

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO CHAPTER CDS NEWS****
WINTER 2009

Our chapter enjoyed a successful year in 2008 thanks to all of our very supportive members. The shows had excellent attendance and made money for charities and year end awards. We hosted a well received clinic with Willie Arts in November and look forward to the same forecast for 2009.

With the economy tightening up for everyone, we especially want to thank our Sponsors for their continued support; Vicki Rea, American Horse Products, Orange County Equine Vet Services, Horse Duds and Roy Young Photography to name a few. As your Chapter Chair and show manager, I am planning discounts which will encourage continued support for our shows for the upcoming year. We plan to have Leslie Webb of Harmony Sport Horse come to our area to clinic this summer and will be brainstorming other fun activities for all. World Cup returns to Las Vegas in April and we can look forward to receiving to best in the world practically in our own backyard. Steffan Peters will be there with Ravel as well as the super hot rider from the Netherlands: Adelinde Cornelissen with Parzival. You don't want to miss them!

Kathy

Your Board:

Kathy King
Kristin Young
Kit Stebbins
Nicki Lucas

Webmaster : Bronwen Cleary

Check out our website WWW.SJC-CDS.ORG

Willie Arts Clinic

The San Juan Capistrano Chapter hosted a 2 day dressage clinic with Willy Arts from DG Bar Ranch in Hanford, CA. Willy is a life time horse man with a wealth of skills in regards to breeding, selection and presenting young horses. His resume speaks for itself. He also is a fantastic trainer of riders who are willing to commit to a focused and purposeful riding lesson. Willy recently spent two days in San Juan Capistrano at Sycamore Trails- teaching 10 riders of all levels and horses of all backgrounds valuable dressage skills. Each day started at 8am and was intensely filled with exercises and wise words to improve the existing horse-rider combination. Some

basic recurring comments were: The horse must listen to the leg- the leg is the forward cue, the response to the leg must be instantly and quick- engaging the hind legs to push, the whip should only be used if the horse is on the proper contact, follow the bend, listen to the leg, straighten the horse by bending it, recognize the correct rhythm of the horse. Initially most pairs started on a 20m circle around Willy while he observed the horses locomotion and ability to bend and listen to the riders command. He then would add exercises of bending, accelerating and riding shoulder fore- to obtain proper straightness and increase flexibility in the horse. Most issues in the horses were about working through blockages in the horse and improving the overall fluid presentation of the horse. The clinic was very much about the basics of correct riding and training and proved very helpful for all in attendance.