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United States Para-Equestrian Association



For Immediate Release:

Written by: Lindsay McCall for the USPEA

Photos by: Lindsay McCall

Media Contact: Hope Hand
3940 Verde Vista Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
E-mail: Wheeler966@aol.com
(610) 356-6481

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2011 USEF Para-Equestrian Dressage National Championships Commence in Saugerties

Saugerties, NY - September 15, 2011 - The 2011 New England Dressage Association Fall Festival of Dressage transformed the HITS on the Hudson grounds into a dressage Utopia. Within one short week, September 13-18, USDF Region 8 Dressage Championship, Breeders Championship New England, and the CDI Y/J Saugerties will take place. The event of the weekend to watch will be the 2011 United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Para-Equestrian Dressage National Championships which will coincide with the international CPEDI 3* Saugerties. The FEI Jog began just after 5:00 p.m. on Thursday for the Para-Equestrians. Riders from the U.S.A., Canada, Bermuda, Ireland, and Mexico showcased their mounts in front of a gathering of spectators. The jog was the first event for the Grade Ia through Grade IV riders. Friday begins the Team Test, followed by Saturday's Freestyle, and finishing with Sunday's Individual Championship and the crowning of the 2011 USEF Para-Equestrian Dressage National Champion.

The 2011 USEF Para-Equestrian Dressage National Championships is the event each year that Para-Equestrian Dressage riders look forward to. Last year the Championships were the final chance to qualify for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG). This year riders are looking forward to building their team and earning top scores before the 2012 London Paralympics.

Within the jog were many familiar faces including Rebecca Hart who has earned the National Championship over multiple years including capturing the 2010 title. There was also 2010 WEG team members, 2010 National Championship competitors, and new faces in the crowd. United States competitors include Laura Goldman, Jonathan Wentz, Wendy Fryke, Kim Decker, Laurietta Oakleaf, Kim Jones, Eleanor Brimmer, and Mary Jordan to name a few. Many of the riders have brought multiple mounts including Jonathan Wentz who will once again challenge the competitors with his trusty gelding, NTEC Richter Scale who competed at WEG. In addition to NTEC Richter Scale, Wentz will be showing NTEC Jabriel. Wentz noted, "I am looking forward to showing Gabe this year. He is a 12 year-old Bavarian Warmblood who shows third and fourth level dressage. We are hoping to groom him for London this year." This will be the first time NTEC Jabriel has entered a CPEDI3* event with Jonathan.

Like Jonathan, tomorrow will be a day of firsts for horses, riders, parents, and even the first CPEDI3* event held at the exciting NEDA Fall Festival of Dressage.

For more information about the 2011 NEDA Festival of Dressage please visit <http://www.NEDA.org>.

For more information about the 2011 USEF Para-Equestrian Dressage National Championship please visit <http://www.USEF.org>.



Sabine Rijssenbeek and Carino H



Pam Lane and Eleanor Brimmer watch the jog.



Kai Handt jogs Donna Ponessa's mount Otto

Photo Credits: 2011 USEF Para-Equestrian Dressage National Championships and CPEDI 3* at the 2011 NEDA Fall Festival of Dressage. Held at the HITS on the Hudson facility in Saugerties, NY on September 13-18 2011. Photo © Lindsay Yosay McCall for the United States Para-Equestrian Association.

About United States Para-Equestrian Association:

The USPEA is a network of riders, judges, national federation board members, and equestrian enthusiasts. The association gives athletes the ability to get involved and expand their knowledge and experience in the Para-Equestrian sport. The USPEA encourages para-athletes to participate in all disciplines under the para-equestrian umbrella.

The USPEA is a recognized affiliate of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) which serves as the National Governing Body for the equestrian sport. This relationship between the USPEA and USEF is to encourage para-equestrian competitors, leisure riders, coaches, fans and enthusiasts to network and get involved with the entire equestrian sport.

Ultimately the goal of the USPEA is to foster growth in the para-equestrian discipline. From growth in the number of participants to growth as a team, and growth in the experience and knowledge of all involved. From local horse shows to international Olympic Games, the USPEA will provide para-equestrians the knowledge of what they need to succeed. The USPEA connects with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI), the United States Dressage Federation (USDF), and USEF which provides Para-Equestrians the top equestrian resources.

In June 2010, the USPEA earned its 501 (c)(3) status which has encouraged supporters to help supply funding to the Para-Equestrian Team as a recognized affiliate of the United States Equestrian Federation(USEF).

For more information about the USPEA please visit www.USPEA.org or contact USPEA President: Hope Hand by e-mail: Wheeler966@aol.com or by phone: (610)356-6481.

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United States Para-Equestrian Association | 3940 Verde Vista Drive | Thousand Oaks | CA | 91360