

Presidents Column

By Joan Williams

I am proud and honored to be the new Chapter president for the Santa Cruz chapter of CDS. In 2011 the chapter lost its long time venue and great show staff available at American Sporthorse. In 2012 our famous Coastal Classic was held at Vigne Farms's lovely facility. With potential changes in the ownership of the facility, the chapter voted at the end of 2012 to put the Coastal Classic on hold for a year. We decided to explore other venues for next year and offer other educational opportunities to its members. Cindy Marchese looked into possible locations for next year. It appears the best possibility right now is Graham Hill Showgrounds. They have upgraded the facility with a beautiful clubhouse, put new footing in both arenas and enlarged the dressage court. The base has been redone and the arenas are now both completely fenced.

Diane Nell and I traveled to Long Beach this year for the Annual CDS meeting aboard the Queen Mary. The ship was historic and beautiful. Seana Adamson spoke on sports psychology and Gil Merrick on team building. Tracy Lert showed a wonderful presentation on the new 2013 rider tests. The videos were made by Sandy Howard and featured many riders from our Santa Cruz Chapter. There were round table discussions and chapters talked about interesting educational ideas.

We had our first 2013 Santa Cruz chapter board meeting at my house in January. We discussed sending out a survey to our members to choose which educational and social events to offer this year. There will be an awards ceremony in March for our chapter where we will discuss the events and choose which to offer this year.

I am excited to be a part of our chapter and to participate in the year's upcoming social and educational events.