

## **Region 9 Report**

**Director:** Bess Reineman, TX

### ***2008 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 17-19, Lexington, Kentucky***

I am glad to report that Region 9 is busy. Show season started early this year (in January) and many of our shows are NAJYRC qualifiers. A few shows are hosting Para Equestrian, Dover Medal, and Freestyle classes. Several USDF Breeders Championship shows, two Youth Team Championship shows, and two Adult Team competitions are scheduled. Our GMOs have clinics, seminars or symposiums, and camps scheduled for their members. Many have applied for educational grants.

Twice a month I send out an e-mail newsletter with updates, deadlines, and news to the region's GMOs, judges, TDs, regional board, coordinators, chairs and show managers. Other important news is sent to GMO newsletter editors. Most of the information is being placed in the GMOs newsletters and on their Web sites. I am also in communication with most of the GMOs on a weekly basis to answer questions. When needed, send out an E-Blast via the USDF office.

Our regional Web site is being updated to better serve our members and GMOs.

I post deadlines, important dates, and notices on the home page. We encourage our GMOs to send event information for the calendar page. We are in the process of revamping it with a new look, and hope to complete the transformation by June. Each regional coordinator will have a section or page and will be responsible for submitting updates. We hope our members will utilize it for quick information.

The 2008 Region 9 Omnibus was late being mailed (February) due to the printer's delay. This is the first year we have charged for the omnibus due to the increased cost in mailing. To date, we have mailed out about 450 and for the first time in a couple years, we have shown a profit. At this time the Omnibus is our only regional money making project. We fund our FEI Jr/YRs, adult amateurs, youth, and GMOs with the proceeds. In addition, we assist our regional board, coordinators, and chair volunteers with travel expenses to the regional summer meeting and national convention.

The "Region 9 Bench Fund" continues to grow. The money is for the Capital Campaign/ National Endowment Fund. We hope to give a \$10,000 check by year's end. This will almost complete our pledge from when we purchased a bench, which proudly sits in the courtyard of the USDF National Educational Center.

Our August Regional Summer Meeting is open to all members. While most of the meeting is regional business, we are offering a GMO Round Table / Grant Writing Session on Sunday morning, followed by a Balimo Seat Seminar.

We have two USDF Council chairs: GMO- Sherry Guess, and TD- Sally Chionsini. I have appointed a few new regional coordinators and committee chairs. We hope to actively communicate and educate our members to the different programs and benefits offered. Some of the regional coordinators, chairs, and GMO's have more details:

### **Council Coordinator Reports**

#### **Adult Education**

We have received two grant applications for the Adult Team competitions:

- 1) Houston Dressage Society, April 26 – 27, Great Southwest Eq. Center
- 2) Chase Meadow Farm, May 17 – 18, Tulsa Expo Square

And three requests for camp/symposium events:

- 1) Central Texas Dressage Society, May 31 – June 1, Austin, TX. Symposium with Jeff Moore.
- 2) Fort Worth Dressage Club, June 6 – 8, Waterford, TX. Adult Camp with Meg Flemming.
- 3) Southern Eventing and Dressage Assoc., April 19 – 20, Folsom, LA. Freestyle Clinic with Cynthia Collins.

Our regions policy is to encourage GMOs to first apply for grants with the Dressage Foundation. We use the USDF Adult Education Funds to cover any differences or losses. We require a precise Profit and Loss, with the money being granted after the event. We hope to allow the money to assist a larger number of GMOs in their attempts to bring more educational programs to our region. Also, we hope to encourage more GMOs to attempt these programs without fear of making mistakes that will cause them to end up hopelessly in the hole.

There are one or two more grant requests in the works. That would be activity for seven out of our twelve GMOs (almost 60 percent). It is encouraging to see those GMOs not characteristically heard from asking for help to run camps and programs. It is our goal to reach out to the smaller GMOs and let them know these types of educational programs can happen for their members as well.

### **FEI Jr/YR**

The FEI Juniors and Young Riders had a very successful clinic with Jan Ebeling in January hosted by North Texas Equestrian Center. Eight riders participated in the two day clinic, with over 80 auditors. Wonderful meals were prepared each day by Inez Campbell, as well as a rider party get-together at the Campbell home on Saturday night. Over \$400 was raised with the food sales and raffle. The clinic was such a success that Jan will be returning to Texas to Canaan Ranch on October 25-26.

We have six declared FEI Junior Riders & six FEI Young Riders this year. Horse and rider teams are already hard at work earning scores for qualifying.

we will be holding a fundraiser in College Station at the Stormin' G Ranch, owned by Larry, Pam and Amanda Garrett, on March 29. A fajita dinner will be served by the Juniors and Young Riders followed by a freestyle demonstration by the region's top professionals.

The FEI Jr/YRs will also be helping with the 2009 Omnibus ads and sales, as part of the proceeds from the Omnibus help with their expenses thru out the year.

### **Instructor/ Trainer**

We have two clubs, Austin and Alamo and one individual, Marie Morgan, wanting to hosts instructors courses. It was suggested they put on a series of the new "Watch and Learn" clinics, but it looks like they will not be able to be completed until 2009. The clubs hope to get together and take an individual course of which there are three- lungeing,

riding, and teaching. This would really help our instructors since the clubs would be footing the bill, and the three locations are close enough that participants could reasonably attend all three.

## **Nominating**

This year we are allowed seven PM delegates, an increase from the six last year, which is a great indicator of the growth of dressage in Region 9. At present, our region has eight PM nominees. For the Youth Executive Board, we currently have two nominees.

## **Youth**

Region 9 youth have a comprehensive Web page on the regional Web site that helps parents "get the idea" of what is available. We also have a youth booklet in PDF form for GMOs and parents to read.

We have two Youth Regional Team Championships: one North in Tulsa, Oklahoma on May 17 -18; .and one South in Athens, Texas on July 26 - 27.

We have a Youth Team show format for schooling shows called the "Youth Challenge" which we hope to "sell" to GMOs. In the PDF format help is given for organizers, especially new ones. This is being updated for April 1. The schooling show format also gives more scope for the organizers to recruit non-USDF kids to dressage, and to offer non-traditional classes, such as dressage trail, costume, lead line, non-level pairs, and quadrille.

## **Committee Chair Reports**

### **Freestyle and Historical**

The two new regional committee chairs are pursuing the possibility of becoming members of the national committee, so as to better serve our region.

### **IMO**

Our new regional committee chair is working to find schools willing to become IMOs. She has already approached one in her area, helping them with the application and details.

### **Judges**

Our new regional Judges Committee chair has:

1. Organized L grads, judges listings and e-mail addresses.
2. Prepared a list of upcoming educational events that qualify as continuing education for L grads.
3. Contacted and contracted Joan Humphrey to conduct "Upgrading Your Judging Eye II" at the HDS Summer Show on June 14-15, at Great Southwest Equestrian Center.
4. Goal for 2008: To ensure all L grads have had a continuing education seminar within the past 3 years.

## **Region 9 Horseperson of the Year**

The 2007 HOY was Kat Kyle. She was presented a plaque Saturday night at the November regional championship show. We did a double take at the BOG in Orlando,

where she was presented a personalized platter, flowers, and a photo of the rustic bench given for her tireless work and devotion as a USDF Regional Director.

The Region 9 HOY was established in 1993, and is nominated by members of the region, with final selection by a blind committee. Detailed information is located on our regional Web site: <http://www.usdfregion9.org/horseperson.asp>

### **Other Region 9 Awards**

Two new programs are being developed in order to be finalized by the fall. The first is Regional Service Pins, which are given to those volunteers that have served in a regional capacity for 10, 15, 20, 25 years or longer. The second is the Region 9 Annual Dressage Teaching Excellence Award. The Dressage Foundation is helping us set up a fund and guidelines.

### **Membership / Marketing**

Region 9 is exploring ways to grow, strengthen, and support the USDF Membership. To help promote USDF and GMO Region 9 awareness, several articles were written for *The Horse Gazette*.

Also, the USDF Jan Ebeling FEI Jr/YR Clinic article and photos were submitted for use in GMO newsletters and in *The Horse Gazette* and *SW Horse Trader*. In exchange for the article, these publications ran both Central Texas Dressage Society (GMO) and USDF business card ads.

### **2009 USDF Convention in Austin**

Tentative date set for December 2 – 6, 2009

Sheraton Denver Hotel

Symposium will be held at the Travis County Expo Center (512) 854-4900 - 7311 Decker Ln, Austin, Texas. ([http://www.co.travis.tx.us/exposition\\_center/default.asp](http://www.co.travis.tx.us/exposition_center/default.asp)) Plans to help with the convention will be discussed at the 2008 Region 9 Summer Meeting.

### **GMO Reports**

#### *Central Texas Dressage Society*

Ongoing promotion of dressage awareness in Central Texas – they moderate and post USDF (*News You Can Use*) updates to 280 Austin Dressage Direct yahoogroup members at <http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/AustinDressageDirect/>.

To Join, send an "I want to Join" e-mail to AustinDressageDirect [subscribe@yahoogleroups.com](mailto:subscribe@yahoogleroups.com) .

#### *Fort Worth Dressage Association*

Our three day adult camp will be in June, with eight members. The camp will include private lessons, group lessons, lectures and demonstrations. This is our third year for the camp and the past two years have been very successful.

FWDC will have its summer scribing clinic, put on by one of our members. This is a luncheon with videos and several tests that members can practice, in addition to practical tips on what is needed to scribe, the rules of scribing and other information.

FWDC has available to its members a vast DVD and video library that we are continually adding to. It is available to our members for \$5.

We also send out weekly group e-mails to our members with updates of what is going in the area such as clinics, schooling shows and club happenings.

Our membership is stable and we continue to offer a Scholarship Program to our members. Those that volunteer are eligible for money throughout the year to use towards dressage activities.

FWDC has sent volunteers to the Region 9 Championships to support our region. Members have also attended the regional summer meeting. With financial stability, we hope to offer the above activities to our members at a low cost.

### *Houston Dressage Society*

This GMO organizes ten shows a year, covering five weekends. Their main event this year is a May symposium with Linda Zang and Stephen Clarke. This will be followed by a July USDF Sport Horse Breeding Judges Seminar with Hilda Gurney. Last but not least, the November SWDC Championship will take place. This group also gives back to the region's GMOs with volunteer incentives.

### *Llano Estacado Dressage Association*

LEDA has had a great past few months. There has been a small increase in members, but most importantly, the members that we have are all active in the club. Meeting attendance has doubled in the past year which makes for great brainstorming sessions. The club has also been doing more social things together outside of meetings and shows. A group of 38 people recently attended the Lipizzaner Stallion Show in Lubbock. This was a great time to get together, but also to bring friends and family members to watch and gain more of an appreciation for the sport of dressage and what we would all like to accomplish. Based on a recommendation from our 2007 camp clinician, some club members are talking about trying to do a bi-monthly group yoga class for riders. While activities like this are still in the planning phases, we think offering more activities are going to encourage people to stay with the club, and most importantly stay active. The LEDA President, Renee Smola, has recently accepted the position of the Regional Small GMO Council Coordinator and is excited about the opportunity, hoping to become a more active voice for Region 9.