



# Take Contact!

## Inland Communities Chapter of the California Dressage Society

ICCcds.org

2010 Issue No. 5 - September / October

### Chair Message

Check out this month's message from ICC Chair, Kathy Young, for all the latest and greatest news in a nutshell.

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### Calendar of Events

Save the date! Check out the happenings.



### Junior Corner

Meet Denise Monahan

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### Calling Creative Riders

The October schooling show is costumes optional - don't miss the fun!

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### ICC Royalty

ICC's Dressage Queens made an appearance at the CDS Championships.

### Juniors-Only Contest!

Don't miss this combined judging clinic and contest just for juniors.

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### Custom Saddles

Part 2 of 2 - Justin Baghai of Revere Saddlery explains common issues involved in fitting horse and rider.

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### Bits and Pieces

Closing comments, a little bit of this and that, classified ads, and a tribute to our sponsors.

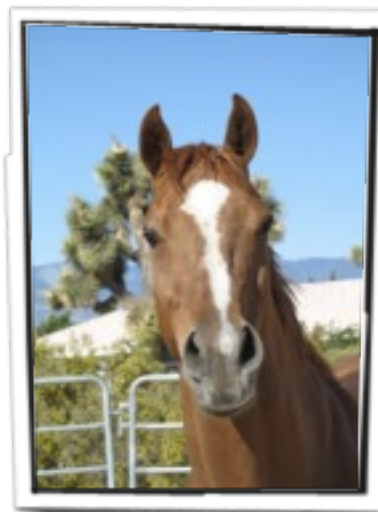
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## Chair Message

ICC chapter members: We entered the CDS Championships Best Chapter Box Seats decorating contest sponsored by Los Angeles Chapter at the CDS Championships. Sara Mosqueda, Nancy Franklin and I spent four hours on the cold concrete floor of the Equidome blinging, tulle-ing, and netting our Dressage Queens and Pony Princesses theme.

Oh, and we had pink feathers, too.

Our October schooling show, costumes optional all day, is Oct. 24 at Sundance Ranch in Redlands. It's a wonderful facility and David Schmutz, a newly minted "S" judge, has graciously agreed to officiate.



Ballots will be sent out in the next few weeks, and we urge you to vote and return the ballots by the due date printed on them. The results will be announced at the December no-host dinner/business meeting which is usually held at a restaurant in the Redlands area. There was talk at the meeting about the

Spaghetti Factory being a great place to meet. Watch for details!

Sara (Diefenbach) Mosqueda is putting together a juniors judging clinic, which will be at Shadow Ridge November 13. It's a fundraiser for ICC juniors events, and 4-H and FFA clubs from the area are invited to send teams of students to judge dressage horses in-hand as well as under saddle. Should be a fun day!

If any of you know of facilities that are willing and able to host shows or clinics, please let us know. For shows, the facility must have adequate parking, warmup and show rings and suitable footing. Depending on the type of clinic, the three factors I listed for shows may not be as big an issue. Of course, the facility must also have insurance.

Our next ICC Board Meeting is November 3 at 6:30 p.m. at Shadow Ridge. The meetings are open to everyone.

**Kathy Young**  
(760) 953-8682 (cell)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### OCTOBER

#### **COSTUMES OPTIONAL ALL DAY SCHOOLING SHOW –10/24**

PLACE SUNDANCE RANCH - REDLANDS

JUDGE DAVID SCHMUTZ

**PREMIUMS DUE OCTOBER 18!**

### NOVEMBER

#### **ICC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 11/3**

PLACE KATHY PAVLICH'S HOME - HIGHLAND (SHADOW RIDGE)

TIME 6:30 P.M

#### **JUNIORS ONLY HORSE JUDGING CONTEST AND CLINIC**

PLACE SHADOW RIDGE EQUESTRIAN CENTER - HIGHLAND

TIME 8:00 A.M. (REGISTRATION OPENS)

9:00 A.M. (CONTEST BEGINS)

**Watch your mailbox for your  
2011 ICC Board of Directors  
Ballot...coming soon! Deadline  
for nominations is October 15!!**

## Junior Corner

### MEET DENISE MONAHAN

Denise is an 8th grade student at Beattie Middle School in Highland. Denise is a member of CJSF honor society with a 4.0 grade point average. Denise loves to ride her horse, "Neon Lights" aka Neo at Buena Vista Dressage! Whether it's jumping or dressage she loves the challenge of working with horses. Denise also loves to swim, run track, and play basketball.





# Calling All Creative Riders!

*The annual Costumes Optional schooling show will be held on Sunday, October 24 at Sundance Ranch in Redlands. Newly appointed "S" judge David Schmutz will be our judge. Premiums due October 18th. Don't miss out on the fun!*

**Here are just a few photos from last year's show...costumed or not, everyone had a blast!**



Time to feed your horse, Lori...he's all bones!



Float like a butterfly...

Wonder if we can convince Ruth to put on a costume this year?

(No, Ruth, blue gloves do not a costume make!)



# CDS Championships

ICC Board members Kathy Young, Sara Mosqueda, and Nancy Franklin spent four hours on the cold concrete floor of the LAEC Equidome before the championships (after walking there, barefoot in the snow, uphill), decorating our chapter box seats for the decorating contest. We may not have won with our Dressage Queens and Pony Princesses theme, but these pictures sure make me wish I had been there! Gorgeous work, gals!





**INVITES YOU TO OUR FIRST ANNUAL  
“JUNIORS ONLY”  
HORSE JUDGING CLINIC/CONTEST**

Interested in learning how to judge dressage horses? The Inland Communities Chapter of the California Dressage Society is hosting a Horse Judging clinic/contest open to all members 18 and under including ICC members, FFA members and 4H members. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about the standards of conformation for warmbloods and thoroughbreds and also judge performance classes. All members will enter as an individual and can form teams of three to four members. Awards will be given through sixth place to the top placing individuals and teams.

**When: Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**Where: Shadow Ridge Equestrian Center  
7256 Weaver Street  
Highland, CA 92346**

**Time: Registration begins at 8am  
Contest begins at 9am**

**Cost: \$10 per individual**

All Interested teams or individuals need to contact Sara Mosqueda at (909)  
890-8979.

Please RSVP by November 6<sup>th</sup>.



## Diagnosing Fitting Problems and How to Handle Them

There was a time many years ago when a custom saddle was truly a custom saddle, built from scratch with a unique tree for a particular horse and rider. Unfortunately, the direction a large majority of saddle companies in our country have gone is to an overseas mass production model. In this model, saddles are sold as custom, however the same “one shape fits all” tree design is used for all different shapes, sizes and breeds of horses. This is in large part why so many riders run into saddle fitting issues with

saddles that they thought were custom for both horse and rider. In order to help riders that have been the victim of this process, this article will cover common saddle fitting problems many horses and riders experience, and how to handle those problems.

### FIT TO THE HORSE

1. The saddle slides forward or backward during riding.

This most commonly means the tree shape front-to-back is not correct for the horse. Since many brands only use one kind of “one shape fits all” tree, this usually means the saddle is too curved for the horse's back. This creates instability with the saddle and causes it to slide up the horse's neck, or backward down its back depending on its conformation. The solution to this is finding a saddle with the proper tree, or getting the tree replaced on your existing saddle.

2. The saddle pinches the withers or does not provide proper withers clearance.

This usually has to do with the length of the tree points and the shape of the head of the tree (the part underneath the pommel). Different horses need different length tree points depending on their conformation. If the length is not correct for the horse it can either pinch and put too much pressure high up on the withers, or dig into the horse at the base of the withers. The shape of the head also makes a huge difference in clearance to the sides and top of the withers, while also helping to control how close to the horse the rider feels. Again, the solution to this is making sure you find the proper tree design for your horse.

3. The saddle bounces in the rear.

A few different things can cause this problem that ultimately comes from an out-of-balance saddle with uneven pressure dispersion. The three most common issues are too wide of a tree, unsuitable billet design or too much curvature in the tree. The first two are relatively easy to handle with the help of a trained saddle fitter and someone with saddle making know-how. The third (which is most often the root of the problem) is more complicated. It again, requires a new tree that matches the curvature of your horse's back.

## FIT TO THE RIDER

1. Rider feels pitched forward, hits the pommel while posting or is experiencing lower back pain.

The two most common reasons for all three of these symptoms are either an out-of-balance saddle or incorrect fit to the rider's legs. If the saddle is tipping forward it can cause these problems for a rider, and this can usually be remedied with either flocking or tree adjustments. If the flaps and thigh blocks are not set correctly for a rider, it can put too much pressure against the front of their thighs. This causes the pelvis to rotate too far forward and can cause one or all of these three problems. This can be solved by resetting the flaps properly for the rider, and/or replacing the thigh blocks with a different size and shape block set.

2. Rider legs are too far forward and cannot keep them under her.

This can be caused by an out-of-balance saddle, as mentioned above, but in the opposite direction. Another common reason is that the balance of the seat is set too far back. This puts a rider too far in the back of the saddle, leaving the legs too far in front of her. This is very common in "chair-seat" saddles. The solution to this is to have a saddle maker change the saddle's balance to a more center or forward position.

These are some of the most common saddle fitting issues that arise, but each horse and rider combination is different and each requires solutions that are tailored specifically to them. If you are experiencing any of these problems or anything else, your best bet is to contact a qualified saddle fitter and saddle maker that can assess your unique situation and do any work necessary for you.

### *About the author:*

*Written by Justin Baghai, custom saddle maker and owner of Revere Saddlery. Revere Saddlery is a California based manufacturer of full custom dressage and jumping saddles. Everything is designed and made in-house, allowing riders and their horses to get exactly what they need to perform. Check Revere out on the web at [RevereSaddlery.com](http://RevereSaddlery.com), via telephone at 877-977-7383, or visit their San Diego location for ANY repairs or adjustments on ANY brand saddle.*

10459 Roselle St.  
Suite D  
San Diego, CA 92121



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**Bits and Pieces  
from the Editor**  
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I hope you have enjoyed this issue of Take Contact.

I'm sorry to say that this will be my second-to-last edition, as I am moving out of state. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Newsletter Editor.

I would like to make my final issue (Nov/Dec) my best ever, so if there's something you want to see included, please email me!

And if you want to volunteer to take over in 2011, I would be more than happy to share my secrets! :>

~ **Kelly McNamara**  
saddlebroke@gmail.com

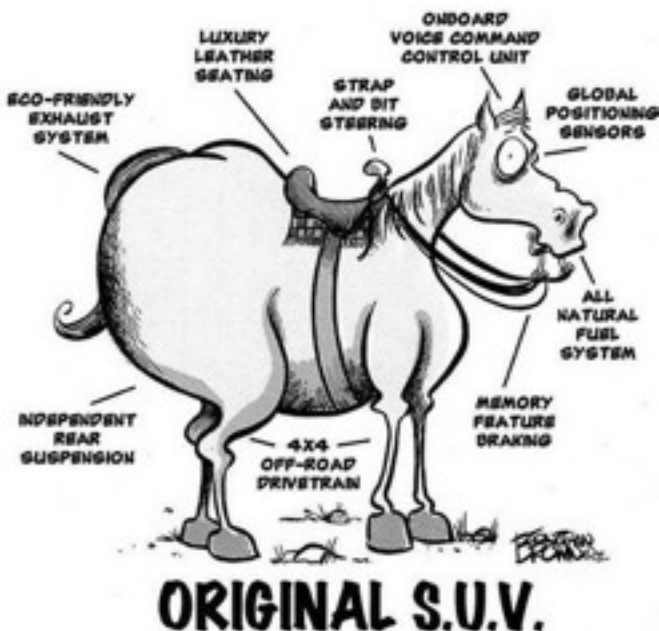
## 2010 Board of Directors

Chapter Chair:	Kathy Young
Treasurer:	Kathy Pavlich
Secretary and Volunteer Coordinator:	Ruth Corrao-Harris
Show Chair:	Meg Hammond
Show Secretary:	Nancy Franklin
Website Liaison:	Cindy Taylor
Junior Coordinator:	Sara Mosqueda
Members At Large:	Sheila McKee Lori Johnstone

## Chapter Volunteers

Junior Liaison:	Delaney Seeburger
Newsletter Editor:	Kelly McNamara

## Thank You! To our Sponsors:



For information on how you can be an ICC sponsor, please visit our website or email [cindy.taylor@cybertime.net](mailto:cindy.taylor@cybertime.net).

Sponsorships are available for general expenses, class sponsorship, High Point Awards for shows, Junior Championships, and much more!

# Classifieds

*Everything from horses to shows to enter them in...*

## Dressage Getaway Horse Shows

**November 19, 20, 21, 2010**

Judges: Alexandra Howard & Melonie Kessler

**January 14, 15, 16, 2011**

Judges: Lilo Fore & Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez

**February 11, 12, 13, 2011**

Judges: Hilda Gurney & Natalie Lamping

All the above dressage shows are held at the HITS Desert Horse Park, located at:  
85-555 Airport Blvd., Thermal, CA. 92274

Entry Forms and Prize Lists will be found online at [www.Dressagegetaway.com](http://www.Dressagegetaway.com)

Every ICC competitor is eligible for Daily High Point Awards in Junior, Amateur, Open and FEI. ICC member must sign up in the horse show office before the show starts to be eligible for awards. Overall High Point awards will be given for combined scores from November, January and February in Junior, Amateur, Open and FEI.

For more information call / email: Patricia Aiken (760) 347-0778 [DressageGetaway@gmail.com](mailto:DressageGetaway@gmail.com)

### Draft Cross Mare for Sale

Samba (or Sammie to her friends) is a 5 year old draft cross mare, 16.1 hands, regrettably offered for sale because I am moving out of state, and can't take her with me. Her sire was a registered Paint, out of a Thoroughbred, and her dam was a full Clydesdale. Sammie has been trained consistently in dressage since Feb '09 when I bought her, and will remain in training with Meg Hammond until sold. We showed at Intro level in June at a CDS rated show, earning 64.50 on both tests from an R judge. She is ready to show Training Level now. She is just starting lateral work, and is doing well. She seems to enjoy learning new things, and gets a really cute expression when she "gets it." Sammie is very smart, and has a cute, social personality. Asking \$7,000, but negotiable to the right home.

Call or email Kelly McNamara for more details: (949) 433-9629 [saddlebroke@gmail.com](mailto:saddlebroke@gmail.com)

