California Dressage Society

Delta Sierra Chapter

Meeting, Dec. 8, 2015

**Attending**: Kim Parson, Sally Rucker, MJ Misailidis, Cindy Bell, Monica Fay, Robyn Dorius (guest), Greg Harper, Alex Duarte, David Ventura, Liz Ventura.

Meeting convened at 7:05 pm, at the home of A. Duarte.

The recent death of Jan Simpson, a former Delta Sierra member, was announced.

**Treasurer’s report** (per Monica Fay):

Income from education $520. Expenses from education $724.95 for a Net loss of $204.95 for the year. The bank balance is $1,771.96. Steady balance is due to money made in the past (horses, wine and art) and the continued presentation of nearly revenue neutral competition clinics. Chapter activity is healthy, but does not correlate to a lot of financial activity.

**Chair report** (per Sally Rucker):

New Board is needed. The positions to be filled are: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Member-at-large. Some discussion of the jobs ensued and the positions were filled and confirmed by voice vote of those in attendance. The board will be: Chair, Mary Duffy; Vice Chair, Sally Rucker; Secretary, Greg Harper; Treasurer, Monica Fay; Member-at-Large, Cynthia Bell.

Would also like a representative to attend the annual convention (this year in Sacramento, Jan. 23-24,2016). The rep. is typically paid for travel expenses, and presumably the meeting itself, but not for extras like parties and banquets. David Ventura has offered to represent the chapter at the meeting, and Alex Duarte has offered to put a basket of goodies together. Thanks to both for their generosity.

**Next Meeting**:

The next Delta Sierra meeting will be Feb. 16, 2016. Topics to include a round-up of info from the annual meeting and also some scheduling of chapter activities.

**Chapter Activity**:

In the previous year, the chapter hosted a competition clinic with Renee Johnson. It was attended by 11 riders, 4 of which were members. It was low key, well received and productive for all in attendance.

David Ventura has volunteer to judge a schooling show, and may even host the event at his facility near Brentwood.

Some discussion ensued re: clinics, schooling shows and other practice opportunities. The members in attendance agreed that the current focus was informative, inclusive and in line with a mission of education. It was generally accepted that low key and friendly events will also encourage new membership and outreach.

A co-hosted activity with OPRC (Old People’s Riding Club) was also discussed. There are OPRC members who are interested in dressage, but intimidated by the traditional show/clinic format. The chapter wishes to celebrate relationships, experience and partnering with horses, and to develop stewards of the horse. In service to those ends, OPRC has hosted an event where kids and adults interact with their, and others’, horses at 5 stations, featuring different topics like safe leading, effective grooming, and other points of interest to horse people. It was proposed that some dressage demo and even a low key clinic (in conjunction with the above event) could encourage some of the riders who might otherwise be intimidated.

**Adult Amateur Clinic** (per Alex Duarte):

This year, Alex attended the clinic with her 4 year old gelding. She reported that the first night was very laid back and comfortable, with a chance to meet the other riders, discuss some clinic goals, and get to know the clinician (Volker Brohmann), who was personable and easy going.

The lessons, herself and others, were illustrative of how everything ties into consistent and classical training. A steady give/take with the inside rein, while keeping a consistent contact with the outside rein was a feature of all the lessons for riders at all the levels. Volker also made sure to provide a way for the horse/rider combos to work at home, to practice quality work and make progress when away from his watchful eye. Alex relayed some observations of one lesson in particular, in which the horse originally was tight in the neck and appeared to be two different horses, back and front. In the course of the work, the horse became better engaged, the back was energized and the two horses became one. And most importantly, the rider understood the methodology and the progress. On her own horse, a very fit and large 4 year old, Alex was encouraged to ride through the fit, without being punitive, and allowing a potential negative experience to become positive. Overall, she was very pleased with her experience and encouraged any rider to seek out Volker for quality guidance and education.

The meeting adjourned 9:30pm.

Submitted by Greg Harper, Sec.