

The **Council and Committee Reports from the BOG** meeting in Austin are now posted on the USDF Web site. They are posted at <http://www.usdf.org/about/about-usdf/governance/index.asp> , under the heading Board of Governors (BOG).

Jonathan Wentz Para Equestrian Donations

Dear Team Jonathan Friends & Supporters,

2009 has been an incredible year of growth, challenges, changes, and goals achieved! 2010 looms ahead as a year of important Shows leading up to the history making 2010 World Equestrian Games in Lexington, KY!

2009 Highlights

- Obtained NTEC Richter Scale thanks to Kai Handt & Annis Buell
- Began training at NTEC with Kai Handt, who has trained many successful dressage riders & horses
- Qualified for and competed in first PE Nationals placing 7th
- Participated in first CPEDI3* & received certificate of capability for 2010 WEG
- Ranked #1 in Grade II & #2 overall USEF PE Dressage Ranking List, October 2009
- Qualified for USDF Region 9 Championships
- Began first year of college at SMU with help of scholarship & grants
- Secured new non-profit organization USPEA for fund raising, after losing former one.

2010 Schedule

- March 12 - 14 CPEDI3* , Del Mar, CA: **Estimated cost \$6,500**
- June or July US Team Selection Trials, Wayne, IL: **Estimated cost \$5,000**
- Oct 5 - 10 FEI World Equestrian Games, (First time in US; first time to include PE), Lexington, KY.:

Estimated cost \$7,000

Several local shows in preparation for above shows: **Estimated cost average \$1,500 per show**

Your Help Is Needed!

Do you have any contacts for potential sponsors? Individual, Business and Corporate Sponsors are needed to help offset the cost of training & competing! Please let me know of any contacts you might have who might consider becoming a part of Team Jonathan. Spreading the

word about Team Jonathan would be a tremendous help! Thank you to those who have supported Team Jonathan, your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Donations are Tax Deductible through the United States Para Equestrian Association (USPEA) which is a nonprofit formed to promote Para Equestrian Sport in the United States.

Become a Part of History

For the first time in the history of the FEI World Equestrian Games, not only will the games be held outside Europe, but all eight disciplines, including Para Equestrian dressage will be part of the games. This is the first time ever Para Equestrian dressage will be included in the games! With your help, Team Jonathan will be a part of United States & International Equine History!

With your help we will make major strides toward my goal of participating in the 2012 Paralympics!!

Para Equestrian Dressage became the 8th discipline under the FEI in 2006, making it the first International Federation to govern and regulate a sport for both able bodied and disabled athletes. This along with the change that occurred at the 2004 Athens Games where riders were allowed to ride their own horses has brought Para Equestrian Dressage closer to Olympic Dressage. Para Equestrians now require an FEI level horse with which they can form a partnership with by consistent riding and training.

2009 Year End Update for Team Jonathan & 2010 Schedule

The para dressage discipline provides riders with physical disabilities the opportunity to compete in high performance equestrian sport alongside able bodied riders from all over the world. For the first time in the history of equestrian sport, para dressage will be included in the World Equestrian Games in 2010 held in Lexington, Kentucky, at the Kentucky Horse Park. The experience of qualifying for and competing at the highest level offers each rider the chance to represent their country regardless of their disability. (<http://www.alltechfeigames.com/about/overview.aspx?id=60#para>)

In the United States, Para-Equestrian is the eighth discipline within the United States Equestrian Federation.

Para-Dressage is considered a High Performance Sport, therefore subject to the USEF selection criteria standards.

All Para-Dressage riders must meet the strict show standards prior to being considered eligible to compete at a selection trial. After applying the selection criteria, considering the horse and rider combinations, their rankings and scores at the trials, a team is selected.

What does Olympic gold mean to athletes who have more to prove than just sporting ability? For starters, it takes a lot of money to support this sport. The most successful countries fund athletes living expenses through lotteries, heavy endowment funds, and corporate sponsorships so that they can concentrate on their job: riding for medals. In turn, medals won bring more funding, credibility, and respect.

Although the US Olympic Committee provides some funding to our Paralympic equestrians, it does not compare to that received by our competition. Our Paralympians stories are much different from those of their able-bodied equestrian peers because it takes more of a support team to handle the day-to-day horse care and training.

Para-Equestrians generally cannot supplement their expenses by training or coaching, so most of our athletes have full-time careers apart from horses. (http://www.usef.org/_IFrames/breedsdisciplines/discipline/allparaEquestrian/about.aspx)

US Para Equestrian have been told that funding will not be given for the World Equestrian Games even if selected for the US Team, unless qualifying scores match or surpass the scores earned by the 2008 Paralympic Dressage medalist. This puts US Para Equestrians at even a bigger disadvantage and makes funding through sponsors even more vital.

As a college student I am not able to support my training with a full-time career and must work to raise support for training and competitions.

I would love to speak with you further on ways to join Team Jonathan or to hear ideas of possible individual, business or corporate sponsors for which you might have a contact. 2009 was a great year and 2010 promises to be a year of major strides toward my goal of participating in the 2012 Paralympics in London, England!

Thank you for your continued interest and support in Team Jonathan. I look forward to hearing from you!

Jonathan Wentz Para Equestrian Donations should be made out to: USPEA
horseboy117@gmail.com (Specify Jonathan Wentz on check)

214 476-7418 Mail to:

www.jonathanwentz.org USPEA c/o Jonathan Wentz

1121 Parkhaven Dr.

Richardson, TX 75080

(A tax deductible receipt will be sent to you by USPEA)

A Moment in History

by Sue Malone-Casey

In November, I was a participant in the International Dressage Judges Clubs Seminar in Stuttgart, Germany. The International Dressage Officials Club (formerly the IDJC) is looking to develop ways to insure consistent judges scores worldwide. I was a member of an experimental panel of judges that was split between scoring technical movements and artistic design for the Grand Prix Freestyle at the Stuttgart German Masters CDI 5. We were not the official show judges but a test panel seeking to improve freestyle judging, with 49 judges from 23 different countries.

The highlight of the freestyle, and the eighth pair to compete, was Edward Gal and his 9 year old Moorlands Totilas from Holland. They had posted an astounding 79.021% win in the previous days GP. In my 35 years in dressage, I have not seen a more talented and supple horse. The pair took our breath away for 9 minutes with extraordinary movement, cadence and expression. It sent chills down my spine to witness this moment in history. The CDI judges gave the GP Freestyle ride a 87.8 %. The judges who had seen the pair perform at Windsor said they were continuing to improve and wondered how good they could become: all feeling Totilas should have had a 90%. I was also impressed with the winning Grand Prix Special ride of Laura Bechtolsheimer on the Danish Warmblood Mistral Hojris from Great Britain with a score of 76.542 %.

Prior to the freestyle competition, while walking through the vendor area, I came across Heike Kemmer. We had met when I rode in her clinic at Lyndon Rifes facility. She invited me to sit for a while and discuss the previous nights Grand Prix rides. She enjoys her trips to Texas.

Before the judges seminar my husband, Ben, and I were the guests of Penny and Johan Rockx in Essen, Belgium. I was schooled for 9 days on one FEI horse after another. I learned a lot. While there, we watched St. Nicholas arrive in the Dutch tradition on a steamboat from Spain.

He rode a white horse in a parade through town while his helpers passed out tangerines and candy to the joys of hundreds of children. One evening many of us from the farm danced to a live country music band at the El Paso Saloon where most of the locals were dressed up as cowboys and Indians. It was a hoot.

American Quarter Horse Association Establishes Dressage as an Approved Event

The American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) has been researching and studying the sport of dressage for the past nine years. Through the efforts of countless individuals, including input from staff at the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) and the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), dressage will become an AQHA-approved event beginning January 1, 2010.

AQHA-registered horses, shown by exhibitors who are current individual members of AQHA, will be eligible to earn points at USEF/USDF dressage competitions. AQHA has created a high-point recognition program for the AQHA open, amateur and youth divisions for first through 10th place in each division and the highest award to be given to the highest-point-earning registered American Quarter Horse in each division, including points earned in Training Level 4 through Grand Prix.

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USRider Provides State Equine Transportation Information

Next spring when you plan to take your horse to a big event several hundred miles away, you may travel through states you've never before visited. Since equine transportation regulations vary from state to state, how will you know if you are in compliance each time you cross a state line? To help its members and other equestrians keep up with these requirements, USRider is providing up-to-date information regarding equine transportation on a state-by-state basis on its website.

[Read More...](#)

Ravel Named Adequan/USDF Grand Prix Horse of the Year

Lexington, KY (December 21, 2009) - The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) would like to congratulate the eleven-year-old, 16.3 hand, Dutch Warmblood gelding, Ravel, owned by Akiko Yamazaki of Woodside, California, and ridden by Steffen Peters of San Diego, California, for being named 2009 Adequan/USDF Grand Prix Horse of the Year. Ravel's median score of 75.574 percent made him the top horse in the United States competing at this level and the recipient of USDF's highest honor.

Ravel was recognized at the 2009 Adequan/USDF Salute Gala and Annual Awards Banquet with a certificate, a commemorative personalized plaque, an embroidered cooler and \$400 gift certificate provided by Dressage Extensions, and a gift certificate for Adequan joint therapy. Also, Ravel is the recipient of the Colonel Thackeray Award and will have his name engraved on a silver trophy to be on permanent display in the Roemer Foundation/USDF Hall of Fame housed at the USDF National Education Center, located at the Kentucky Horse Park.

"We are thrilled to be able to recognize this extraordinary horse for his many accomplishments this competition season, and look forward to his future successes," stated USDF Executive Director Stephan Hienzsch.

For more information about the Adequan/USDF Horse of the Year awards or to access a list of past and current recipients, visit the USDF Web site at www.usdf.org, or contact the USDF office at usdressage@usdf.org.

USDF Announces 2009 USEF Youth Sportsman's Award National Nominee

Lexington, KY (December 15, 2009) - The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) is pleased to announce that Taylor Noonan, seventeen, of Portland, ME, has been chosen as the USDF national nominee for the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Youth Sportsman's Award, sponsored by Breyer Animal Creations. Nominees must demonstrate an ongoing dedication to the promotion of the horse, exhibit positive sportsmanship principles, and serve as a role model for their peers.

Noonan was also considered for the overall USEF Youth Sportsman's Award, and recipient of a \$1,000 educational scholarship, trophy and a lifetime membership to USEF. As the USDF national nominee, Noonan will receive a one-year USDF Participating Membership (PM), a certificate, a lapel pin, and an exclusively designed hat from USEF. She also wins an expense-paid Career Workshop Program sponsored by USEF in Lexington, KY, in June 2010.

The USDF Executive Board was impressed with all components of Taylor's application, including academic and equestrian achievements, commitment to volunteerism, and

participation in extracurricular activities. She demonstrates strong leadership qualities, and serves as a positive role model for her peers.

Taylor has already achieved an impressive academic and equestrian competition record, while also devoting numerous hours giving back to her community through volunteer activities. In addition to placing fourth, individually, in the 2009 North American Junior and Young Riders' Championships Junior competition, Taylor is also a member of the National Honor Society, is a hospital volunteer, and is active in the Haitian Solidarity Club which, among other things, helps to raise awareness of global poverty and focuses on finding solutions.

For more information on this and other youth awards, visit the [USDF Web site](#) or contact the [USDF Youth Council Liaison](#).

Scholarship Established in Honor of Patrick Swayze and Lisa Niemi

A scholarship in honor of Patrick Swayze and his wife, Lisa Niemi, has been established by the Arabian Horse Foundation (AHF), which is based in Denver, CO. Swayze and Niemi have had close ties to the Arabian horse breed and owned Arabian horses for many years. The Foundation is the charitable arm of the Arabian Horse Association (AHA), also based in Denver.

Announcement of the scholarship was made at the association's annual convention in Reno, NV, November 19-21. The scholarship will be awarded annually in the spring to a youth who is involved with Arabian horses and aspires to a career in the performing arts. Scholarship applications are available online. The scholarship was launched with an initial pledge by Iron Horse Farms and Trisha Phelan of Canton, GA.

"The establishment of the Patrick Swayze and Lisa Niemi Scholarship was a natural fit for the foundation and the association," explained AHF President Larry Kinneer, who made the announcement before approximately 400 delegates and alternates. "Establishment of the scholarship creates a lasting testimony to their careers in dancing, theater and movies, love of the Arabian breed and contributions over the years to AHA youth programs."

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Schleese Saddlery Signs on to Sponsor USDF Programs

Lexington, KY (December 10, 2009) - The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) is pleased to announce that Schleese Saddlery Service Ltd. has signed an agreement to provide

prizes and support for various USDF programs. Schleese has donated a saddle to benefit the USDF Youth Executive Board Silent Auction, and provided a tack award for the nine nominees from USDF regions for the USEF Youth Sportsman's Award sponsored by Breyer Animal Creations®. They will also work with the USDF to supply educational content on saddles and saddle fitting. The 2009 nominees for this award include; Jessica Kuc of Kinkletown, PA, for USDF Region 1; Rachel Fischer of Oshkosh, WI, for USDF Region 2; Jordon Schulz of Stuart, FL, for USDF Region 3, McKinley Harvey of Castle Rock, CO, for USDF Region 5; Paige Haas of Eagle, ID, for USDF Region 6; Marina Riker of Haiku, HI, for USDF Region 7; and Taylor Noonan of Portland, ME, for USDF Region 8.

"Because of Schleese Saddlery's and USDF's dedication to providing education, this partnership is a great match. In addition to providing product to support a number of programs, Schleese will also be with us to provide educational opportunities through podcasts, videos, and clinics related to saddle fit," stated USDF Director of Marketing Linda Schultz.

"Schleeses' commitment to educating riders and professionals on the importance of maintaining optimal saddle fit, not only protects horse and rider from long term damage, but positively effects improved comfort, performance and communication for horse and rider", states Graham Wood VP, Sales and Marketing. "We teach the Saddlefit 4 Life® philosophy to Bereiters and Reitlehrer at the German National Riding School in Warendorf, and are excited to bring these concepts to the US through partnering with the USDF."

The Dressage Foundation Establishes Trip Harting Fund

The Dressage Foundation has announced that a new fund has been established. The Trip Harting Fund has been created with donations to The Dressage Foundation from Trip's friends and supporters. This fund will provide grants up to \$500 for a current or graduate rider with a Pony Club Rating of B or A to assist in attending the USDF "L" Education Program or USDF Instructor Certification Program. "Trip and I evented together when we were pony clubbers and as adults, we both put our hearts and energy into providing educational programs for young riders. Every time I got together with Trip, he challenged me to find new ways to educate and give valuable learning opportunities to our youth. I am thrilled that I am part of making Trip's wishes come true," said Lendon Gray, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Dressage Foundation. Raised in Potomac, Md., where his father founded the Potomac Horse Center, Trip Harting began riding when he was 6 years old. By the age of 15, he became the youngest member of the U.S. Pentathlon Team. Harting received his U.S. Equestrian Federation judging license, receiving his S rating in 1985. Ever since then, he was a very popular S-rated judge. Up until his death, Harting taught 10 to 20 clinics and judged 25 to 30 shows per year throughout the United States and around the world. Harting's real love, however, was working with juniors and young riders. In 2001, Harting accepted the position of coach and chef d'equipe of the U.S. Pony Clubs team at the North American Junior Dressage Championship (Ohio). The USPC honored him as a living legend in 2004. For more information about the United States Pony Club, visit www.ponyclub.org. To apply for a grant or for more information about The Dressage Foundation, please visit The Dressage Foundation website at www.dressagefoundation.org, or call (402) 434-8585.

[The dressage foundation](#)

USDF Announces 2009 Youth Volunteer of the Year

Lexington, KY (November 20, 2009) - The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) is pleased to announce that Kariel Swanfeldt of Ayer, MA, has been selected as the recipient of the 2009 USDF Youth Volunteer of the Year Award, presented by The Paddock Saddlery and sponsored by the USDF Youth Executive Board. This prestigious award honors one

outstanding youth volunteer who has contributed on a national and local basis to USDF and dressage.

As the recipient of this award, Kariels name will be engraved on a perpetual trophy, housed in the Roemer Foundation/USDF Hall of Fame, which was donated by the Akin family of Warwick, NY, in honor of Lendon Gray. Kariel will also receive a \$500 scholarship provided from funds raised through the Youth Executive Board Silent Auction, held annually at the Adequan/USDF Annual Convention, and a \$250 gift certificate donated by The Paddock Saddlery. In 2008-2009, Kariel volunteered over 200 hours at numerous events, including the New England Dressage Association (NEDA) Fall Festival, the NEDA Year End Awards Committee, The Equine Affaire, the NEDA Spring Dressage Show and several NEDA symposiums. Sue McKeown, on behalf of the NEDA board, nominated Kariel for the Youth Volunteer of the Year Award, based on her phenomenal work ethic and sense of duty. Kariel has been a great asset to NEDA and a role model to her peers, and as Sue explains, The type of work that she volunteers for is not necessarily the face in front of the crowd, or the job that will get her noticed by the clinician; however, it is critical work that needs to be done and Kariel performs it consistently with a pleasant personality and a willing heart to help.

For more information about the USDF Youth Volunteer of the Year Award or the USDF Youth Executive Board Silent Auction, please visit the USDF Web site at www.usdf.org, or contact the USDF office at youth@usdf.org.

Caledon Equestrian Park in Ontario, Canada, to Host 2015 Pan American Games

Caledon Equestrian Park in Palgrave, Ontario, Canada, will be the equestrian venue for the 2015 Pan American Games/Para Pan American Games.

On Friday, November 6, the 2015 Pan American Games/Para Pan American Games were awarded to Toronto and the Golden Horseshoe region. The Caledon Equestrian Park's reputation for hosting world-class equestrian competition secured its position as the equestrian venue in the bid process. All equestrian events will be held at Caledon Equestrian Park with only the cross-country portion of eventing being held off-site at nearby Will O'Wind Farm.

[Read More...](#)

USEF Announces Date and Location for the 2010 Adequan FEI North American Junior/Young Rider Championships Pending Final FEI Approval

Pending final FEI approval, the USEF is announcing the following dates and location for the 2010 Adequan FEI North American Junior/Young Rider Championships (NAJYRC). The United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) has received preliminary approval and is awaiting final allocation from the FEI Bureau.

Pending this approval, the NAJYRC will be held at the Kentucky Horse Park, July 28-August 1, 2010. This is a unique opportunity to use a venue that has been completely redesigned. Less than two months later, the world will begin to arrive in Lexington, KY, for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games.

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Improving the Outcome after Tendon and Ligament Injuries

Tendon and ligament injury causes both economic and personal hardship for horse owners and industry professionals. A prolonged period of lay-up and rehabilitation is necessary, but whether the horse will be sound at the end of the rehabilitation period is uncertain. Lameness due to tendon and ligament injury is common in performance horses, affecting up to 25% of racehorses over a career and accounting for up to 43% of injuries in event horses, but it is also common to companion horses. Chronic lameness often follows the initial injury, with recurrence as high as 80% of racehorses with tendinitis.

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Heather Blitz Returns to Florida:

Heather Blitz, 40, has spent the past three years in Esbjerg, Denmark where she was training and teaching Grand Prix dressage horses.

Heather started riding at the age of five on her parents' farm in Kansas where she rode western events. She moved to college at Colorado State University where she graduated with a B.S. in Equine Science and also began focusing on dressage. After college, she relocated to Louisiana in 1993 where she worked as a trainer and instructor, and since 1994 has been competing at Grand Prix level. Competing on the show circuit each winter in South Florida, Heather refined her skills and learned a system of training involving biomechanics. She has since been working with her mentor and coach, Mary Wanless. Heather now regularly gives clinics and

symposiums around the world. Visit [Heather's website for more information -
www.heatherblitz.info](http://www.heatherblitz.info)

One of her many dressage horses that has influenced her career was her first Grand Prix horse, Rambo, with whom she started competing when he was 12 until she retired him at age 18. Heather and Rambo competed in Florida and also at Dressage at Devon where they finished in third place, which earned them an invitation to the U.S. Equestrian Federation team training sessions that proved to be a turning point in Heather's career.

Another significant partnership was with the chestnut mare, Arabella, (Rambo x April) which began when the mare was first broken in and took them all the way through Grand Prix, including being selected as reserve to the U.S. dressage team for the 2006 World Equestrian Games in Aachen, Germany. The partnership won regional championships at age four and five. At six years old, they won the FEI 6-year-old Young Horse Championship and almost qualified for the World Championships in Verden, Germany. At eight years old Arabella competed in the USEF Intermediaire Championships in San Juan Capistrano, California, where they finished in fifth place.

'Mind Your Riding' Tours 2010

[Please visit Heather's website for the latest information on clinic tours](http://www.heatherblitz.info)