

Region 9 Report

Director: Bess Reineman, TX

2010 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 17-18, Lexington, Kentucky

We are still reeling from an awesome 2009 USDF Convention and Jan Brink Symposium in Austin, Texas. "Rumor has it", that it was one of the best ever. A huge thanks to all the GMOs, regional members, and regional board for helping make it a success and fun!!!

Despite the continued down economic outlook, our region is offering many educational activities, and shows for the members. Our regional board, and the GMO boards continue to "step up to the plate" to keep the members informed and challenged.

The goal of better communication for and between our members is coming together, with the new Web site started in 2009, and a web based "Mail Chimp" – for sending regional newsletters to over 350 members - started this month. With those two items implemented, the emails I receive have been cut in half, which tells me members and GMO's are staying better informed.

The Region 9 Omnibus – 2010 – 14th edition, was the best ever. It includes tabs, so one can easily find the different sections. The PDF version continues to be published on the Web site. It is our only regional fundraising project, and we appreciate everyone that supports and contributes.

Below is a list of the funds available through our region for its members that our omnibus sponsorship profit makes possible:

- Adult educational funds for GMO programs
- Youth educational funds for GMO programs
- Education Programs for Judges & "L's", and Instructors / Trainers.
- Financial help for smaller GMO's to send a board member to the summer meeting and/or convention
- Cost of holding the annual regional summer meeting
- Financial assistance for the Regional Board to attend the USDF Convention
- Financial assistance for the Region 9 PM Delegates to attend the convention
- Financial aid for the FEI Jr/ YR program, when needed

As of the first of the year, almost all our regional board members agreed to continue to serve. Only two retired due to other commitments: Thanks to Sandra Marx for her many years of service and hard work on the board, and welcome Carolyn VanderBerg as the new "Region 9 TD" chair. And thanks to Burnis Foy, for her years of dedication, as she hands the reins over to Carolyn as the "Region 9 Horse Person of the Year" chair.

For the first time ever we held a February Regional Meeting to complete unfinished business from the December meeting. It, along with our summer meeting, and December meetings held during the USDF convention were well attended, and productive in helping the region's goals and accomplishments.

Houston Dressage Society as host is gearing up for the 2010 GAIG/ USDF Championship Show to be held in Katy, Texas. With the changes suggested, we expect it to be the best regional championship show ever held.

I hear from all corners of the region that dressage is going strong, and the word is spreading. Included are a few of those reports:

Report from Region 9 Coordinator

FEI Jr/YR – Joan Darnell

Region 9 has twelve – six and six – FEI Jr / YR declared for the NAJYRC this year as of March 17.

Two fundraisers are planned to help send the teams to Kentucky: March 28 schooling show hosted by North Texas Equestrian Center in Wylie, Texas; June 6 luncheon, auction, and freestyle demos at Paragon Stables, Houston, Texas, hosted by Anna Burtell and Melany Lipar.

Reports from Region 9 Board

Instructor / Trainers – Vera Muckleroy

Since the USDF Convention in December 2009, we have held a USEF Lendon Gray Youth and Pony Pilot Program. Ten wonderful young ladies and horse and pony combinations participated. It was a very educational program and there was an article for the regional newsletter from one of the attendees and myself, Vera Muckleroy.

March 6 and 7, 2010, was the first of a series of I/T workshops, a Teaching Workshop with Vicki O'Neil. Vicki was a hit, with her gentle, relaxed manner and ability to put everyone at ease.

The second workshop will be the Lungeing Workshop with Gerhard Politz on May 14, 15 and 16, and the Riding Workshop with Bailey Cook will be the last, on May 24 and 25, at Diamond M Dressage Park in Marion, Texas, organized and hosted by Vera Muckleroy.

We are going to try to have a pre-cert and test after the championships is over for the year. They are usually scheduled within a few weeks of each other and the Examiners are assigned by USDF.

Judges and “L Grads” – Marilyn Kulifay

Austin Dressage Unlimited (ADU) hosted a Continuing Education for Judges Seminar, "Improving Your Judging Eye & Showing Skills," by Gary Rockwell, February 20-21, in Georgetown, Texas. There were 21 Judges & L Graduates and 49 Auditors that attended. Another is planned for 2011.

Susan Howard is organizing – hosted by HDS – a Freestyles Additional Education for Judges Seminar with Trena Atkins, May 22-23, in Houston, Texas.

Oklahoma Dressage Society is organizing a “Judging Methodology, Collective Remarks” Continuing Education Judges Seminar with Ida Anderson, covering new rules and new tests in Sapulpa, Oklahoma, July 24-25.

Plan: Contact additional GMOs to host a Continuing Education for Judges Program in other areas of Region 9.

Web site – Nicole Landreneau

The Web site is getting positive feedback, and we continue to strive to offer the information people need in a timely a manner.

We changed site hosts in November 2009, and hack attempt traffic has slowed down. Since then, we've had 17,753 unique visitors to the site. We're averaging 130 visitors per day, looking at approx 2-3 pages each. The five most visited pages on the site are: home page, omnibus, show calendar, instructors, education events, judges/TDs list.

Top search terms bringing people to our site are: USDF Region 9; Region 9 dressage; USDF; Region 9 USDF; Region 9 dressage competitions, GMO list.

The majority of our visitors are coming from the US, Ghana, Russian Federation, Canada, Croatia, Brazil, Ireland, Mexico, and Germany.

Youth Team Competitions – Mary Wetzel

USDF Region 9 Youth Regional Team Competition South:
DDC Spring Dressage Show; May 9, 2009; Las Colinas, Irving, Texas.

USDF Region 9 Youth Regional Team Competition North:
Green Country Dressage I and II; June 13 and 14, 2009; Claremore Expo, Oklahoma.

Reports from some of the GMOs

Austin Dressage Unlimited (ADU) – Dennis Riddlemoser

2010 started off with a well attended "Young Horse Competitions ADU Workshop" hosted by guest speaker, Joan Darnell, "S" Judge.

ADU organized and hosted a major USDF approved education seminar: "Improving Your Judging Eye & Showing Skills" presented by Gary Rockwell. 70 people registered. According to USDF, this is a record for attendance at an approved dressage educational event of this type. A full report is available at: <http://www.austindressageunlimited.net/News/review-of-improving-your-eye-full.html>

The "ADU-University" program has 25 students, each paired with a mentor committed to achieving education, training and competition goals in 2010.

Austin Dressage Unlimited members are providing Community Service in the central Texas area:

- ❖ Multiple board members donating personal funds in the name of ADU to horse charities in the area: LOPE (Lone Star Outreach to Place Ex-Racers).
- ❖ ADU members are volunteering to give Dressage demonstrations and informational lectures at horse events throughout the year:
 - Central Texas Horse Festival, benefiting The Horse Boy Foundation
 - Purina Horse Owners Workshop (HOW)

Visit <http://www.austindressageunlimited.net> for a complete list of ADU activities.

Fort Worth Dressage Club – Barbara Harty

Plans for 2010 include two schooling shows, an Adult Camp, Scribing Clinic, Jr/YR Camp, summer pool party, updating our video library, speakers at meetings and our End of Year Awards party / Silent Auction.

Houston Dressage Society – Kathy Jones

Education

HDS provided Austin Dressage Unlimited with a \$300 grant to host Gary Rockwell in a two day seminar held in Georgetown, Texas.

In February, HDS hosted Janet Foy at a seminar held at Rice University. Topics included: 2011 National Level test changes and reasons for change, how to squeeze out those extra points in your dressage tests, videos of dressage tests with commentary and advice on training issues.

In May 2010, HDS will host a musical freestyle seminar with Trena Atkins. HDS will emphasize the new USDF initiative on quadrilles.

Planning is underway for an Adult Camp in fall 2010.

HDS would like to host the "L" program within the next year.

Philanthropy

HDS helps host fundraisers, sponsors, and donates to several charities, Region 9 programs, individuals in need, therapeutic riding programs, other GMOs, and the USDF Convention.

Shows

HDS hosted five shows in 2009 and intends to host the same amount in 2010, and is hosting the Adult Team Championships in 2010 at the Summer Show. HDS will be submitting an application in 2010 to host a CDI 1* at the Spring Classic in 2011.

Recognitions – HDS Members

In 2010, HDS held its annual awards banquet in the Suites Party Room at the Sam Houston Race Park and the entertainment included live thoroughbred racing.

In 2010, Jane Holman was the recipient of the Charlotte Raisbeck Good Sportsmanship Award.

Emee Ermel was awarded the Bushager Memorial Scholarship. The Bushager Scholarship is given annually by HDS to an individual that has shown and continues to show a dedication in the pursuit of training and excellence in dressage. The 2010 award was \$2,000.

HDS nominated Syrisse Longbottom, and she won, for the 2009 USDF Region 9 Volunteer of the Year.

Paul Kathen won a USDF best article award.

Lyndon Rife was rewarded the 2009 Region 9 Horseperson of the Year Award.

Marie Morgan was the 2009 recipient of the Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award.

Southern Eventing Dressage Association – Leslie Morris

A few activities being held in 2010:

1. Freestyle Clinic with Cynthia Collins, April 24-25.
2. Region 9 Summer Meeting, Bourbon Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, August 14-15.
3. Completion of the cross country course at Lagniappe Farm.
4. Large schooling junior show, June 5, at Amen Corner Farm.
5. Labor Day weekend schooling show and social.