

**Brazos Association of Classical Horsemanship (BACH) Summer 2026 GMO Report
July 12, 2026**

Board

President- Cynthia Werner
Vice President- Jinny Johnson
Treasurer- Shawna Fletcher
Secretary- Joana Rocha
Activities Chair- Sarah Smith
Social Media Chair- Tessa Guerra
Awards: Sandy Venneman

Membership

BACH offers two membership categories:

- GMO members (who receive all of the perks of being a USDF GMO member)
- GMO family (receive perks of being a USDF GMO member at reduced rate)

BACH discontinued a third, less expensive, category of membership (Friends of BACH) this spring at the request of USDF. Given that this was an unexpected change that took place mid-year, BACH covered the cost of upgrading Friends of BACH to GMO member status.

BACH currently has a total of 34 members (including 10 GMO family memberships). This represents an average year for BACH.

Finances

BACH operates on a modest budget. As a general rule, the organization takes in a relatively small amount of annual income (from membership fees and fundraising efforts) to cover occasional expenses for social and educational events. Most of the expenses for schooling shows, ride-a-tests, and other riding events are covered by additional costs per participant that pass through the BACH account.

BACH has increased fundraising efforts in the past year. BACH raised nearly \$500 in August 2025 by selling donated items at the Horseman's Market Day event in Bryan, Texas. We plan to do this again in August 2026. We are going to add a new option where members can use the BACH booth to sell more valuable items on commission, with a portion of the proceeds going to BACH.

The balance on the BACH account is \$4,717.90, as of May 19, 2026.

Activities

The BACH board strives to provide a variety of activities and events that cater to a membership that is both small and diverse. The majority of BACH members are riding at the lower levels. Several members are interested in either Western dressage or eventing. Only a small number of members (< 5) participate

in USDF recognized shows on a regular basis. BACH has not sponsored a recognized show for multiple years, so this means that our members are competing in shows outside of the Brazos Valley.

Activities

With the help of volunteers, the board typically organizes one activity each month. Our activities include educational events, social events, and competitions.

Since the last Region 9 meeting, BACH has organized and sponsored the following events and activities:

- July 2025 – Summer Social with Pizza, Ice Cream and Musical Bingo
- September 2025 – Lecture Event with Kyle Johnson (Texas A&M) on Equine Disaster Preparedness. (This event was held at the Texas A&M University Vet School.
- October 2025 – Caveletti Clinic with Lauren Fisher
(This event benefited from the support of grants from USDF Region 9 and The Dressage Foundation.)
- October/November 2025 – Fall Virtual Show
(This event is limited to BACH members. Eight tests were scored.)
- November 2025 – BACH Ride-a-Test with Bess Bruton
- December 2025 – Holiday Party at Donna Meyer's house
- March 2026 – BACH Awards Party, and Saddle-Fitting Discussion with Laurie McDonald
(This event was delayed from January due to weather. Year-end prizes (a handmade tack box) were awarded to all recipients.)
- March/April 2026 – Virtual Dressage Show
(This event is limited to BACH members. Twelve tests were scored.)
- May 2026 - BACH Ride-A-Test with Donna Meyer
- April 2026 – BACH “Shenanigans” Obstacle Course Event (*Riders received a brief explanation of the obstacles and a demo, and then had the opportunity to work through approximately 25 obstacles similar to those encountered in a trails class and/or working equitation competition*)
- June 2026 – Lecture Event with Vet Kyle Johnson (Texas A&M) on Equine Dentistry. We also received a bonus lecture on the current screwworm situation.

Competitions

Due to logistical and financial challenges of running schooling shows with a small membership, BACH shifted to virtual shows several years ago. BACH currently offers two virtual schooling shows each year, using [dressageshowonline.com](https://www.dressageshowonline.com). BACH selects judges who are affiliated with this platform and sets up a six-week window for interested members to upload videos to this platform. Riders can submit a variety

of tests: USDF 1st through 3rd level, WDAA Intro to 5th level, USEA Starter through Novice; WE Intro to Novice). BACH provides ribbons to members who compete in these shows.

Individual riders benefit from getting feedback from a licensed judge without the expense of hassle of trailering to a local show. These shows do not require a minimum number of riders to break even, so this has been a relatively easy way to provide competition opportunities to our small membership.

Awards Program

Traditional Awards Program. BACH has an annual awards program for its members. A champion award is presented to riders who meet eligibility criteria for each level. Separate awards are given for scores earned at recognized shows and schooling show.

BACH Challenge Awards. This new program was developed to encourage participation in BACH activities by riders who are showing at the lower levels and who do not or cannot travel to recognized or schooling shows outside of the Brazos Valley. Awards are presented to those who participate in 3 of the 4 annual riding events sponsored by BACH (e.g., two ride-a-test, and two virtual shows). Awards are only presented to amateur riders at USDF Intro and Training levels, Western dressage Intro and Basic levels, and/or riders on green horses (Open).

Organizational Structure and Communication

Board members meet by Zoom the third Wednesday of every month. These meetings are open to others, and several members participate regularly.

The club maintains a website, a Facebook Group and a mailing list of all members and also a horseman's community mailing list. The club communicates with members by posting updates on Facebook, sharing by internet and email.

BACH introduced a new quarterly newsletter in 2026: BACH Bits. The newsletter is prepared by Joana Rocha, the new BACH Secretary, and distributed electronically. The newsletter is also posted on the BACH website. The newsletter includes short recaps from recent events, information about upcoming events, a short story about a featured member, and other newsworthy items from BACH members.



Photo from Lecture Event with Kyle Johnson (Texas A&M) on Equine Dentistry, June 20th, 2026



Photo from the "Shenanigans" Obstacle Course Event, April 18th, 2026



Photo of the Saddle Fitting Event, March 1st, 2026



Photo from the Awards Ceremony, March 1st, 2026



Photo from the Ride-a-Test Event, May 2026.



Photo from the Cavaletti Clinic. October. 2025.