

January 27 Enews

For clinic, seminar information to be placed in the Region 9 e-newsletters, and on the Region 9 Website's event calendar... please email concise information - name of event, clinician, topics, date, place, & contact.

If the information is not sent in a concise format... it will not be included... due to the time constraints of re-typing or re-formatting.

Those events that are regionally recognized will be placed in the Region 9 Eblast that goes out to all Region 9 members, from the USDF office.

Email to: Bess Reineman: reinemanb@gmail.com

Deadline is approaching- Feb 1st:

Judges Seminar with Gary Rockwell - Feb 20-21 - Georgetown Tx.

“Improving Your Judging Eye & Showing Skills ~ What Judges Are Looking For”, a USDF approved continuing education program organized by Austin Dressage Unlimited, with additional funding from HDS, ADA, and The Dressage Foundation's Edgar Hotz Judges Endowment Fund. Presented by Olympic judge, Gary Rockwell.

To be held at the Georgetown Library, Georgetown, TX

Contact Carol Riazzi criaz@aol.com or 512-680-7999.

Region 9 Business Meeting:

Feb 20 -- Austin, Tx.

After the above judges seminar - on Saturday afternoon- 4:30 -9:00 pm - at the Georgetown Library.

Contact: Bess Reineman - reinemanb@gmail.com

Jeff Ashton Moore Biomechanics II Symposium

hosted by Oklahoma Dressage Society

March 27-28, 2010

Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center

Shawnee, OK

Saturday-Rider Biomechanics

Sunday-Horse Biomechanics

Morning lecture each day followed by demo riders in the afternoon

USDF University Accredited

contact person: Anne Kuhns 918-272-4789 akuhns@atlasok.com

Region 9 - GMOTravel Grant - Recipient:

Teresa Deeter represented Fort Worth Dressage Club at the 2009 USDF - Austin Convention.

Fort Worth had applied for a GMO Travel Grant for a board member... below is Teresa's post convention report.

Thanks Teresa, and Fort Worth for participating in the convention, and giving back to your GMO, and Region 9 !!!!

2009 USDF Convention Report

Teresa Deeter

Each year, the USDF Convention brings together people from all walks of life who share a love of dressage. For 2009, I represented the Fort Worth Dressage Club and the Dallas Dressage Club as a GMO Delegate to the Board of Governors.

The week started for me on Wednesday, with a quick drive to Austin after some early morning work meetings. Of course: I take a short vacation and Hell freezes over! I arrived in Austin only to be greeted by the worst cold snap Austin set

record lows for the weekend. Even Boston was warmer, as we were told (and told often) by the New Englanders in attendance. We were treated to a five-minute snow flurry on Fridaytruly blizzard conditions for Austin.

The Renaissance Hotel conference rooms were lovely, but the cold snap played havoc with the hotel's fire alarm system, and we had several false alarms. Horse-themed pajamas seem to be a trend with this group. I met several interesting people while waiting for the all-clear to return to our rooms, but I couldn't recognize them again without their fuzzy slippers and face cream, and so couldn't resume our acquaintance the next day.

The most notable alarm occurred at 2:17 am, when I heard a strange man's voice whispering from the intercom right next to my bed, There is no cause for alarm... Humans can levitate with sufficient motivation.

USDF booked a nearby Mexican restaurant for a Lone Star Welcome Party on Wednesday evening. Everyone had a quick bite and settled in for a Margarita Meet and Greet. Judging from the noise level, a good time was had by all. I can report that no furniture was broken, no tables were danced on, and everyone was able to walk the block or so back to the hotel under their own steam.

On Thursday, the meetings started in earnest, with everyone splitting off to their Regional meeting. Next was the fabulous Four-In-One Forum. This is a panel discussion/Q&A, with representatives from the Councils for Competition Management, Competitors, Judges, and Technical Delegate. Very informative, my favorite meeting of the Convention.

The Board of Governors meetings began Thursday afternoon and continued through Friday. The Board consists of delegates representing each GMO, plus

at-large delegates who are elected each year by the USDF Participating Members. Council and Committee Reports were presented detailing the yearly progress and objectives for 2010. Elections occurred for USDF President (George Williams) and Treasurer (Steve Schubert). Melissa Creswick was appointed interim Vice-President to replace Mr. Williams. Committee Reports and Board Minutes can be found on USDF's website.

A new budget was adopted after much debate, which included an across-the-board increase in membership dues, and a new Education Membership.

The USEF Dressage Committee reported on the proposed test changes for 2011:

Only 3 tests per level for Training, First, and Second

Tests times shortened to approximately 6 minutes each.

First Level may be ridden sitting OR rising trot.

Fourth Level changes to occur on/about quarterline/centerline/quarterline, no more counting strides until PSG.

Saturday and Sunday were devoted to the USDF Symposium with Jan Brink. Saturday was devoted to theory, and Sunday began work in earnest with specific exercises for each training point. My favorite training tip from Jan Brink was that you can't build muscle on a 20m circle. Conditioning comes from free-jumping or jumping u/s, plus roadwork or a cross-country canter. Either finish a training ride with a conditioning hack, or schedule alternate days of dressage training and conditioning.

TOP TEN THINGS I HEARD AT THE CONVENTION:

10. Can we just quickly review last year's minutes?
9. I don't understand the math in this Budget Proposal. Can someone explain it to me?
8. I'd like to propose a friendly amendment...
7. Can we have a Roll Call Vote?
6. Can we suspend the rules?
5. Nice jammies...
4. Is that snow?
3. Can someone help me flip this coin?
2. I'm on drugs. Are you on drugs?

1. Can I have your attention please? CAN I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE.
There is no cause for alarm....

The **GMO Roundtable Discussion at the USDF Annual Convention** is one of the exchanges of ideas around. Here are some of the suggestions that came up this year in Austin ~Sherry

Miscellaneous

Be supportive of members and make them feel like they belong to your GMO.

Market your GMO to eventers.

Incorporate freestyle into schooling shows.

In organizations that are combined dressage and eventing, make sure everyone recognizes, especially eventers, that many times the money from dressage shows funds the eventing shows and educational programs.

Educational Programs

To encourage trainers to assist and participate in clinics, give the trainer a free ad in the GMO newsletter and list the trainer's farm/training facility in the clinic's printed program or on your GMO's web site with the clinic information.

Horse simulators are great training tools for educational programs.

Benefits of Affiliation with USDF

USDF can send e-news on behalf of GMOs (must be approved through Regional Director).

With the increase in non-member fees, GMOs can encourage competitors to become Group Members.

A member can compete for USDF Rider Awards with only a Group Membership.

Volunteers

Tuff Rider has inexpensive socks you can have embroidered with the GMO's logo and give to volunteers as gifts. Go to your local vendor of Tuff Rider to order.

Have refrigerator and car magnets made to help advertise GMO or GMO events. Give to volunteers as gifts.

Give volunteers calendars made specifically for your GMO that includes pictures of your volunteers at events held the previous year.

Offer bronze, silver, and gold medals for hours volunteered.

When logging the number of hours a volunteer contributes, be sure to calculate the number of hours the volunteer was on the computer, on the phone, and in meetings for the GMO.

Host training events for volunteers and make it FUN! Allow each volunteer to ride, scribe, and judge throughout the day of training.

Create a cookbook from recipes submitted by the volunteers. A cookbook can also be created using recipes submitted by members and given to volunteers as a gift.

Take advantage of local boy scouts and girl scouts, 4-H members, the local university recreational program students, a nearby military base, or volunteer

firemen. These individuals are usually very willing to help and looking for community service projects.

PM Delegate Nominations - 2010 USDF Convention in Jacksonville, Florida

Time to nominate Participating member delegates to represent Region 9.

Any Participating member can nominate any other participating member or you can nominate yourself.

PM delegates must attend the USDF annual board of governors meeting in December 2010- Jacksonville, Florida, and remain the representative of Region 9 through out 2011.

The deadline for USDF to receive the letter of acceptance for the nominee is April 15, 2010, so I need the information by April 5, 2010.

Nominations are also open for the positions of USDF Vice President (3 year term), Secretary (3 year term) and Region 9 Director (3 year term). Again any participating member can nominate any other participation member for these positions or you can nominate yourself. The deadline for these executive board nominations to be into the USDF office is June 1, 2010.

Please send nominee information - name, address and email to Kathryn Kyle horses@kyleranch.com .

Show Update:

Topsider Farm Dressage One, March 28, in College Station, Tx...

is offering Intro to FEI Test.

Contact: Ginni Cifelli <ginni@flash.net>

Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award - New Guidelines:

Nomination period Jan 1st to July 1st.

Current year nominations will not be accepted after July 1st.

This allows nominees the time needed to work on applications... which are due to Regional Director Sept 1st.

World Equestrian Games -

A new page on the Region 9 Website... send any notices...tickets for sale, hotel room needed, hotel room available, etc... and we will post it. Will not post advertisements, just personal notices.

<http://www.usdfregion9.org/World-Equestrian-Games.html>

USDF Region 9 Instructors Certification Course

March 6 & 7, 2010 Teaching Workshop with Vicki O'Neil

May 14, 15 & 16 Lungeing Workshop with Gerhard Politz

Place: Diamond M Dressage Park, Marion TX

Riding workshop dates being discussed with Faculty Ann Guptill

There will be a pre-cert and testing at the end of this program for both levels of Instructors to give our participants every chance to get certified without having to go all over the country.

Eight participants will be accepted with a mixture of training to 2nd and 3rd to 4th level instructors.

The Workshops are now more auditor friendly, with question and answer periods if time permits.

Contact person: Vera Muckleroy, Region 9 Instructor/Trainer Coordinator, for more information by [e-mail](#).

[See attached application](#) and send to Vera Muckleroy, 998 Hard Luck Road, Marion, TX 78124.

Applications will be accepted on first come first served bases.

Region 9 GMO Travel Grant 2nd Recipient:

Marsha Murray represented Tri-State Dressage Society at the 2009 USDF - Austin Convention.

Tri-State had applied for a GMO Travel Grant for a board member...

attached is Marsha's post convention report.

Thanks Marsha and Tri-State for participating in the convention, and giving back to your GMO, and Region 9 !!!!

Report from Faith Morris - Youth Region 9 Rep:

The USDF Convention -YEB meeting went really well. We discussed the youth board bylaws, attendance, and resignation policies. This past year we had a hard time keeping attendance up during our meetings so we talked about possible ways to improve attendance on our monthly conference calls. In following that we discussed other alternatives to communicate with each other in between our monthly calls. Facebook, google groups, and twitter were among the main ideas the youth board thought would be great tools to use.

With these websites, we brainstormed ideas on how to reach out to the youth in our regions. one of our goals is to improve our interaction between the youth and their youth representative. We want to use these websites and blogs to interact with the youth whether its asking questions about up coming shows, volunteer, opportunities, fundraising, or blogging. With that, we are in the process of improving these webpages and coming up with ways to better advertise the Youth Board.

A lot of the regions did not know they had a youth representative, so we were thinking of maybe designing a poster type paper to pin on score board at shows where people can see how to reach us and know we exist :) that way the regions can use us more for their advantage.

Finally, we were told that the structure of the youth board was going to change starting the beginning of this year. The USDF Executive Board has made the decision to change the structure to better address some issues and so that we may better accomplish our purpose. Now.. I am a little unclear how this is all going to work.. this came up towards the end of our meeting and we were in a time crunch, but we are no longer going to be called the "youth executive board" and we are not going to have officers anymore... but I not sure what our official name is exactly.

Two recently established funds are now available to USDF GMOs and dressage riders!

The Dressage Foundation is proud to announce the latest additions to our funds and programs. If you would like to make a donation to either fund, please contact our office at 402-434-8585, melissa@dressagefoundation.org, or visit our website www.dressagefoundation.org.

Trip Harting Fund was created with donations from friends, students and admirers of Trip Harting, a beloved coach and clinician. The Fund's purpose is to provide \$500 Scholarships to a United States Pony Club current or graduate B or A, to assist in attending the USDF "L" Education Program, or USDF Instructor Certification Program. The application form and procedures are available at http://www.dressagefoundation.org/The_Trip_Harting_Fund.htm

The **Sally Swift Memorial Fund** provides financial assistance to USDF GMOs to conduct Centered Riding educational clinics and seminars for riders at all levels. Grant applications are due at least 90 days prior to the scheduled event, maximum amount awarded will be \$1,000. Grants will be awarded to the first qualified applicant(s) as determined by the Selection Committee. The application form and procedures are available at http://www.dressagefoundation.org/Sally_Swift_Memorial_Fund.htm

Melissa Filipi
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The Dressage Foundation
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