

Region 9 Report

Director: Sherry Guess, OK

2014 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 16 – 17 Lexington, Kentucky

Once more Region 9 has begun a busy year. Our 2013 Great American/USDF Region 9 and Southwest Dressage Championship and HDS Autumn Class was held in a new venue – the Brazos County Expo in Bryan, TX. Operating in a smaller venue than we have in past years was challenging. However, those attending enjoyed this immaculate, intimate setting. 2014 will return us to Katy, TX where we expect an even larger gathering of competitors, again hosted by Houston Dressage Society.

Houston Dressage Society is also planning for the Shoofly Farms CDI3*-CDI1-CDIY/J/P-CDIU-25 and Houston Dressage Society Spring Classics I and II to be held April 24-27, 2014 at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, TX. This will be the fourth CDI HDS has produced for our region and interest continues to build. This will be the second year for Shoofly Farm to be the named sponsor.

Region 9 GMOs have already offered educational events throughout the region:

- Twinwood Equestrian Center was the site for the USDF Jr/YR clinic with Jeremy Steinberg on Feb 1-2.
- Arkansas Dressage Society began offering the USDF Instructor Certification Workshops December 2013 with a lunging clinic with Sarah Martin. They will be offering the riding workshop with Vickie Hammers O'Neill on May 30-June 1 and the teaching workshop led by Sarah Geike on June 27-29. These events are being held at Diamond TR Ranch near Little Rock, AR.
- Austin Dressage Unlimited held its fifth annual "Improving Your Judging Eye & Showing Skills" featuring Stephen Clarke from Great Britain. More than 110 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.
- "Improving Your Collective Marks" presented by "S" judge Bill Solyntjes was the topic for both the Alamo Dressage Association and the Oklahoma Dressage Society's educational event this spring on March 8-9 and March 22-23, respectively. This provided not only education for competitors, but also continuing education credits for judges of all levels.
- Houston Dressage Society will present "Train the Levels" with Anne Gribbons and Christine Traurig on April 12-13 at Isabella Farms in Cypress, TX. Their educational event last year had more than 200 participants and they are expecting another large turnout.
- Alamo Dressage Association is organizing a USDF "L" Program, Part II – the final exam to be held April 5-6 in Boerne, TX.

Alamo Dressage Association will also be hosting our Region 9 summer meeting on August 8-9 at the St. Anthony Hotel in San Antonio, TX.

Several of our Region 9 board positions have changed. Jennifer Jarvis has replaced Bruce Lawrie on the USDF GMO Committee and Jennifer Delmer has replaced Sherry Guess on the USDF Nominating Committee. We are grateful to those who have fulfilled these positions in the past and equally grateful for those who stepped up to take on these tasks.

Our Region 9 Omnibus Committee of Gloria Beduhn and Bruce Lawrie have decided to step down after three years of work. Arlene Gaitan will become the graphic artist who produces the omnibus; Veronica Moody will handle advertising, and Nettie Olsen will deal with distribution. Marilyn Kulifay is working to produce an app that will be available for purchase in addition to the hard copy. This is a huge task (notice four people are now handling this job!) and we are very indebted to Bruce and Gloria for their diligence over the years.

The 2014 Omnibus 18th Edition is now available for purchase on the Region 9 website. Thanks again to Sue Casey for her generous sponsorship of the USEF and USDF Test pages.

Kai Handt of Wylie, TX has been named the U.S. Para-Equestrian Dressage Chef d'Equipe/Technical Advisor. Handt trained and sponsored the late Paralympian Jonathan Wentz and will now help other Paralympians as well.

We currently have eight PM delegates running for our six positions.

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. They are also recognized on our website.
- The Junior and Young Riders sell jackets, t-shirts and custom made jewelry to help fund their trip to the NAJYRC. They also have a used tack sale that is held at various shows throughout the region.

The 2013 Region 9 Horse Person of the Year was Kathy Jones. Kathy had the vision to bring CDIs to our region, served as chair of both the HDS recognized shows and as chair of the Region 9 Championships for many years, and certainly deserves this recognition!

The Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award, managed through The Dressage Foundation, is in its sixth year. Whit Watkins was the 2013 recipient of this award.

The Region 9 website continues to improve, offering banners for advertisers and a Region 9 Facebook page, with new pages (with photos) to help keep the regional members informed. Nicole, the webmaster, sends out the monthly regional e-news using Mail Chimp. And she is also the Region 9 historian.

Region 9 has a new addition to the regional website. This addition is a way for instructors who continue to keep up with their education to get recognition, even if you

are not certified. Also, this addition will be a way for clients to see which instructors might best be able to help them by the courses attended. Check out the Region 9 website for more information. Thanks to Vera Muckleroy, Region 9 Instructor/Trainer Committee member, for thinking of, and implementing this new program.

Read about regional events, news, and award opportunities on the Region 9 website:

www.usdfregion9.org

Thank you to all our Region 9 committee members, sponsors, organizers and GMO participants for providing educational opportunities and the southern hospitality that makes Region 9 special to all of us.