

Emerald Ridge PRE Andalusians Farm News

Despite the natural and man-made disasters around the country and the world this past year, Emerald Ridge PRE Andalusians has managed to have a fantastic 2017!

Our imported stallion, Bandolero CLXXVI is now a Grand Prix Dressage horse!!

Since I (Toni Mueller – Adult Amateur dressage rider) managed to meet my goal of earning my USDF Silver medal (qualifying scores at 4th and Prix St Georges) in the middle of the 2107 show season, we decided to have my trainer, Paige Ruhl, show him at Intermediate II. Then, since that went well, we moved up to Grand Prix at the next show, and “voila,” completely unexpectedly, they earned a qualifying score!

We are so excited to have achieved both goals this year, and to have moved up to Grand Prix so much sooner than we had expected. When my husband and I purchased Bandolero as a 4-year-old in 2005 while on a riding and training (with Juan Matute) vacation in Spain, he had an amazing temperament and fabulous movement, but I hardly dared to dream that we could make it this far, as I was barely a Training level rider at the time. It has been a challenge for my trainer to train both me and my horse at the same time. I am his principle rider, and I have in many ways held him back and made his progress much slower than it would have been if he'd been in full training. She would take him 3 steps forward and I would take him 2 (or 3) steps back!

But Bandolero is one amazing horse, and I am very lucky to own and ride him! It is not often you find a breeding stallion that can be ridden and shown by an amateur rider, even within our fabulous PRE breed! Bandolero and I are well known around the Pacific Northwest as we have also been riding Pas de Deux Musical Freestyle performances alongside a PRE mare (Selene AC, owned and ridden by Linda deWilde Petersen) for several years, increasing the difficulty and creativity as we and our horses became more skilled. A couple of videos can be seen on our website: www.EmeraldRidgeAndalusians.com.

Next steps for Bandolero are for my trainer to ride him several more times at Grand Prix this coming show season, and I will continue to try to move up the levels – hope to try Intermediate I this year. Will also continue to ride him in Musical Freestyle – at 16 he is very healthy and sound, and in his prime! (*knocking on wood..*)

We have sold most of the foals that we bred on our farm over the years, but decided to keep one of Bandolero's daughters, Levita, and she is equally as amazing as her sire. She is gentle and agreeable, and basically bomb proof, and therefore very easy to ride and show. It is hard to find time to ride multiple horses when working full time and therefore I am a little late with beginning to show her in recognized dressage shows, but we plan to start next season. I've ridden her in a few schooling shows and she is so level headed that it makes it a lot of fun! Hopefully she'll enjoy Musical Freestyle as well, and maybe even Pas de Deux too!

Lots of dreams, so little time, we'll see where the future takes us! We are so blessed to have PRE horses in our lives!

Toni Mueller & David DeVito

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