

**July 8 – 10, 2007 Dressage Clinic with
Spanish Riding School Bereiter Herbert Seiberl
From an Auditor's Perspective – by Holly Fisher, Young Rider**

Delivering a wealth of information with a classical flair, SRS rider Herbert Seiberl presented an inspirational clinic for riders and auditors alike. From first entering the spacious Cheff Therapeutic Riding Center with its gorgeous stone front and comfortable indoor seating, everyone knew they were in for a rewarding experience. Seiberl's teaching not only brought about some amazing improvements in the 35 minute rides, but also could be easily gleaned by on-lookers of any level to take home and cherish in their own riding.

While teaching a variety of riders and horses- from training level to Grand Prix and from Arabian to Swedish Warmblood- Seiberl perceived the individual needs of each rider while having a tangible overall theme to his teaching. One such area of repeated significance was going forward. Seiberl stressed that the horse must be actively and willingly thinking forward from the beginning of the ride. Making the intricate

distinction between forwardness, where the horse is moving in an onward intentional frame, compared to quickness, where a horse may let his tempo get too fast and "running," Seiberl stated that "one can NEVER go too forward!"

Seiberl also emphasized the importance of soft, steady contact, especially in downward transitions. He warned riders to be leery of the tendency to pull slightly back on the reins when performing a downward transition. Instead, he encouraged them to breathe out for the transition.

The results were amazing. Horses started executing beautiful, uphill transitions that appeared effortless. To one rider working on canter/walk transitions, Seiberl suggested using the same number of half-halts (listing two) before asking for the transition. Seiberl stated that "this way the horse knows what is coming."

Overall, Seiberl was very encouraging to both riders and auditors. During the

rides, Seiberl frequently asked the rider to stop while he explained a point, often physically moving the rider's position to illustrate his intention. Keeping an upbeat tone, he would regularly state "no problem" or an energetic "that's it!"

Whether rider or auditor, this clinic was outstanding!

The company of fellow auditors was great, facilities top-notch, and the teaching phenomenal. Surely everyone walked away with a better understanding of our great sport of dressage.