

## **Region 9 Report**

**Director:** Bess Reineman, TX

### ***2009 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 16-19, Las Vegas, Nevada***

The new Region 9 Web site is up and running. Though not complete, it already has received rave reviews. Each regional coordinator and committee chair has the opportunity to publish and maintain a page to keep our members informed.

With the help of the regional coordinators, regional committee chairs, and USDF staff, the "Region 9 Timeline" is now a reality, and is published. Other items available on our Web site: PDF form of the Region 9 Omnibus; regional applications for the various grants and awards; the weekly regional e-newsletter; regional meeting reports; regional recognized show and event calendars; updates and special news. As members become familiar with the information available thru the new Web site, I expect the 40 plus emails I receive a day to decrease.

The Region 9 Bench Fund is close to its goal. We gave a check to the NEC in February. We hope to complete our pledge by year's end.

Our Region 9 Omnibus, for the second year in a row, made a profit. Thanks to all who supported and purchased it. The proceeds fund our many regional grants and awards.

Our Regional Summer Meeting is scheduled for August in Grapevine, Texas. Dallas Dressage Club, the local GMO, is the host.

We have two Youth Team Competitions, and one Adult Team Competition scheduled for 2009.

In the fall, our 2008 GAIG/ USDF Region 9 Championship Show in Guthrie, Oklahoma was well attended. We are now gearing up for the 2009 GAIG/ USDF Championship Show to be held in Katy, Texas, with Houston Dressage Society as host.

The Region 9 member attendance at the Denver convention and regional meeting was outstanding. We look forward to hosting the 2009 convention in Austin, Texas in December. Our regional convention committee is working with the USDF office, for what we hope will be a fun and exciting convention/symposium for all.

### **Reports from our hard working Region 9 coordinators and committee chairs:**

#### **Adult Education - Evie Tumlin**

The following GMO's were awarded Regional Educational Grants for 2008:

Mississippi EDA :	Dressage Camp :	131.00
Fort Worth DC:	Dressage Camp:	157.00
Oklahoma DS:	Dressage Camp:	250.00
Dallas DC:	Educational Festival:	250.00

Since the budget cuts will affect the 2009-2010 Adult Education Grants given by USDF, our region has taken up the slack, and we now offer more available funds.

### **Competitors - Paul Kathen**

My greatest challenge for this year is to stay informed regarding the quality of shows without having to rely on complaints only. It appears that the omnibus and show management keep competitors well informed and I have received few (this year so far none) inquiries. I hope that the new report form will prove to be helpful in evaluating shows. This absence of questions or complaints by competitors is a great sign that our area does put on good shows and succeeds in keeping competitors informed.

### **Competition Management - Jan Colley**

The regional recognized show calendar for 2010 is being assembled, and will be posted on the regional Web site this summer. I am also working on a Breed Series Final Show.

### **FEI Junior/Young Rider - Joan Darnell**

Region 9 has five Young Riders and three Juniors that have declared for the 2009 NAJYRC. The FEI Juniors and Young Riders are busy fundraising and have already raised approximately \$4500 so far this year. We have some schooling shows that are donating a portion of the proceeds to the fund, as well as a Freestyle Fundraiser planned for later this year. We have two applicants so far that have applied for the 2009 Dr. Bob Fund; the deadline for applications is April 1.

### **GMO Council - Bruce Lawrie and Renee Smola**

The economy has affected the overall membership of our GMOs, but each GMO is forging ahead with camps, clinics, shows, etc. to benefit the members. All of our GMOs are working toward compliance.

### **Judges Committee -Marilyn Kulifay**

Educational events meeting specific requirements for L Grads continuing education are in the process of being identified. A list will be sent to L Grads and Judges in Region 9. GMOs who are interested in being hosts of Continuing Education for Judges and L Grads are being identified and contacted to hold 2009 CE for Judges and L Grads.

### **Nominations Council -Kat Kyle**

Six Participating Members for PM Delegate have been nominated and confirmed. Due to the decrease in membership we will be sending only six delegates this year to the convention.

### **Region 9 Web site -Nicole Landreneau**

My goal as the new 2009 Region 9 Webmaster was to get the revamped Web site for Region 9 operational. As of early March, the site is up and in production. It will continue to be tweaked and manipulated as necessary – web sites are never 'done'!

The new site sports a different and more dramatic look than its predecessor, and hopefully the redesign makes it easier to find information as well. While I will be the main contact for the site, Bruce Lawrie has agreed to step in as needed when I may be out of town or otherwise out of reach. Thanks, Bruce!

I'm grateful for the feedback, so I encourage people to continue to send in comments, suggestions and corrections.

### **Youth -Mary Wetzel**

Our council met all of the budget requests from the USDF BOG, plus some. We are working to save our programs. We lost our USDF liaison due to downsizing, and so are meeting Kathie in our next meeting. I have updated our regional web pages.

## **Reports from GMO's**

### **Arkansas Dressage Society**

Board: Marion Franz – Pres.; Eileen Kraus – VP; Rachele Summers – Secretary;  
Jana Nelson - Newsletter  
Patty Hale, Nancy Sobba, Diana Beaird and Shannon Treece are Members at Large.

ADS had their first show of the season at Diamond TR on March 15 (schooling show at Perryville, AR). Our rated show committee will be meeting again on April 6. The Bylaws committee has met to go over and revise the Bylaws as needed. We are trying to get a membership drive committee together.

### **Central Texas Dressage Society**

We started the year with our annual banquet and elections. The only change to our Board was to the Awards Coordinator position with the addition of long time member, Joy Alexander. We also held a silent auction to benefit Habitat for Horses and raised \$1,435.00, with the support from our many donors.

Our newsletter has undergone a facelift thanks to our editor, Rebekah Hinnant. We've upped content and quality and have reduced costs by going to a bi-monthly format. Our Web site has also just been launched with a new look and a more modern style! It will also allow us to "go green" with our Directory to members only. Kudos to the many hours donated by Kurt Shultz to make this exciting change happen! This site will also save the club money in our monthly fees.

We currently have 94 members and have applied for "Green" status with USDF. Our member numbers usually build throughout the year as our events unfold. A number of our membership is gained due to the popularity of our mini-shows.

Our first in the series of six Mini-shows for 2009 was held recently and was over-subscribed. We were able to accommodate all with the help from our judge, who worked over time. We're hoping that the rest of the series will be as successful!

Our clinics have not been as successful. The first clinic with Reinhard Dorsch was cancelled due to lack of participants. Upon discussion we agreed that it's very difficult to have a local clinician, due to the additional costs incurred to secure a facility and for travel. We would have to set up differently in order for it to be more cost effective for participants. We also felt that the current economy also played a part. Our second clinic was scheduled with Sonja Vracko. Sonja had a personal emergency and had to cancel. We hope to reschedule this later in the year.

Preparations are also underway for our Bluebonnet Classic Recognized Shows at Silver Hill Stables, June 13 and 14. We are gearing up to have a very competitor friendly show with lots of great awards!

We are also working on preparations for the USDF convention in the fall in Austin. So a busy start and we hope to continue to succeed in this tough economy!

### **Fort Worth Dressage Club**

FWDC ended 2008 with our year end award presentations, Christmas party and silent auction. A great turn out at Los Vaqueros Mexican Restaurant with a mexican buffet. There were several year end presentations to members and our silent auction brought in funds for our scholarship program.

FWDC hosted a clinic with Lena Wedenmark at Stargate Sport Horse Center. The clinic was full and FWDC subsidized part of the cost of the clinic for the riders.

FWDC's spring recognized show is in April at Glen Rose Expo Center. Our summer Scribing Clinic is for any member wanting to learn to scribe. This is hosted by one of our members using the Ride A Test video series and different levels of tests to practice on, plus a gourmet lunch; this clinic helps us with scribing for our show and we help out at events. FWDC plans a fall schooling show which was very successful last year. We are tentatively planning an Adult Camp in the fall; last years was held over three days, was full, and Meg Flemming was a very informative instructor. We received grants from the Dressage Foundation and Region 9, and will apply again.

FWDC will continue its scholarship program which is open to all members based on volunteer hours. We also hold monthly meetings and had a vet speak in February on equine emergencies and plan more speakers. We have an extensive video and DVD library for members. Members receive weekly group e-mails that inform them what is going on in the area - clinics, schooling shows and our club. We also have a monthly column in the Southwest Horse Trader with information about our club and recent happenings. Our membership remains strong and already at numbers equal to how we ended last year.

#### **Oklahoma Dressage Society**

We currently have 138 members. 2009 President – Debbie Nutt. Additional board members: Rainee Boyd, Michael Colclasure, Sherry Guess, Marta Koenig, Anne Kuhns, Linda Powell, Jolie Pressler, Darrell Reed. We remain financially solvent.

Shows: Two recognized shows planned; more than ten schooling shows and a schooling show championship.

Educational events: Riding clinic; Pilates for Dressage Symposium; Adult Camp.

Hosted 2008 GAIG/ USDF Region 9 Championship Show in Guthrie, Oklahoma.

#### **Houston Dressage Society**

As of March 9, 2009, HDS has 318 members. President-Kathy Jones; Vice President-Cal Eller; Secretary-Charles Saltzer; Treasurer-Margaret Dhont; Membership-Nancy Walker Taylor; Recognized Show Chair-Marilyn Kulifay; Schooling Show Chair-Jeanette Snow; Historian-Karen Roepke; Education-Susan Shiba; Awards-Laurie Jackson; Special Events-Sylvia Workman; Vendors & Sponsors-Amanda Miller (Hudson); Juniors-Catherine Smith; Volunteers-Jane Holman; Publications-Syrisse Longbottom.

Education: HDS brought in Ida Anderson for a long lining clinic; a symposium with Stephen Clarke, an FEI "O" judge from England; a continuing education for judges with Joan Humphrey; a Breed Seminar with Hilda Gurney; a clinic and symposium with Volker Brommann; and sponsored a lecture on musical freestyles by Karen Robinson of Applause Dressage. In addition, HDS members rode in a two-day clinic with Karen during the Pin Oak Show to educate spectators on the musical freestyles.

Philanthropy: HDS sponsored the Battle of the Barn Baskets at the 2008 SWDC Championships. Proceeds were given to the Region 9 FEI Junior and Young Riders. In addition, a time share in Orlando, Florida was given in a raffle for the Region 9 FEI Junior and Young Riders. The Juniors and Young Riders sold the tickets for the raffle. Melanie Pai of Canaan Ranch hosted a margarita party to raise money for the Region 9

FEI Junior and Young Rider program. She matched the \$180 raised in donations. All totaled, the Region 9 FEI Juniors and Young Riders raised \$2,500. In 2009, the proceeds will be given to the FEI Junior and Young Riders.

The HDS board voted to donate \$500 to the Region 9 FEI Juniors and Young Riders. In 2009, the gift will be increased to \$1,000 and will be awarded based on volunteer hours at HDS events.

At the 2008 SWDC Championships, HDS sponsored a silent auction that distributed funds to the GMOs in Region 9 that provided items to the auction and volunteers for the show. \$1066.00 was raised for three GMOs that sent volunteers: FWDC, CTDS and DDC. In 2009, HDS will be hosting the Great American/USDF Region 9 Championships and will extend the same profit sharing incentive to the other GMOs. HDS donated \$300 to Leslie Fan in order to help her put on a Balimo Clinic held at Canaan Ranch. Mary Martin and Tim Martin were recipients of a drawing from a pool of HDS volunteers to attend the Stephen Clarke Symposium.

In 2009, HDS will reinstate the \$150 scholarship program. Two recipients each in the Open, Amateur and Junior Divisions will be eligible to win the scholarship.

HDS donated an entry to the Karen Robinson Musical Freestyle Lecture to the Dallas Dressage Club for the silent auction at their annual awards banquet. HDS will provide free vendor space at all shows to groups sponsoring therapeutic riding programs.

Horse Shows: HDS hosted five shows in 2008. In 2009, HDS will host five shows, including the Great American/USDF Region 9 Championships. HDS was awarded the bid to host the Adult Team Championships at the Summer Show in June of 2009. HDS usually hosts a schooling show for Juniors during the summer. The show in June 2008 was cancelled due to lack of entries. In 2009, HDS will try to build enthusiasm in the Junior program by combining efforts with the local pony clubs. In 2009, HDS will help sponsor a year-end schooling show championships. The show will be held at Sienna Stables in Missouri City, Texas.

Recognitions: HDS held its annual award banquet in February 2008 at the Cadillac Bar party room. The night's entertainment included a casino party. Awards included embroidered coolers for the Champions and leather halters with nameplates for the Reserve Champions. In 2009, HDS held the banquet at the Cadillac Bar again and the entertainment included karaoke. Awards included embroidered Ariat jackets for the Champions and embroidered Ariat vests for the Reserve Champions.

In 2008, Jeanette Snow was awarded the Charlotte Raisbeck Good Sportsmanship Award, while Terri Smith received the Bushager Award, a scholarship totaling over \$2,000. The Bushager Memorial Scholarship was established in 1989 by the widow of Joe Richard Bushager, Lauralyn Bushager, in honor of her late husband. Joe Bushager was one of the original founders of the Southwest Dressage Championships. He was dedicated to bringing dressage to the southwest region of the country. In 2009, Christine Smith-Byerly was the recipient of the Charlotte Raisbeck Good Sportsmanship Award and Carrie Chaffin was awarded the Bushager Memorial Scholarship. Tim Martin was awarded the Region 9 Volunteer of the Year. Cassidy Peacock from Helotes, Texas, was awarded the USDF Junior Volunteer of the Year. Paul Kathen won a best article award. Sally Chionsini was rewarded with the Region 9 Horse Person of the Year Award.