

Region 9 Report

Director: Bess Reineman, TX

2008 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 3 – December 7 Denver, Colorado

There were 50 people that attended a very successful August All - Day Saturday Regional Summer Meeting in Conroe, Texas, followed by a lively GMO Roundtable Session and Balimo Chair Warm-up on Sunday.

GAIG/USDF Regional Dressage Championships in Guthrie, Oklahoma, and the Southwest Dressage Championships in Katy, Texas, are on schedule. Management is hard at work finalizing the last minute details.

On a weekly basis, I e-mail news to a list of over 300, including regional members, and the GMO Boards and members. I also send information to USDF for the monthly E-News. Communication is of utmost importance to keep our members informed.

An excellent group of regional coordinators and chairs help our region run smoothly and efficiently. Here are their reports:

Adult Education- Evie Tumlin

2008 Adult Team Competitions: Chase Meadow Farm and Houston Dressage Society

2008 Camps and Symposiums/Seminars

- May 29 – June 1: ODS Dressage Camp - Paula Kierkegaard, Sarah Martin, Louise St. Armour
- May 24 – 25: HDS - Symposium with Stephen Clarke
- May 31 – June 1: CTDS - Jeff Moore Symposium
- June 6 – June 8: FWDC - Adult Dressage Camp - Meg Flemming
- August 2 – August 3: SEDA - Freestyle Seminar - Cynthia Collins

2008 Region 9 Fund Applications (a regional fund which supports our GMOs)

- June 18 – 21: MsEDA Adult Dressage Camp - Pam Bancker and Paula Stewart
- June 28 – 29: CTDS - Loma Fowler Clinic

2008 The Dressage Foundation - Vi Hopkins Fund Grants Awarded

- ODS Jeff Moore Symposium - Jeff Moore
- MsEDA Adult Camp - Pam Bancker and Paula Stewart
- FWDC Adult Camp - Meg Flemming
- HDS Sport Horse Seminar - Hilda Gurney
- **2009:** BACH Seminar and Clinic - Jane Savoie

Several new clinics and seminars by well known professionals are scheduled for the fall: Lars Peterson, Dr. Hilary Clayton, Mary Wanless, Heather Blitz and Walter Zettl.

Competition Management- Jan Colley

While some shows appear to suffer little due to the economy, others are showing a marked decrease in attendance. Living in a region where we all must travel some distance to attend the various shows, the cost of showing now must be a major consideration to Region 9 competitors. These competitors, in turn, will become more selective as to which shows they attend.

Competitors – Paul Kathen

There were two issues brought to my attention. First, inquiries about how the reporting of points works for year-end awards. Secondly, and more frequently noted, were complaints about shows that ran out of ribbons at the end of the day. Some were also upset because the information on the price list did not match the reality at the show. Often it seems to just have been a misunderstanding by the competitor. Clarifying the awards, champion and high point tabulations will help. However, running out of awards is inexcusable. Show management must be alert about that possibility. Many exhibitors are not winning so much that they will ignore this problem; they complain in very emotional terms. Judging also was addressed in both positive and negative terms, which is expected in a highly subjective sport.

FEI Jr/YR – Joan Darnell

There were twelve FEI Juniors and Young Riders that declared their intentions to qualify for the 2008 NAJYRC. Young Riders Rachel Campbell, Misty Moyes, Jessica Blackmon and Elisabeth Steel, along with Junior Audrey Jones, represented Region 9. Misty Moyes was awarded the Captain Andrew B. de Szinay Memorial Sportsmanship Trophy. The Junior team chef was Amanda Garrett, and the YR chef was Susan Howard. Region 9 grooms were John Mason, Cassidy Peacock, and Ruby Reithel.

The FEI Jr/YRs worked hard to earn money to cover the cost of sending a team to the NAJYRC. In March, a fundraiser was held at the Garrett family's Stormin' G Ranch in College Station. Attendance and donated items for the silent auction allowed us to raise over \$2000 that night.

The declared Jr's and YR's also worked hard at shows selling candy, water and cooling bandanas. Cassidy Peacock, who does not have a horse to compete this year, was a huge supporter of the program, volunteering countless hours at many shows.

Earlier this year, Melanie Pai donated \$5000 to establish the "Dr. Bob Fund" in order to assist Region 9 FEI Jr/YRs with the expenses of training, traveling and competing to qualify for the NAJYRC. Awarded this year were Audrey Jones and Elisabeth Steel. Each received \$2000.

The USDF FEI Jr/YR Clinic with Jan Ebeling will be held in October. We hope it will be as well attended as the January clinic.

Instructor/Trainers- Vera Muckleroy

Ashley Hammil and Alamo Dressage Association are holding an Instructors Continued Education Clinic in November. I plan to put on a new "Watch and Learn" course at my facility next year. CTDS is also looking into holding a Continuing Education Clinic in 2009.

Nominations- Kat Kyle

PM delegates elected to represent Region 9 at the 2008 annual meeting are Jan Colley, Joan Darnell, Paul Kathen, Marilyn Kulifay, Kathryn Kyle, Sarah Jane Martin and Evie Tumlin.

The new Youth Executive Board member elected for Region 9 is Faith Morris.

Thanks again to Jeanette Snow and Gillian Gourley for serving on the canvassing committee!

For the drawing from the pool of voters that participated in the PM delegate elections by mailing in their ballot, Cindy Franchek from Region 9 was the winner and won a USDF 5-Year Participating Membership.

Youth – Mary Wetzel

2008 Youth Team Competitions: Chase Meadow Farm and Dallas Dressage Club

Mary monitors and sends out newsletters to our youth and pony club members. She has established a Web site for the youth, <http://dressageteams.com/>, and also supplies information to our Region 9 Web site.

Region 9 Web site- Bruce Lawrie and Carole Fuller

Carole resigned as the Web site calendar master due to work and family demands. Bruce works diligently to update the Web site weekly. We are in the process of designing a new Web site that will provide important, up-to-date information and communication to our members.

Horseperson of the Year- Burnis Foy

Nominations were accepted up to September 3, and a blind committee selected the winner. This year's recipient is Sally Chionsini. A much deserved award, to a dedicated and hard working member.

Judges- Marilyn Kulifay

In order to encourage more L Grads to attend Continuing Education, seminars, symposia, clinics and other educational events meeting specific requirements were identified. A calendar of qualifying educational events was sent to L Grads and Judges in Region 9.

On June 14-15, 2008, we held a Continuing Education for Judges and L Grads Program: Upgrading Your Judging Eye, Part II with Joan Humphrey, an "S" Judge and L Faculty Member. Nine "L" Graduate Participants and seven Auditors attended. The evaluations rated the program and instructor as "Excellent."

We received a grant from The Dressage Foundation to help with expenses and the program broke even. Because the CE program did not utilize all of The Dressage Foundation funding available, there are additional funds available for another program in Region 9 this fiscal year.

An e-mail has been sent to identify GMOs interested in hosting a Continuing Education for Judges and L Grads Program.

Omnibus- Tess Goodwin and Liz Grimsley

We are hard at work putting together the 2009 Region 9 Omnibus, which will be mailed out in late November. For the first time, it will be offered as a PDF on the regional Web site, and will be available for order on a flash drive or CD.

Thanks to the 2009 regional shows for planning early so their information would be ready and available for the omnibus. A list was compiled with the 2009 dates in the spring, and published on the regional Web site so other shows could plan accordingly and not conflict.

Marketing / Membership- Laurie Virkstis

With communication at the forefront, and “going green” an important step, we are planning a regional group list for implementation by 2009. I already maintain a “Lone Star” group list, where regional news is posted. Marketing is supplying dressage related articles to non-dressage publications.