

Region 9 Report

Director: Kathryn Kyle, TX

2005 Fall Executive Board Meeting, November 29 - December 4 Burbank, California

Region Nine, which is Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas (except for the very western tip), is by virtue of its size a very diverse region. Many parts of the region are isolated due to distance. Someone from the central or western part of Texas will rarely travel to Mississippi or Arkansas, and members in Oklahoma are not usually going to travel to Louisiana, Mississippi or even Southern Texas.

This makes regional activities a challenge, if not impossible. The GMO's pick up the slack and are all active in holding educational events in their area. This past year and into next year virtually every GMO in the region has hosted or will be hosting educational events. These events vary from a video get-together and pot luck to having a "big name" trainer at a clinic/symposium. Regardless of the size and scope of the event, all the GMO's are committed to educational programs for their members.

Members of the region have developed a very good network via e-mail and Web pages. This was clearly demonstrated in August and September of this year.

Hurricane Katrina slammed the southeastern part of Region 9. The members of Mississippi Eventing and Dressage Association located every one of their members (and there were a few tense moments in finding some of them), found out who needed help and who could provide help. They coordinated with several other agencies and got things done. They reached out to the members of SEDA (LA) and worked with them as well. Many members from Texas and Arkansas made trips and sent supplies. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina some had no damage or loss, some had minor damage, and some lost everything but the animals they were able to get out. As this is written in early October there are a number still without power and water, but they have found ways to make do.

While members were still reeling from Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita took aim on the region just a little to the west of where Katrina hit. There were an amazing number of e-mails offering harbor for horses and people. Again, the members of the region rallied and helped when and where they could.

Hats off please, to the members of Region 9, this diverse, geographically challenged region, for what they did for fellow members this year.