

Region 9 Report

Director: Sherry Guess, OK

2013 Spring Executive Board Meeting, May 4 – 5 Lexington, Kentucky

Region 9 again has a busy year planned. Our 2012 Great American/USDF Region 9 & Southwest Dressage Championships and HDS Autumn Classic, held in Katy, TX was well attended. This event will travel to a new venue this year—the Brazos County Expo in Bryan, TX. The Houston Dressage Society will again be the organizer October 17-20, 2013.

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

Region 9 was delighted to host the 2012 Adequan/USDF Annual Convention in New Orleans, LA, December 5-8, 2012. Southern Eventing & Dressage Association was the hosting GMO and they provided a multitude of volunteers and a popular Welcome Party at Mulates Restaurant.

Region 9 GMOs have already offered educational events throughout the 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.
- 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.
- This event was preceded by an Instructors Workshop with Janet Foy on February 15, organized by Region 9 Instructor/Trainer Board member Vera Muckelroy. There were 23 instructors that took advantage of this offering.
- Oklahoma Dressage Society presented Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez on March 23 and 24, 2013, at Lily Pond Estates, Kellyville, OK, speaking on “Dressage for Horses of Different Shapes.” Videos, live sporthorse biomechanic demonstrations, and ridden tests taught spectators how conformation affects ability.

Both Part 1 and Part 2 of the “L” Program will be offered this coming year 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 will be hosting our Region 9 summer meeting 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 is replacing Allison Bailey who resigned after more than five years in that position. The rest of our Regional Board positions remain constant.

We currently have ten PM delegates running for our six delegate positions.

Jonathan Wentz represented the US at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London, England. His was a familiar face at our 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.

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 are selling jackets and t-shirts to help fund their trip to the NAJYRC in Lexington, KY this coming July. 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.

The Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award, managed through The Dressage Foundation, is in its fifth year, with the nomination period open until July 1. Susan Hancock of LaVernia, TX was the recipient of this award for 2012.