

The San Diego Union-Tribune.

Dressage Affaire

What: National dressage competition, sanctioned by the U.S. Equestrian Foundation and the U.S. Dressage Federation, and sponsored by the San Diego chapter of the California Dressage Society.

Also: The event is a qualifier for the USEF High Performance National Championships, to be held in June in Gladstone, N.J.

Who: Elite equestrians expected to participate include three-time Olympic bronze medalist and Del Mar resident Guenter Seidel, who was the 2004 Horseman of the Year, Leslie Morse, Jennifer Hoffman, Steffen Peters and Jan Ebeling.

When: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today, tomorrow and Sunday.

Where: Del Mar Horsepark

Cost: Tickets are \$5 per day or \$10 for all three days. There will be a Sunday brunch at 10 a.m.; cost is \$35 per seat.

Info: (858) 518-4128



Dream comes true for equestrienne

By: KAREN PEARLMAN - Union Tribune

When Donna McKenna was a youngster who dreamed of riding horses, her favorite television shows were "Gunsmoke" and "Bonanza."

"I grew up in North Park," said the 41-year-old Rancho Santa Fe resident, now Donna Salazar, married with three daughters. "Like a lot of little girls, I loved horses. We never could afford to ride them.

The most I ever did was go on my mom's lunch hour to where there were horses in Santee and we'd rent one for an hour."

Almost everything – save her passion for horses – has changed since that 8-year-old saddled up for rides in the East County.

Salazar will be among those in Del Mar this weekend for the

Dressage Affaire, a national dressage competition sanctioned by the U.S. Equestrian Foundation and the U.S. Dressage Federation.

The 1982 graduate of Our Lady of Peace will be competing in two events – Prix St. George and Intermediaire I – on a horse named Foltaire, who took the bronze medal at the 2000 Sydney Olympics with rider Guenter Seidel, a Del Mar resident and three-time Olympian.

For two years Salazar has been taking dressage lessons from Seidel with Foltaire, an 18-year-old Dutch Warmblood owned by Dick and Jane Brown of La Costa.

"I couldn't believe my luck in getting to work with Guenter and Foltaire," said Salazar, who was 22 when she started riding regu-

larly and who says she loves the requirement for perfection, the challenge, discipline and artistry of dressage as opposed to just horseback riding.

"I still pinch myself. I'm learning from two masters – the horse, and the man who trained him. It's like a dream come true. Guenter is so disciplined in the way he teaches. And Foltaire is in incredible shape.

"Excellence is what Guenter's after. He is after the correct way to do things and doesn't settle for less. Yet he's very patient and kind. He gives me confidence."

Seidel, 44, who took bronze medals in dressage in the 1996, 2000 and 2004 Olympics, is using this weekend's event to prepare for next weekend's FEI World

Cup Finals at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas.

He will be riding Aragon, the horse with whom he won the bronze in Team Grand Prix Dressage at the Athens Olympics. Aragon is also owned by the Browns.

"My hope is that the little things that I want to do will be able to get better," Seidel said of the Del Mar event. "This is a good opportunity to work on anything I might be apprehensive about. This is the time not to be hesitant and to make big corrections if I need to. It's good preparation for the World Cup."



The Dressage Affaire is sponsored by the San Diego Chapter of the California Dressage Society:
www.sandiegodressage.com

For more information about
The Dressage Affaire
contact Show Manager [Kim Keenan](mailto:kimkeenan@adelphia.net)
at (858) 518-4128 or kimkeenan@adelphia.net.