosy Erganian, Amy Stapleton, Crystal Kendrick, and Dr. Martha Scharff.

There is a very large warmblood-shaped hole in my heart. Crystal was right...he taught me more than I would have imagined: about love, and patience, and loss.

-Beth Hussey

Meeting minutes for November (held at Angelo's) were currently unavailable at press time....because the lame secretary and also newsletter editor (me) was unable to locate the minutes I took by press time, which was already very delayed by holiday issues, an unfortunate bout of COVID and absolutely endless problems with the house rebuild.

Thank goodness someone will replace me as secretary for 2022! I will do my best to have the minutes found and ready to read and approve by the January 22nd meeting.



CDCTA Newsletter Ad Rates

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Classified ads: \$5/month
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This newsletter is published monthly by the Columbia Dressage and Combined Training Association.

President: Lora Blair
Vice President: Rosy Erganian
Secretary: Beth Hussey
Treasurer: Amy Stapleton
Member at Large: Kim Kriekhaus

Questions regarding submissions and content should be directed to Beth Hussey at (573) 808-6897 or eshussey@gmail.com. Submissions may be sent via email or mail to 655 North Route O, Rocheport, MO 65279.

Submissions are due by the last day of the month before publication. Our website is www.cdcta.org for late-breaking news. Photographs should be submitted in JPEG format.

For membership information, please contact Kim Kriekhaus at (573) 442-8493.

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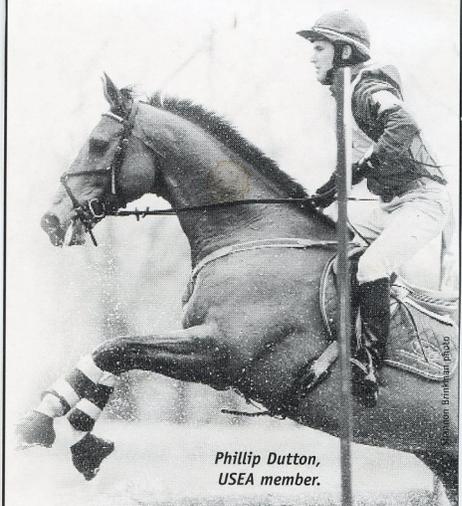
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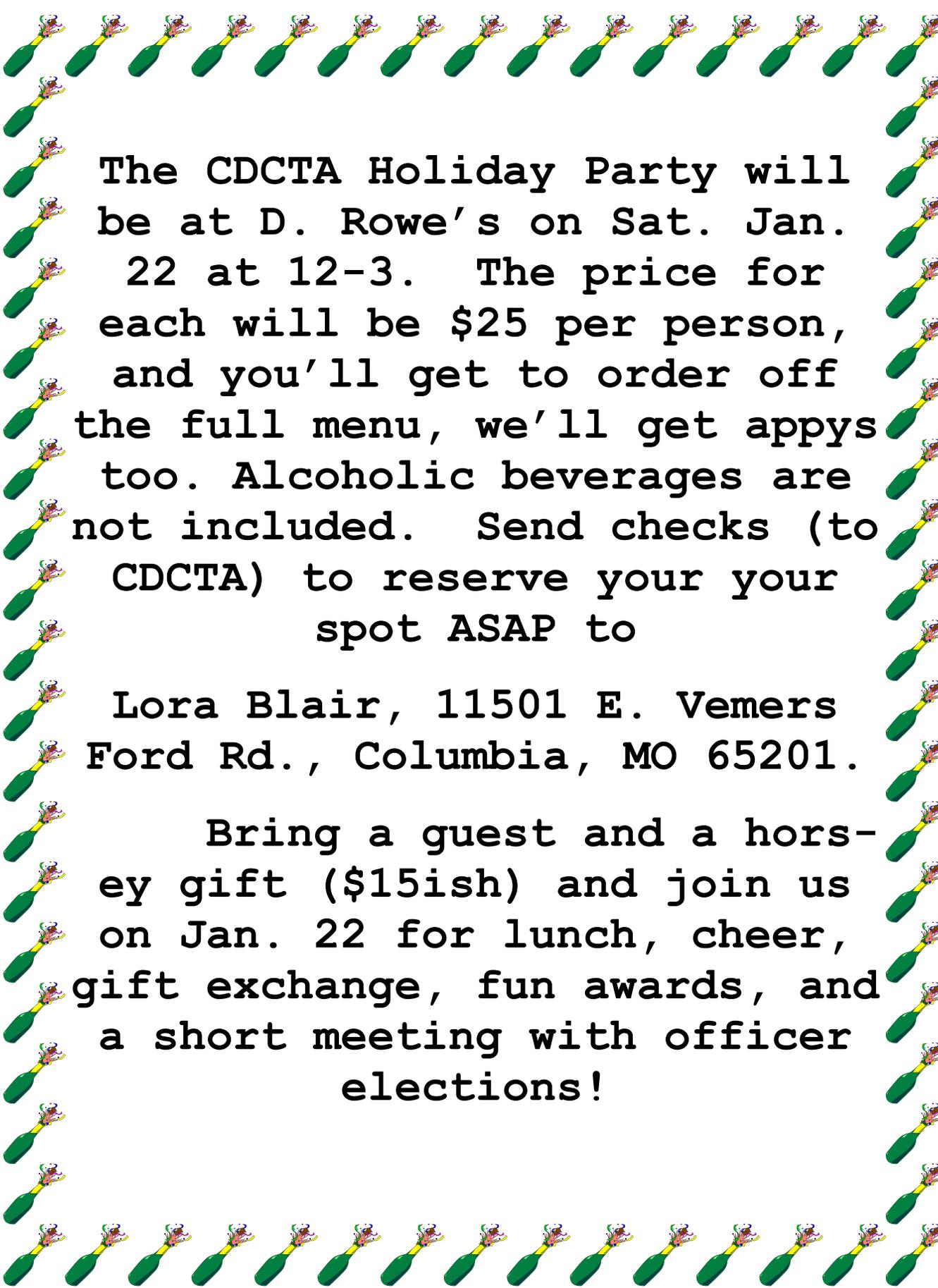


STUMPED!!!

No one guessed the Mystery Rider from last issue, although there were a few good guesses during the November meeting. The rider was none other than yours truly, the Editor in Chief of the Direct Rein newsletter!! It is from so far in the distant past that I can't honestly even remember how I did in that show. I was riding my beloved horse Choco, a horse I raised from four months of age. I had a lot of help in training along the way, notably from Jerry Stone, but at the time this photo was taken we were at least able to contemplate showing in a local hunter/jumper show at William Woods. So.....let's see how you do this month! The picture above was taken at a show in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and features a very happy current CDCTA member as a bitty kid with a blue ribbon and a smile as bright as the sun.

**Think you know who it is?
Send us your guess and if you are the first correct responder you will win a prize!**

eshussey@gmail.com or 573-808-6897



The CDCTA Holiday Party will be at D. Rowe's on Sat. Jan. 22 at 12-3. The price for each will be \$25 per person, and you'll get to order off the full menu, we'll get appys too. Alcoholic beverages are not included. Send checks (to CDCTA) to reserve your your spot ASAP to

Lora Blair, 11501 E. Vemers Ford Rd., Columbia, MO 65201.

Bring a guest and a hors-ey gift (\$15ish) and join us on Jan. 22 for lunch, cheer, gift exchange, fun awards, and a short meeting with officer elections!

Are you looking for a belated Christmas gift for a horsey friend? Trainer? Farrier?

Buy them a 2022 CDCTA calendar!

Can't beat the price (fifteen bucks!) and there are some important equestrian dates listed to help you guide your riding plans for the next year.

We will have copies for sale at the annual meeting on January 22, but if you just can't wait then contact Lora Blair and she will do her best to get one (or more!) out to you as soon as possible.

Thanks to our generous sponsors the club will make a sizable amount on each calendar...and we need the money since our activities have been curtailed significantly over the last two viral years!

In this time of year when we think of family and friends, we are often faced with the loss of those near and dear to us. The closing of the year, the beginning of winter...these are often times of sadness as well as good cheer and happiness.

Our hearts go out to our friends in the local equestrian community who have lost loved ones.

Curtis Stone, who only a few months ago said goodbye to his mother Frances Stone, has now had to say farewell to his father, local farrier and horse training legend Jerry Stone. Just a few months ago we featured Jerry in our Mystery Rider column, and I am glad we had a chance to remind all of our members how important Jerry was to this area.

Deb Carter, one of the original CDCTA members, has recently lost her husband Bill. Both Deb and Bill were fixtures at many functions and events over the years, and he will be missed by all who knew him.

May your memories of the years of wonderful love and great times sustain you through this difficult time.

All of your friends in CDCTA will keep you in our thoughts and prayers during this season and into what will hopefully be a better new year.



PHOTO, AT LEFT BY LEAH STRID.

I hate this photo of me but it is still one of my favorites. My beautiful, beautiful boy in a moment of perfect obedience and harmony with his rider, soft rein contact and gently listening ears.

It was during the 2015 Fall CDCTA Dressage Show and Combined Test at Sunny Oak Farm in Rocheport.

Seems like a million years ago, and yet when I look at it I feel the warm autumn sun on my back and the rhythmic cadence of my horse underneath me.

Rest in peace, Wolfie.

WOLFSFALLE

**Foaled April 1, 2000
Died December 9, 2021**



DRESSAGE & COMBINED TRAINING ASSOCIATION

Beth Hussey
655 North Route O
Rocheport, MO 65279



NEXT MEETING: January 22, 2022 starting at noon at D. Rowe's restaurant in south Columbia. Annual meeting and just for fun awards! More info inside.....

**Columbia Dressage & Combined Training Association
2022 Membership Form**

CDCTA is a United States Dressage Federation (USDF) Group Member Organization (GMO). By joining CDCTA you are becoming a Group member of the USDF. \$20 of your CDCTA dues are forwarded to the USDF as GMO membership dues. (\$11 for additional members in family)

Membership year runs December 1-November 30. Dues are payable in October.

Individual Membership: \$45/year

Family Membership: \$45/year plus \$30.00 for additional member residing at same address. Please list all members included (use additional sheets if needed).

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (s) _____

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NOTE: We send our monthly newsletters out by email. Please check here if you would prefer to receive a mailed copy. _____ Did someone refer you for membership? _____

I am We are occasionally asked to share our membership list with persons or corporations with items of possible interest to our members.

Please circle one: DO DO NOT include my name on this list.

Make check payable to CDCTA and mail to:

**Kim Kriekhaus, Membership Chair
2202 West Williams Road
Sturgeon, MO 65284**