

Region 9 Report

Director: Sherry Guess, OK

2015 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 16 – 18 Las Vegas, Nevada

In 2014 our Great American/USDF Region 9 & Southwest Dressage Championship and HDS Autumn Classic returned to the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, TX. Hosted by Houston Dressage Society, this was one of our largest championships with just under 350 horses competing.

Houston Dressage Society is also planning for the CDI3*/1*/YH/Y/J/P/U-25 and Houston Dressage Society Spring Classics I and II to be held April 23-26, 2015 at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, TX. This will be the fifth CDI HDS has produced for our region and interest continues to build. This will be the third year for Shoofly Farm to be the named sponsor.

Great Southwest Equestrian Center, supported by HDS, submitted a bid for the 2016 USDF National Dressage Championships, with the results currently undetermined.

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

- The Platinum Performance/USDF Region 9 Jr/YR clinic was held January 31-February 1, 2015 with George Williams as clinician. Kai Handt generously donated the use of his North Texas Equestrian Center and additional funding support was provided by The Dressage Foundation.
- Austin Dressage Unlimited held its sixth annual “Improving Your Judging Eye & Showing Skills” featuring Wim Erns from Germany. Wicked winter weather kept attendance at the Southwest University campus, Georgetown, TX, lower than normal, but everyone agreed that the presentation and information provided was stellar. 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.
- HDS presented a Symposium with Conrad Schumacher February 28-March 1 at Isabella Farms in Cypress, TX. Again, strong winter weather in other parts of the region kept the attendance down to around 100.
- Central Texas Dressage Society and Oklahoma Dressage Society found that the difficult winter weather either shortened their symposiums or caused them to be canceled this year.
- The Nutrena/USDF Adult Clinic “Creating a Winning Partnership with Your Horse” featuring Kathy Connelly and Betsy Steiner, will take place at Windy Knoll Farm in Magnolia, TX, on April 11-12, 2015. There were 34 applicants to be demonstration riders, with only eight positions to be filled.

Dallas Dressage Club will be hosting our Region 9 summer meeting on August 1 in Rockwall, TX.

Our Region 9 Board positions have remained unchanged this year. We are grateful to those who continue to serve throughout the year.

The 2015 Omnibus 19th Edition is now available for purchase on the Region 9 website. Thanks again to Sue Malone-Casey for her generous sponsorship. Our new Omnibus team of Arlene Gaitan, Veronica Moody, and Nettie Olsen are to be thanked for their considerable time investment in this endeavor.

Kai Handt of Wylie, TX continues as 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.

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. Peyton DeMarais from the Dallas Dressage Club met this challenge in 2014. She earned qualifying scores on Cabo and Tjitte in Training Level.
- Led by our Region 9 FEI Jr/YR Representative, Ed Lavalley and assisted by Inez Campbell, 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.
- FEI YR Kalie Beckers (LA) is ranked 74th in the world as an FEI Young Rider in the recently published FEI First Edition of the 2015 FEI Youth Dressage World Ranking for Rankings for Pony, Junior, Young Riders and Under 25 Riders. Kalie is the 6th highest ranked Young Rider in the US and the only Top 100 Ranked FEI Rider in Region 9. Congratulations to Kalie!
- Jessica Fan was selected as the USDF representative for the Youth Sportsmanship Award. This is the second year in a row that a Region 9 Youth has been selected for this honor.

The 2014 Region 9 Horse Person of the Year was Bess Bruton. Bess served as Director of Region 9 for five years and has faithfully volunteered her time, services, and even her mounts to ensure that Region 9 flourished.

The Region 9 Teaching Excellent Award, managed through The Dressage Foundation, is in its seventh year. Fran Kehr was the 2014 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. She is also the Region 9 Historian.

Region 9 has a unique 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 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.