

Region 9 Report

Director: Sherry Guess, OK

2014 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 3 & 6 Cambridge, Massachusetts

Our 2014 Great American/USDF Region 9 & Southwest Dressage Championships and HDS Autumn Classic were held at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center, in Katy, TX this year. This was one of the largest championships we've had, with more than 340 horses in attendance.

Houston Dressage Society also organized the CDI3*/1*/YH/Y/J/P/U-25 and Houston Dressage Society Spring Classics I and II held April 25-27, 2014 in Katy, TX. This was the fourth CDI HDS produced in our region and interest continues to build.

Several Region 9 individuals received special recognition this year.

Our youth continue to excel, and for the second year in a row, a Region 9 member was selected as USDF's national nominee for the USEF Youth Sportsman's Award. Jessica Fan 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.

Bess Bruton was recognized as the Region 9 Horse Person of the Year. Bess served for five years as Regional Director during which she represented Region 9 on a variety of USDF committees, including the Management Committee. For more than a decade she volunteered in a variety of capacities throughout our region and served as a PM delegate at many USDF conventions. Bess is a volunteer at heart and has worked tirelessly to promote dressage both regionally and nationally.

Fran Dearing-Kehr was selected to receive the Teaching Excellence Award, which is managed by The Dressage Foundation. This is the seventh year this award has been presented. The recipient is awarded \$5,000 for their special contribution to the sport of dressage.

United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) has announced Kai Handt as the U.S. Para-Equestrian Dressage Chef d'Equipe/Technical Advisor. Handt's new appointment will run through 2016 making him the United States Para-Dressage Team Chef d'Equipe/Technical Advisor for the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Normandy, France and the 2016 Paralympics. Over the past six years, Handt has worked within the Para-Dressage world where he trained and sponsored the late Paralympian Jonathan Wentz. Handt helped Wentz ride to his full potential and reach his goals which included representing the U.S. Para-Dressage Team at the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, winning the USEF Para-Equestrian Dressage National Championship in 2011, and becoming the highest individual ranking U.S. rider that competed in London at the Paralympics. Handt will work closely with all current and potential para-dressage athletes preparing each rider and their horses for international competition. Kai Handt is an advocate for the para-dressage discipline and enjoys encouraging other sponsors, riders, and trainers to get involved with the sport. The ultimate goal of each high-performance discipline is to win medals. He is excited for his future with the para-dressage program and looks forward to a medal winning 2014.

We have two new "L" graduates to add to our region. Arlene Gaitan and Eva Oldenbroek just completed the process this year.

Education continues to be a strong focus for our region.

- Austin Dressage Unlimited held its fifth annual "Improving Your Judging Eye & Showing Skills" featuring Stephan Clarke. In spite of ice in much of our region, more than 100 participants enjoyed the presentation at Southwest University campus, Georgetown, TX on February 8-9, 2014. 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 2015 when they feature Wim Erns. Their dedication to bringing international quality education to Region 9 is providing a tremendous broadening experience for all.
- Both Part 1 and Part 2 of the "L" Program were offered in 2014 in Region 9. All three sessions of Part 1 were held at Mid-South Dressage Academy in MS this year. Part 2 was held in TX by Alamo Dressage Association. The first session was held in September 2013, with the final two sessions held in 2014.
- Both Alamo Dressage Society and Oklahoma Dressage Society featured William Solyntjes as the presenter in "How to Improve Your Collective Marks".
- Central Texas Dressage Society presented a riding seminar with Kay Meredith "S" on January 25-26, 2014, at Silver Hills Stables in Manor, TX. The focus was on rider position. This included a daily lecture and nine lessons with explanations to ensure all understood the goals and methodology.
- February 16-17, 2014 Houston Dressage Society presented a symposium with Anne Gribbons, and Christina Traurig at Isabella Farms in Cypress, TX on April 12-13, 2014. Their educational symposium for 2015 will feature Conrad Schumacher.
- Fort Worth Dressage Society hosted our USDF Adult Clinic with Hilda Gurney on November 2-3, 2014 at Willow Draw in Weatherford, TX.
- Arkansas Dressage Society offered the lunging, riding, and teaching portions of the USDF Instructor Certification.
- Dallas Dressage Club helped 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.
- Brazos Association for Classical Horsemanship offered a three-day camp with Whit Watkins at Chestnut Creek Farm in College Station, TX on November 14-16, 2014. The theme was straightness and suppleness through use of the training pyramid. BACH has recently increased their membership from 35 to 57 this year!
- Austin Dressage Unlimited offered a Musical Freestyle Continuing Education in Dressage Judging November 15 and 16, 2014. Led by Joan Darnell "S", "L" Teaching Faculty, the lecture was held at Scott & White Hospital, Round Rock, TX. Sunday featured "live" practice judging and a Ride-a-Test Workshop at Royal Equus Farm, Coupland, TX.

The young people of our region are an active group.

- Jeremy Steinberg was featured at the Platinum Performance/USDF Jr/YR clinic at Twinwood Equestrian Center in February of 2014. George Williams will be the Platinum Performance/USDF Jr/YR clinician January 31- February 1, 2015 at North Texas Equestrian Center, Wylie, TX.

- 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

Alamo Dressage Society hosted our Region 9 summer meeting August 9, 2014 in downtown San Antonio, TX.

The Region 9 Board has continued to serve this year with all members remaining in position.

The Region 9 Omnibus will again be produced for 2014. Arlene Gaitan and Veronica Moody will head this endeavor. 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. We will also offer the option of purchasing an 'app' so that the entire Omnibus will be available on any electronic device you select.

We are fortunate that 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, with one being a tie.

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
USDF Region 9 Director