

NEDA Fall Symposium with Carl Hester

Demonstration Rider Information

October 17 & 18, 2020

By Beth Beukema, Fall Symposium Organizer

Demonstration Riders Needed for Fall Symposium with Carl Hester

Is it your dream to ride in front of Carl Hester and be part of an amazing educational event? Now is your chance to apply.

NEDA is honored to welcome back Carl Hester for an encore Symposium on October 17th and 18th, 2020. The event will be held at the picturesque Equestrian Center at Mount Holyoke College, in South Hadley, MA. Carl needs little introduction to our NEDA members: Carl Hester is a five-time Olympic veteran, notably a member of the British Dressage Team at the 2012 London Olympic Games aboard *Uthopia*, where the team won the nation's first-ever Gold medal in Dressage. In the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio, Hester won a Team Silver medal with *Nip Tuck*. He was also the coach of the other three team members, including Charlotte Dujardin and the world-famous, *Valegro*. As the British team preps for Tokyo 2021, another medal winning experience may well be on the way.

The focus of the Fall Symposium will be the progression of training through the levels, from young horse to the Grand Prix. Across the two-day event, auditors will view 12 horses work under the direction of Carl Hester. Demonstration riders and their horses will be highlighted in six, 30-60 minute sessions. Some sessions will have two horses in the ring simultaneously, allowing Hester to compare different horses with respect to gaits and training methods.

As this is a symposium, demonstration riders will be asked to perform in front of an audience of 900 auditors, so calm and cool nerves are required. The focus of a symposium is the education of the audience rather than completion of any certain criteria on a rider's agenda. Riders should be open to the clinician's techniques and come with a willing attitude and a sense of humor. An integral part of the symposium, the demonstration riders and horses are key to the success of the event.

In search of the following horses:

We are in search of horses at various levels of training from young horses through the Grand Prix level. We need four young horses: 4, 5 or 6-year-old horses capable of showing the qualities to look for in dressage prospects and that have been started in their training in the style of the Young Horse classes. The young horses need not have competed in the FEI Young Horse classes but should have equivalent competency level. These horses will be shown **one day each** to allow the audience to see a variety of horses over the two-day symposium.

The additional horses (Third Level through Grand Prix) should have competitive experience at the level they are applying for and show harmony of horse and rider in their training approach. A video of a **complete test** must be uploaded to YouTube and a link provided to cumulative competition scores. The mature horses will be grouped as we highlight schooling from Third Level horses through Grand Prix.

Horse and rider combinations will receive: 2 auditor passes (one for rider and second for groom/guest); 1 or 2 demonstration rides under Carl Hester with no fee; 2 lunch passes each day; 2 tickets to the Wine and Cheese reception Friday late afternoon; and an experience of a lifetime.

Here are the details on applying:

1. Applications will be accepted online **ONLY** between **July 1st and midnight, July 28th**.
www.neda.org
2. Incomplete and late applications will **NOT** be accepted.
3. Rider must be a NEDA member at the time of application.
4. Only rider and groom will receive passes to symposium. Rider applicants are encouraged to purchase tickets to the symposium, and if they are selected, NEDA will refund the purchase price. This promises to be a sold-out event and we do not want you to miss out on attending.
5. Owners need not be a NEDA member but if their horse is selected; tickets may be sold out. Potential owners are advised to purchase tickets on June 6th when auditor ticketing opens.
6. Rider must submit video link of a **test ride** at the level they are applying for. Test may be at a competition or at home, but must be an unedited test from start to finish. Videos longer than 8 minutes will be discarded. Young horse applicants (4, 5 and 6 year-olds) may submit test of choice. Other horses must show a test from **Third Level through Grand Prix**. Video must be submitted on line to YouTube or similar site.
7. Video link must open; please check it before sending
8. Submit link to cumulative competition scores from USDF.org with horse registration number. Check that the link works. (Note: We understand that with a shortened show season due to Covid-19 some horses will not have the most up to date competitive experience for the 2020 season)
9. Submit equestrian biographical information on rider (250-400 words)
10. Submit horse breeding: sire, dam, dam's sire
11. Horse information and history (250 words)
12. Stabling costs will be borne by the rider and paid to Mount Holyoke College before the event (\$150 for the duration). Horses are encouraged to arrive Thursday to acclimate to the venue.
13. Attach a photo suitable for the program of horse and rider with photo credit, preferably a competition photo.
14. Potential riders are encouraged to book hotels now as it is a busy weekend in the five-college area. A very limited number will be reserved for NEDA and Mount Holyoke but these will run out early.

The selection criteria will include: gaits, harmony of horse and rider and previous competition record. Please make sure your video is high quality with the horse easily visible and shot with a steady camera. We do not recommend cell phone hand held videos. Poor quality video could adversely affect your selection. The final approval of horses and riders will be by Carl Hester. Preliminary selection will be by a panel of two - "S" judges and one "R" judge. The selection process should be completed by early September with riders announced mid-September.

For further information contact Beth Beukema, Fall Symposium Organizer: fallsym@neda.org

Good luck with your application and remember, this will be a highly sought-after opportunity.