

The cooler temperatures are upon us and those of us in Colorado have already had our first snow October 8th! I know Utah and Wyoming have already also had some nice snow too... The horses are getting shaggy, the blankets are out and the Holiday season is fast approaching. USDF has started a new competition season already and this time of year is often a time where a lot of us are “getting our education on”!

The USDF education portal, E-TRAK, has received a facelift and has added several new features! Besides a cosmetic overhaul, the following improvements were implemented:

- After log-in: "Learning Center button now houses guided and interactive educational activities.
 - The In-Depth Study TRAKs are tracked by USDF and are eligible for USDF University accreditation.
 - The Quick Study TRAKs are learning tools that provide selected educational items for each topic.
- The Advanced Search feature has been completed and is now active.
- Provided an "FAQ" button and corresponding web page to explain what e-TRAK is and answers to additional questions.
- Improved the visibility of the navigational buttons on the top of the page.
- Slowed down the slide show which showcases tips for the viewer. These tips are linked to educational items within e-TRAK.
- After log-in: Provided Last Viewed section, in the upper left hand side, which shows your viewing history in e-TRAK.

USDF has established a new Peer-to-Peer Commission comprised of volunteers who have been charged with trying to make riding in dressage competitions more appealing and rewarding for riders by creating a system whereby riders can compete against others of similar ability and experience. I'm very happy to be heading up this commission and working with several talented members of the USDF organization. Many USDF members have a passion for the sport, but a reluctance to compete. The Commission needs your input on what would entice more competitors to the dressage competition arena as every rider should be able to enjoy showing and have a chance to win!

Other sports have handicaps or rating systems that enable a level playing field such as golf, tennis or even other equestrian sports like team roping or the hunter arenas. The Commission has discussed adding classes/divisions based on prior show history, taking into account scores accumulated, ribbons won and/or Championship qualifications earned. But they need to hear from you, the members! Please send your input to peertopeer@usdf.org by November 23 so that the Commission can discuss these ideas at the Adequan/USDF Annual Convention in San Diego.

The USDF convention is just around the corner and it's time to book your hotel rooms, airfare and register for the convention and symposium if you haven't done so already!. We are in lovely San Diego this year November 30th-December 4th. Information and registration forms for the Convention and Symposium are available at www.usdf.org/Convention/.

Till next month!
Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director