

CROSSROADS DRESSAGE & COMBINED TRAINING SOCIETY

THE CROSSING

June 2025, Volume XXII, Issue 6

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From Your President

CDCTS Summer Schooling Show will be held June 21 at Walnut Grove Stables in Talbot, TN! Mark your calendars and we hope to see you there—as a competitor or volunteer or just coming to watch and cheer on the riders. **Get your entries in!** The "Grove" is always a welcoming place to host a show. A reminder that this show is dressage only—whether you ride classical, western, gaited, Working Equitation or want to practice your dressage for upcoming horse trials. The wonderful Debbie Schwartz has agreed to judge. The online form is ready and posted on Facebook and the website. Remember to email the show secretary with your Coggins, release form and copy of your payment once you complete the online entry form. We can always use volunteers! Contact me if you can help!

July 12-13 is the second in our series of clinics with Cathy Zappe. It will be held at Red Oak Hill Farm (Shannon O'Hatnick's farm). The April clinic was such a success with riders and auditors alike and this one will be as well. Space is limited. The online registration form will be available shortly. The third Cathy Zappe clinic will be October 18-19.

Our Fall Schooling Show is scheduled for September 27. Decisions need to be made for a venue—need recommendations for a host site. Because of the Cathy Zappe Clinic October 18-19, we will NOT be hosting Fall Fun Day this year. How about a "Spring Fling" day in 2026 instead?

June meeting date change—The board will be meeting June 17 instead of June 10 this month as I will be out of town. We will be finalizing things for the June 21 schooling show and prepping for the Cathy Zappe July clinic. We will still be meeting at Calhoun's (Kingston Pike and Pellissippi Parkway) at 6 p.m for dinner with the meeting starting at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Until next month, stay cool and Happy Riding!

Carolyn Ordal CDCTS President

CDCTS is a USDF Group Member Organization and all members are automatically USDF Group Members. For USDF Participating Membership, members must apply directly to USDF.



CDCTS MEETING MINUTES, MAY 10, 2025

Call to Order: President Carolyn called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. In attendance were Julie Noe, Diane Carlson, Kacy Schnake, Lynn Holtman, Sloan Adams. Guests were Jean Sullivan, Julie Hall, and Toni Engstrom. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Minutes: Kacy Schnake moved to approve the minutes as printed in the last newsletter. Lynn Holtman seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Kacy Schnake presented the treasurer's report. With the addition of 2 rides on Sunday, the club basically broke even with the recent Cathy Zappe clinic.

Approval of Treasurer's Report: Lynn Holtman made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Diane Carlson seconded the motion and all approved.

Old Business

2025 Memberships: Club membership is up to 35 members as several individuals either renewed or joined in April. Kudos to Susan Hill for getting some clinic attendees to either renew or join.

Review Roles/Job Descriptions of Volunteers: Still in the works

Schooling Show/Clinic Dates: Discussion included the Cathy Zappe Clinic, Sekaris Clinic at Sloan's and future schooling shows. The end result is that the Summer Schooling Show is June 21 and will still be at Walnut Grove Stables in Talbot; the Fall Schooling show, September 27, remains on the schedule and needs a host venue; Fall Fun day, October 25, will not be held this year, but possibly a "Spring Fling" fun show will be held in 2026 like 2024's Fall Fun Day 2.0, as we will do 2 more Cathy Zappe clinics this year.

Cathy Zappe Clinic April 26-27: The Cathy Zappe clinic went very well. She is available for clinic dates July,12-13 and October,18-19. A decision was made to book her for both dates. Discussion included asking Shannon O'Hatnick about using her farm for the clinics.

Ariana Sekaris (Dressage, Liberty and Trick Training): Sloan Adams is planning on hosting Ariana Sekaris at her farm on the last weekend in July and would open it up to CDCTS members who might want to participate. We talked about this BEFORE the Cathy Zappe clinic, not knowing how well it would go over. Sloan still plans on hosting this clinic and CDCTS members can participate as they choose and/or audit.

Consultation with Small Business Attorney. Kacy Schnake is working on this. She will have information later this summer.

Horse Protection Act (HPA) and the Horse Protection Program. The enactment of Act has been delayed. It has been published for public review but is not the same version that Congress saw.

New Business

Helping out at River Glen: Linda Bird and I will be hosting the Dressage by the River breakfast this weekend. Diane Carlson will be helping as Ring steward.

Other New Business: Volunteers are needed for the Summer Schooling Show. Jean Sullivan said Mike would be able to do concessions and Diane Carlson said she will help him. Sloan Adams said Danielle McKensey, and her daughter, will probably be able to help in the morning. A Ring Steward, assistance at check-in desk, set up (Thursday afternoon) and tear down assistance (after the show) is needed.

2025 CDCTS & other Events

Schooling Show/Clinic Dates: Summer Schooling Show, June 21 at Walnut Grove Stables; Fall Schooling Show, September 27; Cathy Zappe clinic, July 12-13 And October 18-19

Other Local Events

Jim Koford 2025 dates: June 5-8, July 3-6, August July 31- August 3, September 4-7, October 2-5 (subject to change), October 30-November 2, December 4-7.

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River Glen: May 17-18, Dressage by the River' Summer HT, August 2-3; Dressage by the River, August 16-17;

Fall HT, Nov 8-9; Hunter Jumper, May 31-June 1; HJ. September 20-21; October 4-5 & 18-19

June 2025



Photo -Shari Thompson Courtesy of Callie King

This is Mongolia's answer to the Kentucky Derby.

What involves 1,500 semi-wild horses and around 50 participants from 17 countries racing over 600 miles through the Mini Gobi Desert, across massive sand dunes, high mountains, and the Mongolian Steppe?

The Mongol Derby takes everything you know about a horse race and makes it more challenging—it even has a waiting list to participate.

"The top part is surviving the elements and having this relationship with an unknown horse, that isn't domesticated like our horses in the west," said Erik Cooper, 2012 participant and Media Manager for the Derby. "It lets you know what kind of horseman or horsewoman you are. Can you understand the animal within seconds?"

The inspiration for the race was none other than Genghis Khan, the first leader of the Mongol Empire in the 1200s. One of his accomplishments was creating a medieval postal system called the Yam, which was totally unique to the time. To accomplish this, he used sturdy Mongolian horses to ride at a gallop to established post houses, carrying mail and tribute to the farthest points of his lands.

Learning about this history while on a car rally race from London to Mongolia, founder Tom Morgan decided to replicate Khan's rides for the creation of the Mongol Derby. The first race took place in 2010, challenging each rider to reach the pinnacle of endurance and horsemanship.

It's no small feat to participate in the longest, toughest horse race in the world. Cowboys, Grand Prix jumpers, polo players, and every other type of experienced equestrian sit on a waiting list, sometimes for several years, just to get a chance to experience the sparse countryside by fast horseback. There are no restrictions, other than size. Jockey weight must be under 187 pounds fully dressed to ride in special endurance saddles, developed to ensure the horse stays in excellent condition during the long rides.

Age isn't a measure of greatness. In Mongolian culture, several generations of family members live in gers, or yurts, together, and the elders hold a special position of respect within the home. In 2019, 70-year-old cowboy Robert Long was the overall winner of the Mongol Derby, and his trip across the finish line became a cultural exchange. Mongols lined up to honor his triumphant win, along with the teams and participants from across the world.

However, as prey animals, horses often mistrust any new situation or person. Having what equestrians call "horsemanship," the ability to calmly handle an animal and gain its trust, is a challenge for most any ride, much less one that starts with very little introduction. Every rider knows that horsemanship is the key to a successful and safe ride every time.

For some, riding in the Mongol Derby is a lifelong dream. Podcaster and polo player Gideon Kotkowski discovered the event scrolling through Instagram in 2019.

"It felt like it was the ultimate horse person challenge, and I always felt I had a special connection to horses and could ride anything. I had to prove it to myself," he said.

He dreamed of the race, even printing pictures of the event to add to his wall, waiting for a time when he could afford to travel and ride in the Derby.



Photo -Sarah Farnsworth Photography

"Every day I woke up, I saw those pictures and every day I went to sleep, I saw those pictures. I believe I visualized it into existence," he said, "A couple of years later, I got a promotion at my job and realized if I didn't sign up now, I'd never do it. I reached out and competed in 2024."

Like all the participants, Kotkowski flew into Ulaanbaatar, the capital and urban center of Mongolia. Though he was excited at the start of the race, reality immediately set in. The horses lined up at the starting line and surged as a group into a gallop, when a rider quickly had an accident.

"At the first horse station, I see this lady fall. That set the tone for the rest of the race. Not even an hour had passed and I see another contender walking because her horse ran away. I checked that she was OK. It's a competition, but the most important thing is that everyone survives," he said.

The riders take care of each other, and the Mongol people in the remote location also pitch in. Because the terrain can be harsh, all a rider has to do is ask if they could stay in a ger with a family. They'd immediately be welcomed inside to share food and drink and enjoy a place to rest.

Each horse in the Derby is only ridden once, carrying its rider from one base camp to another. When they arrive, veterinarians check the animal's condition for any stress, and riders are penalized by adding time to their next start for any violation.

Kotkowski found the horses a new challenge at each stop.

"You get a slow one, maybe you get a faster one. My second horse was a quick one; he took off and sprinted in the wrong direction. I looked down at my GPS to see if I'm going in the right direction and the batteries had fallen out. It was my first experience, not even the first half of the day in my Mongol Derby, and I don't have a GPS anymore."

After a few days in the saddle, Kotkowski found himself more sore than he'd ever experienced before as a rider. He'd improvised a sheep skin pad to ease his chafed legs out of a carcass he found on the trail. He was hungry and tired.

"By day four, I woke up with some hope. I had been thinking that I couldn't believe I signed up and paid this much money to suffer. But by day four, I realized I was in the middle of Mongolia, further away from base camp than I was to the finish line. I realized the only way out was through."

The ninth and last day proved to be the toughest.





Gideon Kotkowski
CREDIT: Kathy Gabriel Photography

"I woke up that day and thought, this is going to be my last day. And the first thing that happened to me is that I forgot to check out of the vet station," Kotkowski said.

That mistake would have caused a two-hour delay, so he chose to turn around and fix the mistake. He didn't want to lose any time again for an error, so Kotkowski decided to get off early and walk the horse toward the next station—that way, they both could catch their breath.

"I'm stiffer than a tree, and I can barely move. When I got off my horse, I spooked him. I held onto the reins because you can't lose the horse. I ate a face full of dirt, and when I got up, he kicked me right in the chest," he said.

After a bit, Kotkowski managed to catch the horse again, making his way through to the next station. He got on and it started pouring rain.

"We just got absolutely drenched for like an hour, galloping through the rain and not knowing exactly where we're going," he said.

At the last station, a few miles from the finish line, his horse stepped in a marmot hole, tripping and throwing Kotkowski to the ground. Thankfully, instead of running away, it calmly waited for him to get up and ride again.

"My mom was waiting on me at the finish line," said Kotkowski, "I had motivation to get there. It was insane."

The Mongol Derby was the bucket list experience that Kotkowski believed it would be, but he almost lacked the words to do it justice.

"People ask me how I feel about completing it, and I still don't know what to say. It's the feeling of accomplishment of something that I've dreamed of doing. It makes me cry, you know what I mean?" he explained.

If you ride horses and think you'd like to participate, the Derby holds an event before the race to make sure you're able to handle the conditions.

"We do pre-race training that you can do before the race starts," said Cooper, "It makes sure that everybody who shows up really can do it. If we think you are a hazard to yourself or the horses, we won't let you start. You have to be serious about what you undertake."

Cooper believes the Mongol Derby offers a unique opportunity to experience history firsthand.

"It's such a life-changing experience, and to be able to live with the most famous horse culture on the planet while it's still intact before modernization, is so special," he said, "The people are still riding horses and living this nomadic life. There are no fences, and nobody owns the land. We say this is more than just a horse race, it's an adventure."

(Note that Knoxville's own Leslie Wylie Bateman rode in and completed the Mongol Derby. CDCTS was very fortunate to have her tell of her adventures at one of our annual banquets).

CDCTS Summer Schooling Show

June 21, 2025, Rain or Shine Closing Date: June 16, 2025

Walnut Grove Stables, 1154 Lakeshore Rd, Talbott, TN 37877

Judge: Debbie Schwartz, L Graduate with Distinction Show Secretary: Carolyn Ordal, cdctscarolyn@gmail.com

Click here for the entry form. Entries are online only.

CDCTS CLASSIFIED CORNER

Trailers for Sale. Tobruk Trailers. Merhow and Cherokee aluminum trailers. Custom living quarters for large horses. Hitches and repairs. Call 865-674-7041 or email tobrukfarm@charter.net.

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Contact: Diane Carlson 865-922-3614 or

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dianeandcharlie56@gmail.com

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Business Card (3.5"wide X 2" high)	FREE	\$2 per month
Classified Ad	FREE	\$1 for each 25 words

Please send ads, via email to *cdctsnews@gmail.com*. Make checks out to CDCTS (put "advertising" in the check memo line) and mail them to Kacy Schnake, 324 El Jon Lane, Kingston, TN 37763.

June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Hunter Jumper, River Glen	2	3	4	5 Jim Koford	6 Jim Koford	7 Jim Koford
8 Jim Koford	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 CDCTS Board Meeting	18	19	20	CDCTS Summer Schooling Show, Walnut Grove Stables
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Jim Koford	4 Jim Koford	5 Jim Koford
6 Jim Koford	7	8 CDCTS Board Meeting	9	10	11	12 Cathy Zappe Clinic
13 Cathy Zappe Clinic	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

ARTICLES FOR THE CROSSING

Please submit articles for your monthly CDCTS newsletter, *THE CROSSING*. Deadline for articles is the 20th of each month. Send your article by email to:*cdctsnews@gmail.com*.

2025 CDCTS Events

Schooling Show Dates: Summer Schooling Show, June 21, Walnut Grove Stables in Talbot, TN; Fall Schooling Show, September 27; Cathy Zappe Clinics, July 12-13 and October 18-19.

2025 Local Events

Jim Koford: May 1-4, June 5-8, July 3-6, August 1-3, September 4-7, October 2-5 (subject to change), October 30-November 2, December 4-7.

River Glen: Hunter Jumper, May 9-11; Dressage by the River, May 17-18; Hunter Jumper, May 31-June 1; Summer Hunter Jumper, August 2-3; Dressage by the River, August 16-17; Hunter Jumper, September 20-21; Fall Hunter Jumper, October 4-5 & 18-19; Hunter Jumper, November 8-9

Next Meeting

June 17, 2025
3rd Tuesday of the Month
Calhoun's Restaurant

(Pellissippi/Kingston Pike Intersection) 10020 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 6 p.m. for dinner, 7 p.m. for meeting



Region 3 USDF GMO #0319

CDCTS is a USDF Group Member Organization that caters to dressage and combined training (eventing) riders and enthusiasts in the Knoxville area and throughout East Tennessee.

By joining CDCTS, you will be on the fast track to learning about shows, clinics and other great educational opportunities in our area. You will get to meet other like-minded, horse loving people, and you will become part of a group that is continually working to promote dressage and eventing in your area.

In addition, by joining CDCTS, you automatically become a Group Member of USDF, which provides you with many additional benefits in the dressage arena.

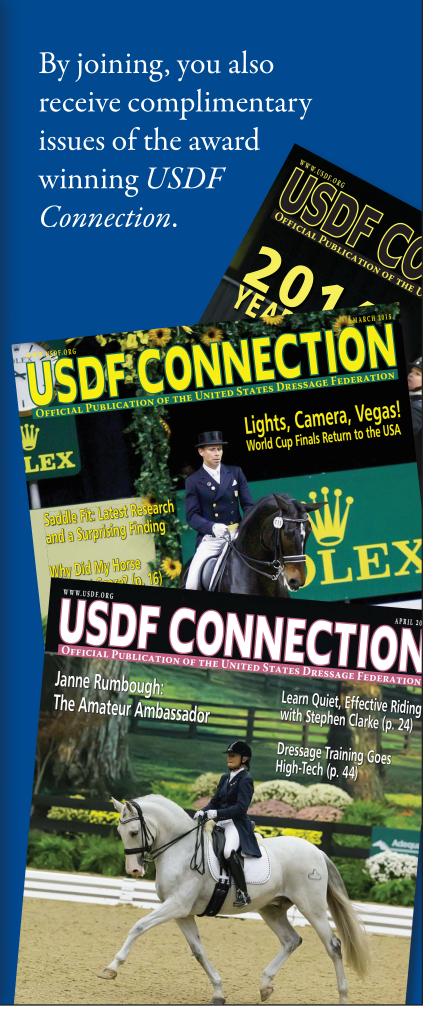
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Become a member today and stay connected with your local dressage community!







Crossroads Dressage and Combined Training Society 2025 Membership Application



CDCTS membership year is 1 December 2024-30 November 2025. After 1 December, the effective date of membership begins the day the form and correct dues reach the CDCTS Secretary at the address below. CDCTS is a USDF GMO and its members are automatically USDF Group Members. For Participating Membership, members must apply directly to USDF. \$24.00 of your primary GMO membership fee goes directly to USDF for your Group Membership. Electronic copies of CDCTS applications will be held until funds are received.

First Name:	Middle Initial:	_ Last Name:	USDF#:
Street Address:			
City:	State:	Zip Code:	_
Primary Phone: ()		Secondary Phone: ()
Primary Email address: _			
Birth date:	(re	quired by USDF for all ri	ders under 21 years of age,
and requested for those o	over 21 years old to ass	ist in limiting doubled en	tries at USDF)
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a. Charter Member (Foundi	ng member of the club wh	nose membership has not l	lapsed)X \$23.00
b. Adult Member (Over 21 y	ears old as of January 1,	2024)	X \$52.00
c. Junior/Young Rider Meml	per (21 years old or youn	ger as of January 1, 2024)	X \$28.00
d. Family Membership (\$52	Primary Member + \$13.0	0 per each additional men	
e. Early Bird Discount (Payr	nent hefore November 1	2024) deduct \$5.00	X \$13.00 -\$5.00
o. Early Bird Bloodain (Fdy)	none soloto revolusor 1,	,	
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Name:	F	Phone #: ()	
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Other: Phone Contacts, newsletter,Website,			Newsletter,Publish
Please make your check p Kacy Schnake, CDCTS Tr 324 El Jon Lane Kingston, TN 37763		<i>Office action</i> Date Receiv Check #:	n: /ed:



Kingston, TN 37763

Crossroads Dressage and Combined Training Society 2025 Professional or Business Application



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Primary Contact: First Name:	Middle Initial: Last Name:
Business Name (if applicable):	
Mailing or Street Address:	
City:	State: Zip Code:
Primary Phone: ()	Secondary Phone: ()
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	v: Crossroads Dressage and Combined Training Society for the membership year 2025 as a Professional or Business Member (please select one)
a. I/we wish to provide a lecture	or training series with the following details:
	a CDCTS Schooling Show for the following amountor with the Please select Spring or Fall Show or both.
c. I/we wish to sponsor a Spring or Fall Show or both.	(trophy, ribbons, neck sashes, etc) in a schooling show. <i>Please select</i>
d. I/we wish to sponsor a year er	d award. Please specify which award and amount.
e. I/we wish to support the club	n another manner. Please specify below:
Please fill your form out and mai	it to:
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