

### ***Time to RAAC in August!***

The California Dressage Society is still creating and initiating new programs as well as carefully maintaining the standards of the founders. One of the most popular proposals from Peggy Klump was for the Regional Adult Amateur Competition (RAAC).



Beginning in 2008, three RAAC shows, (North, South and Central) are put on each year by various Chapters. The mission of these competitions is to provide an opportunity for all CDS Adult Amateur riders to quality and compete against others of similar skills and experience.

The regional nature of these shows helps to provide our membership with a developmental path for gaining competitive experience, promote excellence and increase awareness of and support for the Chapters.

For the Chapters these regional level adult amateur competitions are designed to promote and enhance awareness and participation by the CDS Chapters, provide state level support in funding and advertisement, and a chance to generate funds at the Chapter level.



For the riders these competitions provide a positive introductory show experience for some, which will hopefully be a stepping stone to bigger things, while offering the other more experienced amateur riders an additional competitive experience.

The RAAC is split in two divisions, the Novice Division for those riders who have never competed in the CDS Championship and an Elite Division for those riders who have competed in the CDS Championships. Not to overlook the older generation, CDS created a special Roses Award in three divisions for riders over 50 years of age. The RAAC is truly for all amateurs.



For the whole organization, these competitions are designed to bridge the gap between the local chapter shows with individual year end awards programs and the top caliber competition at the Annual CDS Championship Show.

The participation has grown from 92 riders in 2008 to 208 amateurs filling the competitions in 2016. The amateur riders enjoy the all-amateur experience so much, they come back year after year. Even though it's competitive, there really is camaraderie among the amateurs for everyone to have a successful show.

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Written by CRM

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Look for the upcoming 2017 RAAC Shows. Central: August 12-13, 2017 at the Paso Robles Horse Park; North: August 25-27, 2017 at Cool August Nights in Burbank; and North: August 25-27, 2017 at Starr Vaughn Equestrian in Elk Grove. For more information about the RAAC program, visit [www.california-dressage.org](http://www.california-dressage.org) . CDS would also like to extend special thanks to RAAC title sponsor Equine Insurance as well as Dressage Today, Dara James Designs, and Circle Oak Equine for their support of the RAAC shows.

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*Complete history of results: [www.california-dressage.org/html/show\\_results.htm](http://www.california-dressage.org/html/show_results.htm).*