



Ride Your Test Clinic



July 2009 CDS Pomona Chapter Newsletter

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As the Southern Junior Young Rider Championship show in August rapidly approaches, many junior riders are working hard to raise money for what can be an expensive show. This past June, David Wilson and W Farms did their part to help raise money for the CDS Pomona Chapter junior riders by holding a unique "Ride Your Test Clinic".

The clinic began on a beautiful Sunday morning in W Farms' main dressage arena. Participants were encouraged to warm up their horses in one of the property's alternate rings, and then enter the dressage ring and ride a current official USDF dressage test of their choice while David judged the test from his seat at the front of the ring. After the rider finished his or her test, David coached the rider for fifteen or twenty minutes over the loudspeaker, focusing on the areas of the test where the rider needed the most improvement. Many people opted to ride two tests during their clinic slot, allowing them to actively apply the training they received after the first test to try to improve their second score. David expands on his idea behind the clinic, "I think I made riders think about improving their strategy in riding a test. You should have a strategy to training your horse, and you should have the same when you ride a test. My first goal was to help them identify their problems in a test, and then tell them how they can form a strategy to fix it those problems".

Riders and auditors alike were continually impressed with the progress that riders were able to make during the clinic. Several riders expressed their enthusiasm over having a chance to directly apply the training they were receiving to a test, something that is not possible during traditional clinics.



The event ran from 9am to 5 pm, with each rider granted a 30 minute slot. Nearly 20 riders participated, as well as about 25 auditors. Best Best & Krieger Attorney's at Law sponsored the event and provided a very nice lunch for all riders and auditors. The Pomona Chapter Junior riders also volunteered their time to help run the clinic. Junior riders provided several services throughout the day, from helping scribe and score the tests, to keeping time and reading tests for riders.

The clinic proved itself to be a big success, with over \$1,000 raised for the 2009 Championship show. Rider and auditor responses were so positive, W Farms has plans to hold several more "Ride your Test Clinics", perhaps four or five a year. Keep visiting W Farms on the net for more info on when the next clinic will be held!