

Region 9 Report

Director: Sherry Guess, OK

2020 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 16 – 18 Las Vegas, NV

Our 2019 Great American/USDF Region 9 & Southwest Dressage Championship and HDS Autumn Classic was again held at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, TX. Hosted by Houston Dressage Society (HDS), 2018 had our largest number of horses entered and 2019 was down by almost 50.

HDS is also planning for the CDI2*/CDI1*/CDIY/J/P/CH/Am/CDIU-25/CDIYH and HDS Spring Classics I and II to be held April 25-28, 2020 at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, TX. This will be the ninth CDI HDS has produced for our region and interest continues to build. Tex-Over Farm is the sponsor for this event for the second year in a row. The CDICH (FEI Children Division) will again be offered in the CDI and is a qualifier for the new 2020 USEF FEI Children Dressage Division National Championship.

This year, the CDI (international show with FEI rules) is one of fewer than 25 in the US and the only CDI between the east and west coasts. Typically, half of the competitors are first time CDI riders. The show gives our riders a chance to compete at a CDI without incurring significant travel expense and at a familiar venue.

For the second year, the Region 9 Board of Directors voted to issue a \$5,000 challenge to help support this important regional event.

Entries will open March 16, 2020 for this show, but here are some observations about how this CDI stacks up against others throughout the nation.

- Out of 22 US CDIs in 2019, seven of them had fewer entries than ours. (this is not really a good thing because it means some of the CDIs may not have enough entries to continue)
- The winning scores by FEI division on the first day of competition indicate our riders scored right in the middle of the CDI pack; never the highest score but never the lowest score either.
- Among the smaller CDIs, our CDI had stronger breadth of entries than others across FEI divisions including the Medium Tour, Adult Amateur division and Child division.
- Ours is the only CDI between the two coasts.

Region 9 is proud of our CDI and know that our riders are nationally competitive. Thanks go to Leslie Rohrer for studying the results from last year.

Region 9 GMOs have begun offering educational events throughout the region with clinicians such as Allison Brock, Arthur Kottas, Bert Ruttan, Conrad Schumacher, Betsy Steiner, Jeremy Steinberg, Christine Taurig, Mary Wanless, and George Williams.

The Region 9 Education Fund is offered to GMOs to provide up to \$500 assistance, if needed, to produce educational events they might not feel financially capable of handling. Applications so far include Oklahoma Dressage Society's Symposium with Beth Baumert at the Tulsa Expo, in Tulsa, OK on April 4-6, 2020.

There are several opportunities for judge education in our region this year:

- Dallas Dressage Club again hosted a freestyle judging seminar with Joan Darnell on February 8, 2020. Several S judges were in attendance.
- Oklahoma Dressage Society offered “Upgrading Your Judge’s Eye” with Beverly Rogers on February 22, 2020 in Oklahoma City, OK.

Central Texas Dressage Society offered Part D2 of the USDF L Education Program in Glen Rose, TX at the FWDC Cowtown Dressage I and II on March 23-24, 2019. The final exam was held September 7-8, 2019 at the GSEC Platinum I and II in Katy, TX.

Central Texas Dressage Society was approved to host the USDF L Education Program, Part 2, again! Candidates can go to ctdsdressage.org to apply. Scribes are always needed. The schedule will be:

- D-1, GSEC Diamond Classic I and II, May 23-24, 2020
- D-2, GSEC Platinum Classic I and II, September 5-6, 2020
- Final exam, GSEC Diamond Classic I and II, May 29-30, 2021

Dallas Dressage Club will host our Region 9 summer meeting on August 1 in the Dallas, TX area.

Tracy Augustine has served as our Region 9 North American Youth Championships (NAYC) coordinator for the past two years and is stepping down this year. Her efforts have left our team in an excellent financial position and we appreciate the work that went into organizing a Bronze medal team win in 2019! Benny Pfabe will continue as the team chef d'equipe.

Becky Brown, from Dallas Dressage Club, will serve as the new coordinator and has already put together a team to coordinate fundraising. Look for opportunities to make a donation to NAYC or purchase articles for their benefit at various shows in the region.

The 2019 Region 9 Horse Person of the Year was Sherry Guess, our Regional Director. Her dedication to improving the education, shows, and riders of Region 9 has been demonstrated throughout the years. She has represented our region on several USDF committees, as well as on the USDF Executive Board. She continues to support the shows and clubs in the Oklahoma area, and is always on hand to volunteer at the Great American/USDF Region 9 Championships. She has served as Regional Director for two terms and was just elected to a third term.

John Mason of Spring, TX was presented with the eleventh annual Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award at the 2019 Region 9 championships. He received the \$5,000 award for demonstrating adherence to sound dressage principles and the ability to communicate these principles so that students develop themselves and their horses in a logical, progressive and humane way up through the levels.

John has been the head trainer at Tex-Over Farms in Conroe, TX since 2013. He is a licensed Bereiter, USDF Bronze and Silver medalist, US Dressage Finals champion at Training Level Open and reserve champion at First Level Open, and has received HDS’s year-end awards at every level from Training to Intermediare.

The Dressage Foundation’s Gifted Fund recipient was Shannon Strunk, who is a very active member of Austin Dressage Unlimited in Texas.

Last year, Alamo Dressage Association suffered the fate of many GMOs in the area; that of losing their primary recognized show facility when the Rose Palace in Austin announced they

were closing. Unlike others who have faced this dilemma, their facility was re-opened under new management. It continues to be difficult to find facilities with open dates at which to hold our shows.

This year we welcome Becky Brown to our Region 9 Board of Directors, as coordinator for the FEI Junior/Young Riders. Nicole Miller has become our omnibus editor and Arlene Gaitan has taken over omnibus advertising. Tracy Augustine and Veronica Moody are stepping off the Board. We appreciate their services the past years and are grateful to all those who continue to serve.

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 Miller, our webmaster, sends out the monthly regional e-news using Mail Chimp. She is also the Region 9 historian. Nicole is regularly recognized at the Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention for her articles, photographs and the newsletter she produces for Southern Eventing and Dressage Association.

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 for thinking of, and implementing, this 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Guess
USDF Region 9 Director