

Region 9 Report

Director: Sherry Guess, OK

2013 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 4 & 7 Lexington, Kentucky

Our 2013 Great American/USDF Region 9 & Southwest Dressage Championships and HDS Autumn Classic were held October 17-20, 2013 at the Brazos County Expo, Bryan, TX. This was the first year at this facility, again organized by Houston Dressage Society.

Houston Dressage Society also organized the Shoofly Farms CDI3*-CDIY/J/P-CDIU25 and Houston Dressage Society Spring Classics I and II held April 25-28, 2013 in Katy, TX. This was the third CDI HDS produced in our region and interest continues to build. This was the first year for Shoofly Farm to be the named sponsor.

Several Region 9 individuals received special recognition this year.

Anna Campbell, a member of Houston Dressage Society, was selected as USDF's national nominee for the USEF Youth Sportsman's Award. She was recognized as a positive role model for her commitment to our sport, her involvement in community activities, her academic excellence and positive sportsmanship. We wish her the best of luck as she competes with candidates from other USEF National Affiliates for this award.

Ed Lavalley received the Albers Award perpetual trophy for his demonstration of dedication, enthusiasm and team spirit during the three years he has volunteered as the Chef d'Equipe for both the junior and young rider teams of Region 9.

Kathy Jones was recognized as the Region 9 Horse Person of the Year for the many years she has directed Houston Dressage Society as President and as Recognized Show Chair. Her visionary approach resulted in the first CDI for our region and each year this show has grown.

Whit Watkins was selected to receive the Teaching Excellence Award which is managed by The Dressage Foundation. This is the sixth year this award has been presented.

Lindsey Durbin-Hankins was the recipient of the Gifted Award from The Dressage Foundation. She is a member of the Oklahoma Dressage Society.

Education continues to be a strong focus for our region.

- Austin Dressage Unlimited held its fourth annual "Improving Your Judging Eye & Showing Skills" featuring Christoph Hess. More than 120 participants enjoyed the presentation at Southwest University campus, Georgetown, TX on February 2-3, 2013. The venue includes a lecture hall with theater seating and a cafeteria where not only is the food plentiful, varied, and tasty, but also dealt with in a 'green' manner. ADU will continue their quest to bring top international judges to educate the judges and riders of Region 9 and beyond in 2014 when they feature Stephen Clarke. Their dedication to bringing international quality education to Region 9 is providing a tremendous broadening experience for all.
- February 16-17, 2013 Houston Dressage Society presented Steffen Peters and Janet Foy in "Dressage Through the Levels" at Tex-Over Farm in Conroe, TX. More than

220 participants attended this event. Each level provided three horse/rider combinations, with most levels including a junior rider and adult amateur, in addition to a professional. For 2014 they have already begun plans for a Symposium with Anne Gribbons and Christine Traurig.

- An Instructors Workshop with Janet Foy on February 15 was organized by Region 9 Instructor/Trainer Board member Vera Muckelroy. 23 instructors took advantage of this offering. This fall Vera also offered an Instructors Workshop where participants could decide which phase they wished to work on.
- Arkansas Dressage Society will be offering the lunging portion of the USDF Instructor Certification workshops and hopes to continue with the other workshops next year.
- Dallas Dressage Club is helping produce the dressage portion of the US Eventing Championships being held in Tyler, TX.
- Fort Worth Dressage again offered their adult camp with Whit Watkins.
- Oklahoma Dressage Society presented Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez, March 23 and 24, 2013 at Lily Pond Estates, Kellyville, OK, speaking on "Dressage for Horses of Different Shapes". Videos, live sport horse biomechanics demonstrations, and ridden tests taught spectators how conformation affects ability.

Both Part 1 and Part 2 of the "L" Program will be offered in 2014 in Region 9:

- All three sessions of Part 1 will be held at Mid-South Dressage Academy in MS this year.
- Part 2 will be held in TX by Alamo Dressage Association. The first session will be held in September 2013, and the final two sessions will be held in 2014.

Fort Worth Dressage Society hosted our Region 9 summer meeting on August 10, 2013 in downtown Fort Worth, TX. They will also be hosting our USDF Adult Clinic with Hilda Gurney on November 2 and 3, 2013 at Willow Draw in Weatherford, TX.

Region 9 welcomes Nettie Olsen as our new Regional Treasurer. She has replaced Allison Bailey who resigned after more than five years in that position. We also have two new members who will serve on our Region 9 Board, as well as on national USDF committees. Jennifer Delmer will serve as our Nominating Committee member. Jennifer Jarvis will serve as our GMO Committee member. The rest of our Regional Board positions remain constant.

The Region 9 Omnibus will again be produced for 2014. Gloria Beduhn and Bruce Lawrie head this venture. The USDF, USEF and FEI tests will be a part of our Omnibus due to the generosity of Sue Malone Casey who underwrites the cost of publishing these tests.

Nicole Landreneau continues to serve as our webmaster. She also sends out news blasts to all members and serves as historian.

We have filled all our six delegate positions.

Jonathan Wentz represented the US at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London, England. His was a familiar face at Region 9 horse shows and his death shortly after returning from his victory touched many in our region. We will be working with USPEA to

establish a Jonathan Wentz Memorial Trophy to recognize excellence in competitive Para Equestrian sports at the international level. An artist from our region, Olva Stewart Pharo, will produce a bronze for this award.

The young people of our region are an active group.

- The Region 9 Youth Schooling Show Challenge is a certificate and patch program for recognition of scores earned by youth at any of our region's schooling shows. This past year five riders submitted scores and qualified. They were also recognized on our website.
- The Junior and Young Riders sold jackets, t-shirts, and jewelry to fund their trip to NAJYRC in Lexington, KY. Art work on the garments was designed by FEI Bronze Medalist and 2012 junior team member Kalie Beckers. They also have a Used Tack Sale that is held at three shows throughout the region.
- Lyndon Gray's Dressage 4 Kids Emerging Dressage Athlete program was held in October at Twinwood Equestrian Center in Simonton, TX.
- Jeremy Steinberg will be featured at the Platinum Performance/USDF Jr/YR Clinic, also at Twinwood Equestrian Center in February of 2014.

Clinicians from throughout the world are offered in the region including David Blake, Heather Blitz, Jan Ebeling, Janet Foy, Christian Garweg, Jeff Ashton Moore, Conrad Schumacher, James Shaw, and Mary Wanless.

It takes many volunteers giving hundreds of hours to keep our region running smoothly. Thanks to all for their time and dedication.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Guess