



# ODS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2015

Editor: Lee Ann Alf  
[leeannalf@gmail.com](mailto:leeannalf@gmail.com)

### *President's Message*

Spring has sprung. Tank heaters are out. Birds chirping away with blue, sunny skies overhead. Perfect riding weather!

Spring into action with ODS activities:

2015 Dressage New Tests

Symposium/Deadline approaching! This educational symposium is a perfect way to gain knowledge on how to ride a test from a USEF 'S' judge who incidentally will be judging at ODS's Green Country Chapter's show. Whether you show or not or whether you show at recognized shows, the tests are a progressive way to train. If you are a trainer, this symposium will give more information to help your students. What a deal! \$35 for ODS members which includes lunch!

ODS's Great Plains Chapter is hosting a one day recognized show on April 25<sup>th</sup> followed by a 2 day clinic with the judge, Sue Kolstad.

If you are interested or currently riding dressage in a western saddle, WDAOK is hosting a clinic and symposium in Tulsa on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. This is a great learning opportunity in our own backyard.

And then there is ODS's Spring I and II Recognized Dressage show at Oklahoma's State Fairgrounds in OK City. This is our one show hosted by the mother organization, ODS. Come support by showing, sponsoring, volunteering, and participating in whatever way you are able. See this newsletter for more information along with the various Saturday evening dinner and activities. You do not want to miss out on the laughter and entertainment.

Please check ODS's website for all these and many more activities, especially schooling shows. Check out USDF's Region 9 website for all the activities and news from our region. Our very own Sherry Guess is Region's 9 director!!

Most of all enjoy your wonderful partner on such glorious spring days! I am and so thankful.

*Roberta Clark*

ODS's President

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### **Welcome New Members**

**(add to Directory)**

Jane Thomas

1500 E. Earth Rd.

Newkirk OK 74647

Tasha Fox

49372 US Hwy 60

Burbank OK 74633

Michelle Lundy

1611 Briarcliff Ct.

Norman OK 73071

Shannon Braudway

937 NW 9th St.

Moore OK 73160

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***Editor's Note: I am still looking for a volunteer from each of the Chapters to send me news. I know GCC is active and NCC is planning to reactivate this spring.***

*Lee Ann*

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**ATTENTION MEMBERS:** *At this time, the newsletter is only available electronically. If you wish to receive a mailed copy, please contact Lee Ann Alf ([leeannalf@gmail.com](mailto:leeannalf@gmail.com)). There will be an additional charge for a mailed copy of \$12/year to cover the extra cost of printing and postage. Make the check out to ODS and send it to: Lee Ann Alf, 8310 NE 122<sup>nd</sup>, Jones, OK 73049. When I receive your payment, you will start receiving your mailed copy. Mailing requires quite a bit of extra time on the part of the editor.*

**THANKS** for understanding.

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**Barnsby Luxus Dressage Saddle - \$850**

17 1/2" SEAT – MEDIUM TREE – EXCELLENT CONDITION  
Bristow Ok. Call – 859-707-2758. Leave Message.



Close contact Barnsby dressage saddle with continental styling designed with input from elite German riders. Tree promotes freedom of the shoulder, flexion and lateral bend. Extended stirrup bar helps rider attain ideal seat and leg position. Quilted broad bearing surface and humane "V" girthing arrangement point strap for horse comfort.

**Thornhill Berlin All Purpose Saddle - \$725**

20" SEAT – WIDE TREE – EXCELLENT CONDITION  
Bristow Ok. Call – 859-707-2758. Leave Message.



For over 25 years Thornhill has offered the Berlin model by Jorge Canaves. Its tried and true classic German design features a deep, balanced seat, knee rolls, smooth knee pads and wool stuffed shaped panels. Ideal saddle for any discipline. Lightly grained, tobacco brown leather. Perfectly balanced for flatwork and jumps.

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**North Central Chapter News**



The NCC met at "A Little Bit of Heaven" (my place) on Saturday March 7th at 2pm to hold it's "getting it back together again" meeting.

We had 14 people in attendance for this meeting. We had others that had expressed that they would join us but could not make it that day. So all in all we had a great "get together" New NCC President is Jenna Wright (new membership this year but old member from years ago known as Jenna Dickison) Jenna has rode her Paint horse Quick Fortune up to First Level and is really wanting to get back to it after having her and Tucker's (husband) first child a beautiful baby girl named Sophie. Our Vice President is Robert Mayne who has been a long time member of ODS and the NCC. Bob is quite a story teller and entertained us with the story of his birth. Believe me it was quite a story if you meet Bob you should ask him about his birth story! Then our Treasurer is a long time ODS member and a founding member of the NCC it's me, Rainee Boyd. I am starting back at it after my latest surgery which was shoulder rotator cuff. After being off of work for 5 months with that I am so ready to get back to the horses. Then our Secretary is Sigrid Younger who has been a member in the past but has rejoined us to help us really get back under way.

We have our first event planned for April 4th at noon at Bob & Katie Mayne's in Deer Creek, Oklahoma. Bring something if you can to go with hamburgers and hotdogs as either Tucker Wright or Rick Boyd will be our Chefs for the day. We have planned for that day a day of just fun with fellow members some work on Western Dressage and some on Dressage will be our focus. We are hoping that the new rules and the country's enthusiasm with "Western Dressage" will help us bring our membership back up to what it once was and hopefully even higher. The next event is to bring in a "Western Dressage" Instructor to help all of our Western Members and people who might just like to understand more about what is expected from the "Western Dressage" horse and rider.

We will keep you posted on all of our Events and hopefully will get our website all caught up soon. Sigred has started a FaceBook page for the NCC with minutes from our last meeting and photos on the FB page. I hope this helps LeeAnn as to what we are up to and where we are headed.

*Rainee Boyd*

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## **USDF ADULT CLINIC - Sign Up Immediately**

ADULT AMATEURS -- Here is your chance Everyone wants national clinics close by (and affordable) to explain how dressage should be ridden and how to make corrections for the problems you have.

The USDF Nutrena Region 9 Adult Clinic is April 11-12 in Magnolia TX. This clinic is AUDITOR BASED. With 2 clinicians one is going to be focused on questions and explaining things to the audience. I would hate for our membership to miss out on such a great opportunity. They can get to everything through the Facebook event here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/777159515703645/>

Or here:

<http://www.usdf.org/education/clinics/adult/dates-locations.asp>

It's CLOSE, it's AFFORDABLE -- how can you miss it !!

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## **50 Ways to Get Eliminated**

**Or, what not to do at a dressage show.**

*By Margaret Freeman*

Dressage-show officials don't want to play a game of "rules gotcha," but they have a responsibility to consider the welfare of the horses, the safety of those at the show, and to keep the competition fair for everyone. Competing in US Equestrian Federation-licensed/USDF-recognized dressage shows is expensive, and if you're eliminated because you don't have a firm working knowledge of the rules it's a silly waste of money, at the least.

Some elimination rules are black and white, like when a horse jumps out of the arena. Some may require an official's judgment, such as determining whether a horse is markedly lame.

### **Preventing Elimination**

The USEF, not the USDF, writes the rules for national-level dressage competitions in this country. (However, authority for rules that affect elimination for freestyles from Training through Fourth Levels has been turned over to the USDF. Confused yet?)

While the USEF Rule Book is heavy going, it's easily accessible online at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org), has a user-friendly search function, and has printable pages. The rules you'll need to check most often are in articles DR120 to DR124 (DR stands for Dressage Rule). There are also rules concerning elimination in the General Rules (GR) section at the front of the Rule Book, particularly Chapter 8. Print several copies of the pertinent pages and stash them in your truck and in your show bag for quick reference, or save a PDF to your smart phone, tablet or other mobile device. Reread the rules often—at the very least, before the start of every show season.

Article DR124 in the USEF Rule Book helpfully summarizes the most likely causes of elimination, so read

that section first. Under certain circumstances, you can be eliminated from the entire competition, the current test, or the next class, depending on which is closest to the time the incident occurs.

The number-one cause of elimination from a dressage test is committing three errors, such as riding off course—often the result of show nerves and not actual forgetfulness. Errors are most likely to occur right at the start (track right or left at C?); during the walk section (which letter to which letter?); and at the end (where to turn onto the center line; and is the halt at X, I, or G?). The new 2015 tests have a lot of shorter diagonal lines, such as M to V rather than the usual M to K. A quick review of just those points before you go in the ring can prevent many goofs.

If using a reader will increase your confidence, then do so; but know that riders who use readers go off course as much as those who don't—a sure sign they're having trouble focusing on their performance. The more relaxed you are, the more likely you are to remember your test.

If you're at all likely to forget to remove your horse's leg wraps (they're not permitted in the competition arena), use a color other than white (which blends in with horses' leg markings) and assign someone to remind you about them between the warm-up and the in-gate. Do the same thing when carrying a whip at a championship during warm-up and for other matters of dress and equipment.

### **Who Can Eliminate You?**

Most riders think it's either the judge or the technical delegate (TD). That's not quite right. The judge may eliminate you for a rule violation during a test only after you've entered the arena (except for the late-entry rule: see "50 and Counting," item 12).

Outside the competition ring, authority for rules enforcement rests with the show committee, which can also eliminate a rider for use of illegal equipment during a test if it's discovered after the competitor has left the arena. The TD can inform the show committee of a rules violation and advise a competitor who is unsure of a rules situation. Among other things, the TD's role is to clarify the application of USEF rules to judges, exhibitors, and management alike and to investigate any situation in which the rules aren't upheld.

At unrecognized dressage shows (schooling shows), show management makes the rules. Many schooling-show prize lists state that the show will be run according to USEF rules, with specified exceptions (such as a relaxed dress code). Schooling shows don't have TDs, and schooling-show management can override the decision of the judge concerning rules if it wishes.

### **The Fatal 5**

**Here they are—five of the most common causes of elimination at a USEF/USDF dressage competition.**

1. Three errors during a test.
2. Sustained resistance of longer than 20 seconds during a test.
3. All four of the horse's feet go outside the arena fence during a test.
4. Bandages or boots left on the horse's legs during a test.
5. Marked lameness. There is no appeal against this decision by the judge.

## 50 and Counting . . .

We've listed 50 potential elimination situations here, but there certainly are more. Unless specified, the same rules apply in warm-up as in the competition ring.

The first five to consider are perhaps the most likely to cause elimination, so we've included them above, "The Fatal 5." Picking up from there, in no particular order:

6. The reader (test caller) adds instructions or reads movements more than once. This is considered unauthorized assistance.
7. Leaving the show ring in a manner not prescribed in the test. If you need to dismount at the end of the test for some reason (say, you feel unwell or need to pick up a dropped whip), ask the judge's permission first.
8. Long-lining on the show grounds.
9. The horse's tongue is tied down.
10. Equipment breakage during a test such that the rider can't continue or is now unsafe. "Time-outs" aren't allowed in dressage.
11. Riding with a whip longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including lash.
12. Late entry into the show ring: After the judge's bell sounds, the rider has 45 seconds to enter the ring. It takes most horses about a minute to trot around the outside of the ring; so depending on where you are when the bell rings, you may need to turn around or pick up a canter.
13. Failure to participate in a mandatory prize-giving ceremony, if specified in the prize list.
14. In a freestyle, failure to enter at A within 20 seconds after the music starts.
15. Carrying two whips.
16. Making a misrepresentation on an entry form.
17. Riding with plastic spurs.
18. Striking a horse on the head, except in an emergency situation.
19. In an FEI freestyle, performing movements that are not allowed.
20. Horse causes concern for the safety of the rider, other exhibitors, or their horses.
21. Failure to wear one's competitor number when outside the stall or away from the trailer.
22. Using a snaffle with a port.
23. Any intervention by a third party using voice or signals during a test.
24. Riding at any time with an adjustable-length whip.
25. Riding with side reins.
26. Evidence of blood on a horse, with the exception of environmental causes, such as insect bites. (Don't feed your horse treats containing red food coloring, which can tint his saliva red and be mistaken for blood.)
27. Riding with a seat cover on the saddle.
28. Riding in a test using a saddle pad with a logo that is larger than 8" x 4".
29. Competing in a test with a brightly colored saddle pad.
30. Riding without spurs in a test above Fourth Level. ("Dummy" spurs are allowed.)
31. Leaving a stock tie on when riding a test without a jacket, if coats are waived in extreme heat.
32. Riding with half-chaps in tests above First Level. At First Level and below, solid black or brown half-chaps are allowed if they match the color of the boots and are smooth leather or leather-like material.

33. Riding in sneakers. For safety, all riding shoes and boots must have a distinguishable heel.

34. Covering a marking on the horse's hide and hair (except for mane, tail, and hooves).

35. Showing a horse that has been officially retired.

36. Riding without gloves in a test above Fourth Level.

37. Using a roller bit (not to be confused with a rotating middle piece or a center link with a coupling). The USEF Rule Book contains illustrations of legal and illegal bits.

38. Fall of horse and/or rider.

39. Riding in a test with ear plugs hidden inside a fly hood.

40. Competing in more than three rides in one day at Fourth Level and below (two rides per day above Fourth Level). There are exceptions to this rule in some breed-specific shows.

41. Entering more than two consecutive levels, freestyle included.

42. Riding in a test with a tail bandage.

43. Riding *hors de concours* (as an exhibitor only, not for scores and placings) in one class and then in a later class for placings and awards at the same show.

44. Carrying a whip in a championship class.

45. Using a noseband so tight that it severely irritates the skin.

46. Having a test called in a foreign language without prior consent from show management and the judge.

47. At a championship show, allowing a person to school the horse other than the rider entered in the championship class.

48. Wearing spurs upside down, so that they point up (unless they are swan-necked spurs).

49. Riding in front of a judge who has taught the rider within the past 30 days.

50. Using a flash noseband with a double bridle.

*The above article appeared in "USDF Connection" in 2011 and is reprinted with permission. It was updated with the current 2015 rules by the author, Margaret Freeman, of Tryon NC, who is a USEF "S" dressage judge.*

### An Ounce of Prevention

There are many ways to get eliminated, but as you can see, most are easily preventable. You invest considerable time, money, and energy getting to a show. Don't let all your efforts go to waste over a needless elimination. Study the USEF Rule Book carefully before you compete, especially if you're new to showing or you've been out of circulation for a while. If you have any questions, speak to the TD before you take the horse away from the trailer or stall.

### The "Helmet Rule"

The U.S. Equestrian Federation has changed its dressage rules regarding the wearing of protective headgear several times over the past few years. Now, all riders at all levels must wear ASTM/SEI-approved protective equestrian headgear while mounted at USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized competitions. The rule is in effect from the time horses are officially admitted to the show grounds. It includes *anyone*, including non-competing riders, riders on non-competing horses and riders in exhibition classes. Anyone violating this rule is prohibited from further riding until the headgear is properly in place, and that includes the chin strap.



# Be Ready for the Spring Shows! Join ODS on Saturday, April 11th 2015 Dressage New Tests



## DVD Symposium **Joan Darnell** USEF 'S' Dressage Judge

Get the perspective on the new tests from a judge that will be judging in OK at a recognized show in June!

**Time: 9:00 am-4:45 pm**

**Location: Zarrow Regional Library, Tulsa, OK**

**Participant Costs (Includes Lunch):** ODS Members—\$35; Non ODS Members—\$45

During the symposium, the participants will view the new "On the Levels" DVD while Joan gives a running commentary and analyzes the tests from a judge's perspective which is different from the commentary on the DVDs that is they from a trainer's perspective. She will discuss the changes in the new tests giving tips on how to ride a better test. Questions will be encouraged.

Having competed successfully through Grand Prix and coached several other horse and rider pairs through the FEI levels, Joan is a United States Equestrian Federation "S" Dressage Judge and a United States Dressage Federation Gold, Silver & Bronze Medalist.

Joan started riding as a child, and began her dressage career in 1980. A strong foundation was laid by years of instruction with Lilo Fore. Later influences include Janet Brown, Axel Steiner, Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez, and Sonja Vracko.

Joan believes in enhancing the natural performance of the horse through exercises designed to supple, balance and strengthen both the horse and rider. She believes in positive feedback. Comments from both her students and competitors that have shown under her support her positive and encouraging attitude.



**Participant Registration Forms Available by**  
contacting Pamela Byers 405-990-8963 or [pamela@galleryfarm.us](mailto:pamela@galleryfarm.us)  
or by going to the ODS website at [www.dressageoklahoma.org](http://www.dressageoklahoma.org)



## 2015 New Dressage Tests DVD Symposium with Joan Darnell

USEF 'S' Dressage Judge, USDF Gold Medalist  
(Ms. Darnell will be judging an OK recognized show in June)  
**Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Tulsa, OK**  
Sponsored by the Oklahoma Dressage Society

**Symposium Auditor Registration Closing Date:** Postmarked by April 5, 2015

Late registration fee (postmarked after 4/5): additional \$5 (be sure to text or e-mail Pamela if postmarked after 4/5)

### Symposium Schedule:

|                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 9:00 – 9:15 am - Check-in      | 12:45-1:15 Lunch       |
| 9:15-10:15 am - Training Level | 1:15-2:15 Third Level  |
| 10:30–10:45 am Break           | 2:15-3:15 Fourth Level |
| 10:45-11:45 - First Level      | 3:15-3:30 Break        |
| 11:45-12:45 – Second Level     | 3:30-4:30 Freestyle    |

**Symposium Content:** The 2015 DVDs “On the Levels” will be shown with Ms. Darnell commenting on the changes that have been made to the 2015 tests, describing how the levels relate to the training scale, and showing how movements are scored along with tips to improve a score so that riders gain an understanding of how to ride a more effective test. Unlike past On the Levels DVDs, the 2015 edition is from a trainer’s perspective not a judge’s perspective. Ms. Darnell will give a judge’s perspective, providing scores for the movements as we watch the new tests being performed on the screen. Questions will be encouraged.

**Location:** Zarrow Regional Library 2224 W. 51st St, Tulsa, OK 74107 (just off of I-44)

**Lodging:** Ramada Inn, 8175 E. Skelly Drive, Tulsa, OK 74129, King size beds only for \$89 plus tax, contact Roberta Clark at 918-605-3263 to reserve as they are in her name. Limited number of rooms reserved. Big event in town- room block not possible.

### **PARTICIPANT Registration Form**

*(Please print!)*

**Price Includes Lunch**

|  |                      |          |
|--|----------------------|----------|
| \$35 ODS Members   | \$45 Non-ODS Members | \$ _____ |
| I would like USDF University Credit or CEUs for Qualified Judges<br>(worth 1 credit) | \$5 (one-time fee)   | \$ _____ |
| <b>Total</b>   |                      | \$ _____ |

Name \_\_\_\_\_ ODS Member YES NO

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (s) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to ODS and mail by April 5, 2015. Faxed registrations cannot be accepted.**

**Please send your registration/payment to:**

Pamela Byers, Gallery Farm, ODS Symposium Registration, 8900 Cemetery Road, Noble, OK 73068  
405-990-8963 (cell) [pamela@galleryfarm.us](mailto:pamela@galleryfarm.us)

**If you have questions or need additional information please email or text.**

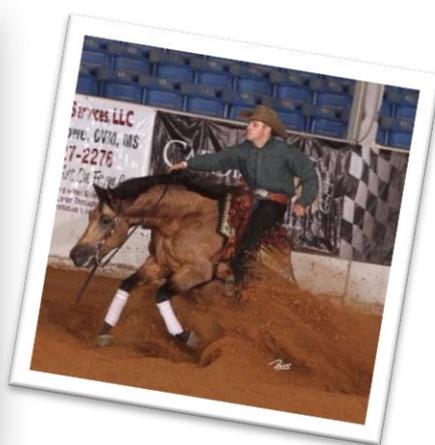
Oklahoma Dressage Society

# Spring Horse Show 2015

## Let the Show Begin

Saturday May 9, 2015 • 6:00pm

Oklahoma State Fair Park – West Covered Arena



*Horse of Course Cocktail Party*  
*Armadillo Racing*  
*Musical Freestyle Exhibitions*

featuring:

*Marta Renilla, - International Grand Prix Competitor*

*Trevor Dare - World Class Reining Competitor*

*FEI Musical Freestyle Competition*  
*Western Dressage Demonstration*  
*Silent Auction*

Tickets • \$10 members • \$15 non-members • FREE to All Exhibitors & Volunteers  
Reserved VIP Tables of 6 • \$100 members • \$150 non members



## What's happening at our ODS Spring Show ?



# Armadillo Jockeys Needed !

## Armadillo Racing with Armadillo Jim

If you have never seen or touched an armadillo, here is your chance. Armadillo Jim and his crew of athletic armadillos will be center stage, Saturday evening May 9th.

Oklahoma's very own, Jim Schmidt known as "Armadillo Jim" has been seen on Regis and Kathie Lee, Crook and Chase, Maury Povich and more than 300 other television shows.

With your tax deductible donation to the incredible charity, "House of Healing" (a 501C.3 charity whose mission is to mentor teen girls ages 13-17 through a Christ centered residential home environment which incorporates horses into their therapy), will give you the opportunity to race an adorable

armadillo for fame and prizes. Be prepared to laugh the evening away. We have been told – anything can happen! Pictures of you and the armadillos can also be taken before and after the race.



### **PLEASE READ**

*Double Stalls  
are now available for the  
Spring Show?*

*+ \$100.00 service fee*

*This stall wall is  
extremely delicate and  
heavy to remove.*

*Please highlight this  
request on your entry  
form.*



### Official 2015 ODS Spring Show T- Shirt

Order by April 20<sup>th</sup> to  
guarantee your size and color.

**\$25.00** tax incl.

Sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL

Navy or Pink

Available at the Show Office

First Come – First Serve

Contact Diane Smith [dsmith@varsitymrtg.com](mailto:dsmith@varsitymrtg.com)

## Welcome Exhibitors!

### Oklahoma Barn Party • BBQ starts at 4:30 pm

We are anticipating that you will be hungry after move-in on Friday. We will be serving complimentary hotdogs, hamburgers and beverages at our "Oklahoma Barn Party." Please make time to sit, eat, and relax and in our Sweet September Farm – VIP Exhibitors Lounge located next to the West Covered Arena (Ring 1) and Show Office. Come as you are.



# Western Dressage Demonstration



As part of our Saturday night lineup, ODS will host a west meets east - a Western and Traditional Dressage demonstration.

Representing Western Dressage, Mike Corcoran, saddle maker and Western Dressage competitor from Justin, Texas, will be riding his Haflinger gelding, Alibi. Holly Luke, an ODS member from Tulsa, will be riding her home bred and raised second level

Oldenburg mare, Lust In The Wind, to represent traditional dressage. Both of these wonderful riders will demonstrate the similarities and differences of these two disciplines.

Laurie Hedlund from Claremore, Oklahoma, will narrate as Mike and Holly ride. Ms. Hedlund is USDF 4th level Certified Trainer-Instructor and a WDAA Train the Trainers and WDAA Judges Graduate. Paula Walker would like to personally thank the OKLAHOMA Dressage Society for the opportunity and continued support of the Western Dressage Association of Oklahoma established in 2012 and an Affiliate of the Western Dressage Association of America established in 2011.

## Musical Freestyle Demonstration

Saturday night is also a very special occasion. Our nationally ranked exhibitor, Marta Renilla, will be demonstrating a beautiful musical freestyle on *WEC's Mistico*, owned by her training facility, Woodlands



Equestrian Club. This Andalusian Gelding has been under Marta's coaching since he was a 5 year-old. She has trained and competed him through the levels. WEC's Mistico, currently 8 years old, has been showing FEI Intermediaire for over a year. Soon Marta will begin showing him in Grand Prix. This partnership will show the public the beauty at the highest level of Dressage. Marta Renilla is an International *Grand Prix* Dressage competitor with 13 years of training and teaching experience in Spain, US, Switzerland, and Mexico. She is proud to have been a member of the *Spanish Dressage National Team* on 4 different occasions and has earned awards at the highest level in several

International *Grand Prix* Dressage Championships over the past 7 years. Besides being a Silver and Bronze medalist, Marta is a 5 stars Gold Medalist by the United States Dressage Federation on self-trained horses.

## Musical Western Freestyle Demonstration



[www.XtraQuarterHorses.com](http://www.XtraQuarterHorses.com)

Another incredible performance for Saturday's lineup is Trevor Dare riding to music on one of Xtra Quarter Horses top reining horses.

Trevor has been showing horses since he was six. He competed as a member of our United States Equestrian Team in the AQHA Youth World Cup in 2006, winning the reining and third in western

horsemanship. He then went onto do a prestigious internship with the Number 1 money earning "Reined Cowhorse Rider of All Time" Todd Crawford of Blanchard OK, to winning the NRHA Limited Open Reining Futurity in 2008. We are certainly in for a treat watching these two.