

# Dressage with Altitude

The 2008 Adequan / USDF  
National Convention & Symposium



with

**KYRA KYRKLUND**

Dressage  
USDF Education Partner

REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
REPORTS

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## Region 1 Report

**Director:** Alison Head, VA

### ***2008 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 3 – December 7 Denver, Colorado***

Following our exciting spring regional meeting at Scott and Suzanne Hassler's new farm, the summer in Region 1 has been fairly quiet. However, I am assured that our fall meeting scheduled for November 2, at Morven Park in Leesburg, will address some hot topics such as the USEF Performance Standards, the Strategic Plan, and other governance issues that are set to come before us at the convention.

Our 2009 spring meeting will again be held at the Hassler's Riveredge Farm in Chesapeake City, Maryland, on Sunday, March 16. It will be augmented by a clinic conducted by Scott on Saturday afternoon. I may look into a new venue for the fall meeting as Morven Park used to donate the rooms to us but now charges a fee that is not covered by the meeting fee I have historically charged.

Despite the unsettled economy and rising gas prices, the shows that I have been involved with this spring, summer and fall, whether as a competitor, coach or member of show management, have all been well attended and as large as in previous years. As I write this, I am working on assigning stabling for the BLM Championships, which has 460 stalls to be assigned and over 300 competing horses. Our local schooling shows have been overfilled with waiting lists.

Leaving Performance Standards aside, the only real complaints I have had this year about USDF have concerned how long it was taking, particularly in the late summer, for scores to appear on the Web site for year-end awards. There are two facets to this. One is that some find it hard to see adding another layer of record keeping on top of what we already have for the Performance Standards. The other is that in late summer some are trying to determine if they have met the criteria for awards or if they need to enter another show or perhaps a different class at a show. With it taking up to eight weeks to post scores, it is difficult to make these decisions.

The following are some of the major 2008 regional and/or USDF events:

#### **BLM Championships**

The BLM Championships are to be held at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, Virginia, the last week of October, run by VADA. The show generally has a fun Halloween theme and lots of championship rides, most of which will be able to be run indoors. There will be an L program from DVCTA doing their testing at the show along with a number of the "S" candidates doing some sitting and apprenticing (fortunately, the open show is also very large and permits all these activities).

#### **GAIG/USDF Championships**

The GAIG/USDF Championships were held the second week of October at the New Jersey Horse Park, run by ESDCTA. According to the show secretary, 255 horses competed. There were a total of 647 trips down the centerline over three days. There were a total of 246 regional championship rides over the three days. This is a good

sized show for the facility, and for once the weather was beautiful for the entire weekend.

### **Youth Team Competition**

The Youth Team Competition was again hosted by VADA/Nova in Leesburg, Virginia, and managed by me. Our show was on the same weekend as Lendon's big show and the week before Pony Club Nationals, but it proved to be nearly as large as usual and went off without a hitch. We were joined for the first time by teams from North Carolina, who did very well, including winning the overall Stable Management Award. At this time, I assume the show will continue at the same location and with the same management in 2009.

### **Adult Clinic**

The Adult Clinic with Jane Savoie was held the last weekend in March at Hilltop Farm. We had over 30 rider applications and were able to select riders from throughout the region. Over 100 auditors attended each day and both riders and auditors seemed to have a great time. Hilltop Farm was a fantastic location for the clinic and did everything to make the riders, auditors and volunteers feel welcome. This is a fairly central location for the region and could be used for future Adult Clinics. On the Saturday of the clinic, I ran a silent auction to benefit our NAJC/NAYRC teams and their trip to Colorado.

### **Region 1 Omnibus**

We are beginning work on the 2009 edition of the Region 1 Omnibus. To cover increased mailing costs, the 2009 price has increased to \$15 per book. The cost for advertisers and shows submitting prize lists is the same for 2009, but we will have to see how much the printing house raises their prices for 2010. I did well selling more copies by taking them to every show, clinic or other event that I attended in the spring.

### **L Programs**

We currently have three L programs in progress in Maryland, Pennsylvania and North Carolina. All have accepted more participants than there are testing slots available. In order to try to help those participants wanting to test (apparently there are quite a few around the country), I have gotten PVDA to agree to run a second D1, D2 and testing session, starting this fall and continuing into 2009. The first session of the PVDA program held its testing at the VADA/Nova's fall show in Leesburg.

### **Region 1 Awards**

Recipients of the Region 1 Awards were again selected by the region's GMOs from an impressive pool of candidates. The results are below.

- Achievement at the USEF Levels – Tie – Sarah Schmitt and JJ Tate
- Achievement at the FEI Levels – Chris Hickey
- Contribution to Dressage (Senior) – Susan Nicholas
- Contribution to Dressage (Junior) – Hannah White

All but the Junior award were presented at Dressage at Devon on Friday night prior to the Grand Prix. We are beginning the process of asking for applications for the 2008 awards (based on the 2008 show season).

## Region 2 Report

**Director:** Sue Hughes, MI

### ***2008 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 3 – December 7 Denver, Colorado***

In spite of the challenges from the US economy, the competition season proved to be robust. As a consequence, the Region 2 Championship was as large as usual. Held at the lovely Paxton Farm facility in Batavia, Ohio, we were blessed with perfect weather. Due to the past ill treatment by the weather gods, we were grateful for the warm days, calm winds, and sunny skies. The championship rides, featuring shiny, handsome horses and well turned out riders, were beautiful.

We thank John and Janet Paxton for hosting us, being gracious and attentive to all of our needs. Kevin Bradbury and his BMCI crew kept scores coming up as fast as they were produced. We thank him too for a smooth and seamless show experience.

Another major annual competition is the Junior/Young Rider Championships. Held in Colorado this year, they too were a fine experience for our team, as well as teams from all regions and Canada. At the start of their competition season, seventeen Young Riders and eighteen Juniors signed Letters of Intent indicating good depth and a solid base for the future. Neither team medaled this year, but all performed very well. According to Roz Kinstler who represents our region on the Jr/YR Council and serves as our Chef, the team was cohesive and fun. The heat and humidity, in addition to the altitude, were challenging, but management provided water everywhere and all survived.

Next month the Semi-Annual Adult Education Clinic will be held in Region 2. The hosting GMO is Mid-Ohio Dressage Association, with Nancy Wentz serving as President and clinic organizer. It will be held at Dancing Horse Farm in Lebanon, Ohio, with popular clinician Jane Savoie serving as the presenter. Jennifer Truett, facility owner, has done a wonderful job of advertising this important event. For example, the Adult Clinic is listed along with her signature in every email that Jennifer sends out. Early registration of riders and auditors promises a big crowd.

As usual, our many GMOs present a steady stream of educational clinics. The newsletters I receive all have very rich ongoing programs on their calendars. Of course, for us in the more northern states, the last six warmer months are very busy. However, most of us keep right on going throughout the year as do the education programs.

Our regional coordinators who serve their one year term on the USDF councils and committees keep us in touch with the national picture, as does the *USDF Connection* magazine.

Jackie Luebke-Puetz and Korin Rinaldo, adult and youth education specialists, also process any grants that are received. With me, they review the programs and budgets and help award the annual grant money. Each region is allotted \$2250 to be used within a fiscal year (April 1 – March 31) to help GMOs make the bottom line come out more even.

Brad Cutshall, Nancy Wentz and I are the committee that chooses the regional championships sites. In 2009 we will be with Lloyd Landkamer, manager at the gracious

Lamplight facility. We are already discussing the special calendar challenges for 2010. Other regions face the same challenge the World Equestrian Games present by falling in the same time frame as our regional championships. One suggestion is a slightly shortened competition season with an earlier date for the championships. Your ideas are welcome. We will discuss this in our regional meetings here in Denver.

Our Region 2 Omnibus again is being produced by Jennifer Moyne. She has copies with her for purchase that cost \$10. It is on the Web site as well.

Our Web site has been updated by Terri Schwartz, a dedicated non-competing dressage rider from Michigan. Please visit the site. A link to the USDF Web site is provided as well.

Terry Luley and Carrie Vacolas are the coordinators for our GMOs. You might often see posts from them on the GMO Prez List.

Please contact any of our PM delegates who will be attending the annual meeting and who have voting power. They, with the GMO delegates, form the Board of Governors, which is the ruling body of USDF. Please make this your organization by discussing any and all issues with your representatives.

Because of my judging and teaching in most of the Region 2 states, I have had the chance to meet many of you. Others I know by email or phone, but I do want to state that I am available to all to answer questions or find the proper place to find the proper answers. I hope you all will feel welcome to contact me at any time.

## Region 3 Report

**Director:** Sandi Bishop, FL

### ***2008 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 3 – December 7 Denver, Colorado***

There has been little activity in Region 3 since the EB meeting in April. Due to time constrictions for this report, most all of the activities occur after the deadline.

The only thing that has occurred in Region 3 is the NAJYRC in July and August. It was down to the wire for qualifying, as usual, and we fielded an excellent Junior team consisting of Katrina Dagge, Blair Martindale, Bryn Cahill, and McKenzie Jenkins. We did well in the team test, coming in fourth overall. In the Individual test, we had one rider in third place, McKenzie Jenkins. She moved up to second place in the Freestyle. We are very proud of her!

We were not so lucky with the Young Riders. Although we had three who qualified, only two chose to attend. Hannah Michaels and Jillian Costello attended, while Allyssa Eidbo chose to attend the USEF Championships in California. Unfortunately, Hannah's horse was injured in a trailering accident and she was eliminated on day one. Jillian was our sole hope and she conducted herself with honors.

Region 3 elected to cancel the Young Riders clinic this year. There was a severe lack of attendance, and it was felt that canceling it this year would be the best thing to do.

We are two weeks from our championships which will be held at Poplar Place Farm. I fully expect a huge turnout! I also expect a fabulous facility with excellent stabling, superb footing, and incredible volunteers and management. I will let you know how my expectations are met.

## Region 4 Report

**Director:** Sarah Patrick, MO

### ***2008 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 3 – December 7 Denver, Colorado***

With a geographically dispersed region covering seven large states, Region 4 members have been dealing with the economic downturns in 2008, by perhaps being even more selective regarding which competitions and clinics they attend. Several of the fourteen GMOs in the region have reported some reduction in participation at events.

#### **Infrastructure Development**

To continue the type of information sharing and networking that occurs at the GMO Roundtable Sessions during the convention, Region 4 started a GMO Leadership Conference Call Series this year. Quarterly, GMO leaders voluntarily opt to participate in a one hour conference call over the lunch hour. Topics discussed were recruitment and retention (March), fundraising for the long haul (June), and dealing with conflict in the GMO (September). Notes from the presentations are posted on the Region 4 Web site ([www.yahogroups.com/group/USDFRegion4](http://www.yahogroups.com/group/USDFRegion4)). Participants reported that the meetings were useful and that the ideas discussed were applied within their GMO.

#### **Education Grants**

GMOs were asked to submit their request for USDF grant dollars at the Region 4 meetings at the annual convention. All grants were approved at that time, allowing organizers to market, knowing they had the support of the grants. In fact, Region 4 spent all of the allotted grant money. Funded events were:

- USDF L Program organized by Central States Dressage and Eventing
- USDF Instructor Certification Workshops organized by the Kansas City Dressage Society
- Tracey Lert Clinic organized by Dakota Dressage and Eventing

Because no applications were submitted for a youth clinic and the grant program changed to allow funds to be used for youth and adults for any of the clinics, a dressage camp organized by the Kansas City Dressage Society, held at William Woods University in Fulton, Missouri, was also funded.

The Dressage Foundation (TDF) Edgar Hotz Judges Education Endowment Fund Grant for each USDF region was used for a Freestyle Judging Clinic for L Program graduates, licensed judges, and auditors. It was hosted by the Kansas City Dressage Society.

TDF, a Region 4 Business Member, also funds the Carol Lavell Gifted Scholarship to an adult amateur for intensive study on their own horse. The 2008 recipient was Joann Messersmith (SD). A summary of her training experience is posted on the TDF Web site ([www.dressagefoundation.org](http://www.dressagefoundation.org)).

One youth applied for and was awarded a \$100 Region 4 Youth Scholarship to attend a Conrad Schumacher Clinic at Providence Farm in Nebraska.

The USDF Region 4 FEI Jr/YR Clinic will be held at Pine Hill Farm in Kansas City, Missouri, in November, and taught by USDF Vice-President George Williams. The clinic is full and has a waiting list.

### **Competition Grants**

Successful regional youth team and adult team competitions were held in Mason City, Iowa, in July and August (respectively), and organized by Lloyd Landkamer. Lloyd also organized the GAIG/USDF Region 4 Championships in September. Competitors gave extremely positive feedback on the competitions. Again, Lloyd Landkamer and his professional team are thanked for the high quality of competitions in Region 4.

### **North American Junior and Young Rider Championships**

Region 4 again filled two full teams for NAJYRC. Nancy Gorton (MO) served for a second year in a row as the Chef d'équipe and remains our FEI Jr/YR regional coordinator. Junior team members were Hans Baertsch (MN), Lauren Gorton (MO), Amy Hacker (MO), and Layne Sandercott (MN). They brought home the silver medal! Congratulations!

The Young Riders included Meredith Kenyon (NE), Elise Mann (KS), Emily Wagner (KS), and Kristina Yang (NE). Of note, five of the eight team members are members of the Kansas City Dressage Society. KCDS responded by launching a GMO Challenge and paid dollar-for-dollar, up to \$1500, of the money donated by the other GMOs. Almost every GMO was able to participate in the challenge. Additional GMOs, which "raised" our teams, include Central States Dressage and Eventing, the Nebraska Dressage Association, and St. Louis Area Dressage Society. Tracie Wang (NE) served as fundraising chair and team members did a great deal of very successful fundraising. Purina Mills remained a gold medal sponsor of the Region 4 teams for the second year in a row. Our thanks and appreciation go out to the numerous sponsors for all of the support provided. Discussions are underway regarding the possibility of setting a charitable remainder trust to cover future expenses for entries, stabling, and horse shipping for the teams.

### **Budget**

Region 4 worked from a budget approved at the USDF convention in December in an attempt to better forecast expenses and meet our needs as a region. While a regional symposium to be named the "Lois Arnold Region 4 Educational Symposium" is in the works, it was not able to be held in 2008 due to the sought-out clinician's involvement with the Olympic Games. The regional accounts are stable with a \$20,000 balance.

### **Mid-Year Meeting**

Region 4 held its mid-year meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, in April. It was hosted by the Iowa Dressage and Combined Training Association, and the Great River Horsemanship Association assisted. USDF President, Sam Barish, joined the group by teleconference and discussed the USDF Strategic Plan. This was the first time we attempted to use teleconferencing to help draw in participation from those who were unable to physically attend the meeting, as well as extend the speaker list to our national officers.

### **Volunteerism**

The following volunteers are thanked for serving as coordinators on USDF councils for Region 4:

Adult Education – Jamee Amundson (NE); Awards – Barbara Zukowski (IA); Competition Management – Joann Messersmith (SD); Competitors – Anne Cizadlo (IA); FEI Jr/YR – Nancy Gorton (MO); GMO – Anne Sushko (IA); Instructor Trainer – Colleen Holden (MN); Nominating – Gerri Muldrow (MO); Technical Delegate – Loretta Waldner (SD); Youth – Lloyd Landkamer (MN).

The Region 4 Treasurer is Dr. Rebecca Hafner (MN) and the Youth Executive Board (YEB) member is Ellie Hardesty (KS). The regional activities are all conducted by volunteers. Their hard work, great humor, and timeless giving are appreciated.

## Region 5 Report

**Director:** Theresa Hunt, AZ

### ***2008 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 3 – December 7 Denver, Colorado***

Region 5 is excited to have the Adequan/USDF Convention and Symposium in Denver, Colorado this year. Rocky Mountain Dressage Society will be providing many volunteers for the convention and demonstration riders for the symposium featuring Kyra Kyrkland. We anticipate good attendance and lots of enthusiasm.

Our Region 5 FEI Junior Team captured all three gold medals - Team, Individual, and Freestyle, at the North American Junior/Young Rider Championships held July 29 through August 3, at the Colorado Horse Park in Parker, Colorado. The Junior team was 50 points ahead of Region 4 to win the Gold medal with an average score of 66.467 percent. Brandi Roenick and Pretty Lady won the Individual Gold medal with a 69.9 percent; Morgan Heinrichs and Orlando won the Freestyle Gold medal with a 71.5 percent. The rest of the team included Cassy Fitch riding Kilroy and Brittney Klasic riding Wadi Draa. Our Young Riders team included Holly Bergay and Soliloquy, Anya Bershad and Wonder Boy, and Sara Winkleman and Icarus, placing a respectable fifth in the team competition. Ellie Stine-Masek was our Chef d'Equipe for both teams. Tammy Fitch, our FEI Jr/YR Coordinator, did a superb job of fundraising and arranging the logistics for the teams. Susan Rudman, RMDS Junior/Young Rider coordinator, and Julie Barringer-Richers, our Youth Coordinator, assisted with fundraising. We had 21 FEI Juniors and Young riders that declared this year, so it looks like we have more participation than ever in our region.

Vanessa Simon, one of our former Advanced Young Riders, went to Europe this summer to participate in the Dressage Foundation "Olympic Dream" Program. Our region's FEI Jr/YR Clinic with Kathy Connelly was held May 17-18, in Scottsdale this year since the last one was held in Colorado. RMDS sponsored a Junior Camp at 8<sup>th</sup> Heaven Farms in Castle Rock, June 28-July 2. The camp included daily dressage lessons and fun activities, open to riders ages 10-18 who could either bring their own horse or lease one.

Due to the great geographical area, our region rotates the championships from north to south. The drive time from the two major population centers, Denver and Phoenix, is sixteen hours, and many members live further north or south which adds more travel time. Historically, we have had the championships in the following states: 1996-NM, 1997-WY, 1998-AZ, 1999-CO, 2000-CO, 2001-NM, 2002-AZ, 2003-CO, 2004-AZ, 2005-CO, 2006-NM, 2007-CO, 2008-AZ. New Mexico Dressage Association will host the next Great American Insurance Group/USDF Regional Championships on October 16-18, 2009. I am planning on rotating the championships to Colorado in 2010.

USDF Adult Education Grants included the Boulder Valley Dressage Chapter of RMDS, which held an Adult Camp July 17-20. Paso del Norte Dressage Society hosted a Rebecca Langwost Clinic: "The Training Scale as it Relates to Everyday Riding and Training of the Dressage Horse," April 26- 27, 2008. A Biomechanics Symposium with J. Ashton Moore was held in Durango, Colorado, September 6-7, 2008.

RMDS sponsored several educational events. The sponsored educational events included: USEF "r" Judge Session with Janet Foy (January 18-20); Judge Continuing Education with Kristi Wysocki (January 26); TD/Show Manager Education with Deeda Randle, Heather Petersen, and Camile Griffin (February 9); Terry Ciotti Gallo Freestyle Clinic (April 12-13); USEF "r" Judge Final Exam in Parker, Colorado (August 23-24). RMDS also hosted the Rocky Mountain Series Sport Horse Breeding Finals and USDFBC Finals on September 25 at the Colorado Horse Park.

Arizona Dressage Association continued the USDF "L" Program this winter and spring with sessions B, C, and D1. The Final Exam is scheduled during the Region 5 Championships. ADA held a clinic featuring Axel Steiner October 5-6. The Northern Arizona Chapter of ADA hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their schooling show championships this summer.

**Membership issue to be discussed at Convention**

ADA brought up a "black hole" membership issue. From September 1 through November 30, USDF processes all GMO memberships as being for the following year, starting December 1. This works fine for renewals of membership year, but causes a problem for someone that wants to join the GMO for the remainder of the current year.

There is a conflict between USDF's policy of not accepting current-year memberships during the last three months of the year and the USDF requirement for GMO's to send all memberships to USDF. At this time there are two unacceptable alternatives: 1) The GMO does not accept current-year memberships from September through November or 2) The GMO accepts a current-year membership and does not send anything to USDF and is in violation of the rules. Note that this issue does not have anything to do with determining a GMO's number of votes at convention.

There are several reasons why someone might want to join the GMO during the remaining three months of the current year. Current membership is required for certain GMO sponsored activities. Membership is required for some GMO awards programs and to compete in Arizona state championships. For ADA only, current-year membership is required to be qualified to vote in the following election of board members.

This issue has been brought to the attention of the GMO Council and it appears that other GMO's may have similar problems.

## **Region 6 Report**

**Director:** Donna Longacre, WA

### ***2008 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 3 – December 7 Denver, Colorado***

#### **Region 6 Overview**

Overall, Region 6 had a good year. GMOs on both sides of the Cascades participated in both regional and national activities and competitions. We had casual “area meetings” in the spring/summer on both sides of the mountains. The meeting at the Region 6 Championship show was well attended and productive. Having the meeting during the exhibitor’s party turned out well; a little wine and cheese made for bountiful contributions to the conversation, and maybe even some volunteers that wouldn’t have otherwise! Coming together for food, friends and the betterment of our horses is always a worthwhile cause.

Many hands make light work, so if you are one of the volunteers that has driven the extra mile to help at a show, worked on a national or regional committee/council, organized an educational event, or just shown your support by “chipping in” when needed, the region would like to say “Thank You.” Your time and effort in being part of the team enables us to participate, and therefore learn more about this challenging and rewarding discipline.

If you haven’t volunteered yet, there are plenty of opportunities to set things right! Region 6 needs you!

#### **Adult Education Council**

Regional representative, Francy Haupt, reports that the Jane Savoie clinic was well received. Jane does an excellent job of entertaining and educating all at once. The region had almost 30 applicants for the riding positions, and there was a good turn out both days. Devonwood was a fairly central location and served the venue well. The Adult Ed Clinic Series will stay a two year process and Charlotte Bredahl will be the presenter in 2009-2010. Be sure to check out the University Credit Program for recent changes and improvements.

#### **Advanced Jr/YRs**

Regional co-coordinator Pat Irving facilitated, sending two teams to Colorado. Even with the extremely hot weather and the altitude, the close proximity of the competition made the job of getting everyone there and in good health at least a little more “do-able”. The kids represented the region well, and two Young Riders made the top fifteen for the Freestyle. Congratulations to Chelsea Pederson who won the Individual Bronze and Freestyle Bronze Medals. The region is grateful for the investment of time, effort, and resources that these YRs and their families make in order to represent us at the highest level.

The region is still in need of volunteer parents and/or adults to head up projects or events in order to make more opportunities for education. Investing in our kids is investing in our future. The YRs will have to do some serious fundraising this next year and Pat is looking for an assistant. If you are interested please contact Pat or myself, and we’ll put you to work! =)

### **Youth**

The High School Dressage Teams are continuing to grow and there is more interest in starting similar programs in the region. The popularity of this program is becoming more evident as youth membership is the fastest growing membership category for ODS. Scholarships are available to graduating seniors. Once again, the Oregon State Team Dressage Championship show was a huge success.

ODS also hosted the Jr/YR Team Championship Show at Devonwood Equestrian Center. This show continues to be very popular with the Young Riders, and extra rings had to be added. It's good to see so many Young Riders that are eager and enthusiastic about our sport.

### **Competition Management**

Our Competition Management Council liaison, Rose Newman, and ODS, once again offered a one day educational seminar in Portland. The clinic was designed for show personnel to brush up on the rules and regulations of running approved dressage shows. This is an opportunity well worth the time invested, for both professional as well as volunteer show management.

The National Committee has updated the Competition Manager Brochure, as well as ShowBiz.

### **GMOs**

Corrine Stonier, Large GMO Coordinator, continues to work with USDF staff on several issues to improve member services including online membership processing and verification, and submission of GMO rosters in order to make life easier for our GMO secretaries.

### **TDs**

Our TD Council member, Betty Shambrook, is planning to actively encourage capable people to become involved in the TD program in order to further deepen our pool of regional TDs. The time and funds needed to pursue the license, and the lack of new "young bloods" entering the program seems to be a national trend and concern.

### **Newsletter/Web site**

Kate Van De Coevering was indispensable in helping maintain and post news on the Web site. With the expansion of the free classified section, we ended up needing to move to a new, more robust server. Thank goodness for Kate and her expertise in the field as the move was made quickly and smoothly.

### **Regional Championships**

Well, so much for heading to the "dry side" to get out of the rain! Unfortunately, the Boise area had record rainfall the weekend of the championship show. Lightning delayed the show on more than one occasion, though having the Doppler radar report running non-stop on the office computer helped show management predict the length and severity of the storms.

The Championship Show Committee was formed and decisions are often made as a group. The theme this year has been to work as a team, develop more of a service oriented attitude, gather information from other regions in order to solve issues that are not novel or limited to our region, and to come together for the good of the order.

The outdoor sand rings held up fairly well, until the end of the second day. We were able to run two rings in the indoor arena, and thank goodness for the extra covered warm-up arena. The awards ceremonies were prestigious and well presented and went off without a hitch. The welcome dinner, exhibitors' party, and awards banquet were all well attended. Several prestigious NW Dressage Awards were presented along with the winner of the stall decorating contest, the Equitation medals, and recognizing of several of our hard working volunteer staff and show team. Our evening "went to the dogs" when we finished the evening's entertainment with a demonstration of dog agility and how they compete. As the evening progressed, it was clear that the handlers also had to be somewhat agile to succeed.

**Regional Mini-Convention**

The second annual Region 6 Mini-Convention will be held in Portland. The region's fall business meeting will take place there, as well as some educational workshops. A "welcome reception" will kick off the event with the intent of enabling conversations between members and the delegates who will be attending the annual convention.

## Region 7 Report

**Director:** Terry Wilson, CA

### ***2008 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 3 – December 7 Denver, Colorado***

The highlight this year for Region 7 dressage enthusiasts was the opportunity to watch the superb performances at the Dressage Festival of Champions. Held over two weekends in June in San Juan Capistrano, national championships were awarded. However, the Olympic selection trials brought about the “sold out” ticket status. The crowd appreciated all of the competitors with the eleven California based riders receiving the loudest cheers.

Another highlight for our region was winning the team gold medal at Denver’s NAJYRC. Sponsored both financially and emotionally by the California Dressage Society, the program and fundraising were well-organized and administered by Regional Coordinator Michelle Vaughn and Chef Elizabeth Hendricks. In addition to the team gold, young riders Katie Johnson and Brianna Dutton won the individual gold and silver medals. For the first time, Region 7 also had a Junior team, which won the bronze medal. Ari Lopez was second individually and Mackenzie Pooley placed third in the freestyle.

George Williams conducted the USDF Junior/Young Rider clinic, held at Starr Vaughn Equestrian Center. Riana Porter, one of the Junior riders, wrote in her article for [Dressage Letters](#), “George pushed us to our limits ... and I became a different rider ... with more knowledge and understanding.”

Other nationally recognized activities included the USEF Dressage Young Horse Training Session with coach Scott Hassler, held in March at Los Angeles Equestrian Center, and the four “L” programs designed to prepare candidates to enter the USEF Judges Training Program. Held in all areas of California, these programs also served as an educational opportunity for all USDF members.

In November, the USDF Adult Clinic with Jane Savoie will be held in Southern California. The selection committee had to narrow the 24 excellent applicants to eight. Hopefully, there will be a large group of auditors taking advantage of the chance to learn from this excellent instructor. Responsibility for local arrangements is being shared by DASC and one of the CDS chapters.

The GMO Presidents reported on the activities of their groups. Cindy Moragrega, President of the Hawaii State Dressage Society, stressed how proud this society is to be hosting its first USEF/USDF recognized shows; three this year, six next year. A new Web site with lots of helpful information and links has been created. Fundraisers were held for their Young Rider Championships and a “Dressage Fun Day” to recruit new young riders. Getting a USDF educational grant will help the club host Lilo Fore for a November clinic and lecture.

No reports were submitted from the other three GMOs in Hawaii, whom we assume must be doing “business as usual.”

Danielle Lee, President of the Dressage Association of Southern California, has been busy planning the USDF Jane Savoie Clinic and the DASC Championships. The show year, which began in September 2007, offered 29 DASC recognized shows for members to qualify for their championships. The show itself had a great fundraiser – a silent auction and a raffle for a pair of custom Petrie boots. The \$2000 raised will be used to support grants for DASC educational programs.

This GMO sponsored the Interscholastic Equestrian League Dressage Classes at shows in both the large areas of Southern California. Formerly, these shows had only offered hunter/jumper classes to the hundreds of young riders from the competing schools. The scheduling of dressage clinics at the IEL shows this year will help with the education and recruitment of more junior members.

DASC offered special workshops on freestyles, “Luna Tune Freestyle with Cynthia Collins,” and on rider exercises, “Classical Pilates Exclusively for Equestrians.”

Carol Tice, CDS President stated, “I am thankful that our members are loyal to our programs despite the economic challenges. We have been overwhelmed by the success of our newest show, the RAAC. Our Junior Championships continue to grow, and our Annual Championship remains the highest quality show.”

The California Dressage Society’s Annual Meeting did not feature a famous European presenter, but held sessions to help its 36 chapters become more productive and successful in promoting dressage in their areas. The awards banquet was a tribute to long-time member and Past-President Peter Lert. In Peter’s words, when asked to join the fledging society in 1968, “You’re welcome to my \$10, but you’ll never get it off the ground.” However, looking back upon its successes, he concluded, “Although my six years as President spread over twenty years may have contributed to my white hair, I would not have missed the experience for anything.”

Awards of \$500 were presented to chapters for the best newsletter, Web site, and educational event - a dressage camp in Sacramento Valley. The CDS Scholarship Committee awarded several scholarships to both riders for continuing education and to chapters to help sponsor educational events.

The RAAC, or Regional Adult Amateur Competitions, was inaugurated this year as the newest CDS program. Riders must qualify for these three regional shows that have two divisions, Elite and Novice, at Training through Fourth Levels. The Roses Award goes to the top rider 50 years or older in each division. The mission of these competitions is to provide an opportunity for Adult Amateurs to compete against others of similar skill and experience. With hundreds of members registering to participate, this is obviously another successful enterprise for this huge GMO.

As in past years, there have been many educational activities in this region, especially riding clinics. CDS offered its three amateur clinics with Rachel Saavedra. There were several privately sponsored clinics with visiting instructors from the Spanish Riding School including Andreas Hausberger, Marius Schreiner, Rudolf Rostek, and Arthur Kottes. Chapters offered educational sessions on subjects from truck and trailer management for better fuel consumption to nutritional alternatives. The threat of wildfires led the Santa Cruz Chapter to partner with FEMA, giving instructions on emergency services and disaster preparedness. Finally, Conrad Schumacher will be conducting a symposium in Northern California this November. While the emphasis will

be on dressage, the purpose is to show riders in all disciplines how a foundation in dressage will benefit the horse.

There were 120 triple recognized shows and five CDIs in California. Surprisingly, there were also 66 schooling or CDS only recognized shows, a dramatic increase from previous years. Obviously, the economy is having an effect on dressage.

## Region 8 Report

**Director:** Fern Feldman, CT

### ***2008 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 3 – December 7 Denver, Colorado***

The Great American Insurance Group/USDF Regional Championships were again at HITS on the Hudson, run by NEDA. The show is long and full with a breed show, an open show, a NEDA Sweepstakes show, and the championships. However, NEDA has now done this for a number of years, and they are getting better and better at working the venue and all of its components (as there is also a Marshall Sterling hunter/jumper show at the same venue). All those who qualified for the championships and who rode at NEDA received a special tote with an appropriate logo—a nice touch that hopefully made that group feel special. There were a total of 208 championship horses there with 182 riders. The weather is always a major issue at the show, but even with the rain, the footing was generally quite good. It truly is impossible to have 100 percent of your competitors happy, but NEDA's volunteers are an amazingly hard-working group and did try to keep the wheels turning.

Lendon's Youth Dressage Festival celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> year this summer in August, also at HITS on the Hudson. The size of the show has been fairly consistent for a number of years; approximately 230 kids. This year there was a wonderful group from Guatemala that was truly one of the nicest groups of kids, parents, and coaches that we have ever had. They were incredibly appreciative, lots of fun, hard-working, and nice riders – wonderful ambassadors for their country and their sport. The largest complement of riders is in the training and first levels, with second through FEI being much smaller. The prix caprilli, the trail class, the roving trainers, the tack room competition, and even the warm-up schooling show (with a judge, of course) are very popular. Saturday night dinner is for some special awards (Karen, Bill, Megan and Brad Davis were awarded the Corinne Gray award), talks by the judges, and a special demonstration by Micaela Mabragena on Granada (owned by Sam Grunkorn).

Region 8 GMO's continue to put on shows, clinics and programs. I know that we find that schooling shows are easy to run, very popular, and financially successful. My fear is that running recognized shows is getting more and more complex, with very few groups able to do it on a volunteer basis. Of course, NEDA is the exception, but their budget and support base are huge which is very helpful. Other GMO's find that the amount of work involved, the expense, and the difficulty in finding volunteers makes the job onerous instead of positive. Fortunately, we have a couple of people and/or businesses (like Centerline Events) that are in the business and can be hired to help do the job. I do worry that we are losing some of our recognized shows, and/or that they are being consolidated to make it financially feasible. Furthermore, the economy is also a huge factor, and a worrisome one at that.

NEDA runs a Fall Symposium October 31-November 2, with Debbie McDonald as the clinician. They have kindly given Region 8 the opportunity to have a regional meeting during lunch on Saturday. I have extended an invitation to all GMO's, to the coordinators in Region 8, and to the PM delegates specifically. But, I have obviously also indicated that any and all are welcome.

There are usually several hundred in attendance at the symposium, so I am hopeful that a good number will sit in on the meeting. It does give me an opportunity to hear what the interests and concerns are, as well as to announce some plans and programs for 2009. Obviously, this report is printed prior to that meeting, so I cannot report here on the results.

## Region 9 Report

**Director:** Bess Reineman, TX

### ***2008 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 3 – December 7 Denver, Colorado***

There were 50 people that attended a very successful August All-Day Saturday Regional Summer Meeting in Conroe, Texas, followed by a lively GMO Roundtable Session and Balimo Chair Warm-up on Sunday.

GAIG/USDF Regional Dressage Championships in Guthrie, Oklahoma, and the Southwest Dressage Championships in Katy, Texas, are on schedule. Management is hard at work finalizing the last minute details.

On a weekly basis, I e-mail news to a list of over 300, including regional members, and the GMO Boards and members. I also send information to USDF for the monthly E-News. Communication is of utmost importance to keep our members informed.

An excellent group of regional coordinators and chairs help our region run smoothly and efficiently. Here are their reports:

#### **Adult Education- Evie Tumlin**

2008 Adult Team Competitions: Chase Meadow Farm and Houston Dressage Society

#### **2008 Camps and Symposiums/Seminars**

- May 29 – June 1: ODS Dressage Camp - Paula Kierkegaard, Sarah Martin, Louise St. Armour
- May 24 – 25: HDS - Symposium with Stephen Clarke
- May 31 – June 1: CTDS - Jeff Moore Symposium
- June 6 – June 8: FWDC - Adult Dressage Camp - Meg Flemming
- August 2 – August 3: SEDA - Freestyle Seminar - Cynthia Collins

#### **2008 Region 9 Fund Applications (a regional fund which supports our GMOs)**

- June 18 – 21: MsEDA Adult Dressage Camp - Pam Bancker and Paula Stewart
- June 28 – 29: CTDS - Loma Fowler Clinic

#### **2008 The Dressage Foundation - Vi Hopkins Fund Grants Awarded**

- ODS Jeff Moore Symposium - Jeff Moore
- MsEDA Adult Camp - Pam Bancker and Paula Stewart
- FWDC Adult Camp - Meg Flemming
- HDS Sport Horse Seminar - Hilda Gurney
- **2009:** BACH Seminar and Clinic - Jane Savoie

Several new clinics and seminars by well known professionals are scheduled for the fall: Lars Peterson, Dr. Hilary Clayton, Mary Wanless, Heather Blitz and Walter Zetl.

### **Competition Management- Jan Colley**

While some shows appear to suffer little due to the economy, others are showing a marked decrease in attendance. Living in a region where we all must travel some distance to attend the various shows, the cost of showing now must be a major consideration to Region 9 competitors. These competitors, in turn, will become more selective as to which shows they attend.

### **Competitors – Paul Kathen**

There were two issues brought to my attention. First, inquiries about how the reporting of points works for year-end awards. Secondly, and more frequently noted, were complaints about shows that ran out of ribbons at the end of the day. Some were also upset because the information on the price list did not match the reality at the show. Often it seems to just have been a misunderstanding by the competitor. Clarifying the awards, champion and high point tabulations will help. However, running out of awards is inexcusable. Show management must be alert about that possibility. Many exhibitors are not winning so much that they will ignore this problem; they complain in very emotional terms. Judging also was addressed in both positive and negative terms, which is expected in a highly subjective sport.

### **FEI Jr/YR – Joan Darnell**

There were twelve FEI Juniors and Young Riders that declared their intentions to qualify for the 2008 NAJYRC. Young Riders Rachel Campbell, Misty Moyes, Jessica Blackmon and Elisabeth Steel, along with Junior Audrey Jones, represented Region 9. Misty Moyes was awarded the Captain Andrew B. de Szinay Memorial Sportsmanship Trophy. The Junior team chef was Amanda Garrett, and the YR chef was Susan Howard. Region 9 grooms were John Mason, Kassidy Peacock, and Ruby Reithel.

The FEI Jr/YRs worked hard to earn money to cover the cost of sending a team to the NAJYRC. In March, a fundraiser was held at the Garrett family's Stormin' G Ranch in College Station. Attendance and donated items for the silent auction allowed us to raise over \$2000 that night.

The declared Jr's and YR's also worked hard at shows selling candy, water and cooling bandanas. Kassidy Peacock, who does not have a horse to compete this year, was a huge supporter of the program, volunteering countless hours at many shows.

Earlier this year, Melanie Pai donated \$5000 to establish the "Dr. Bob Fund" in order to assist Region 9 FEI Jr/YRs with the expenses of training, traveling and competing to qualify for the NAJYRC. Awarded this year were Audrey Jones and Elisabeth Steel. Each received \$2000.

The USDF FEI Jr/YR Clinic with Jan Ebeling will be held in October. We hope it will be as well attended as the January clinic.

### **Instructor/Trainers- Vera Muckleroy**

Ashley Hammil and Alamo Dressage Association are holding an Instructors Continued Education Clinic in November. I plan to put on a new "Watch and Learn" course at my facility next year. CTDS is also looking into holding a Continuing Education Clinic in 2009.

**Nominations- Kat Kyle**

PM delegates elected to represent Region 9 at the 2008 annual meeting are Jan Colley, Joan Darnell, Paul Kathen, Marilyn Kulifay, Kathryn Kyle, Sarah Jane Martin and Evie Tumlin.

The new Youth Executive Board member elected for Region 9 is Faith Morris.

Thanks again to Jeanette Snow and Gillian Gourley for serving on the canvassing committee!

For the drawing from the pool of voters that participated in the PM delegate elections by mailing in their ballot, Cindy Franchek from Region 9 was the winner and won a USDF 5-Year Participating Membership.

**Youth – Mary Wetzel**

2008 Youth Team Competitions: Chase Meadow Farm and Dallas Dressage Club

Mary monitors and sends out newsletters to our youth and pony club members. She has established a Web site for the youth, <http://dressageteams.com/>, and also supplies information to our Region 9 Web site.

**Region 9 Web site- Bruce Lawrie and Carole Fuller**

Carole resigned as the Web site calendar master due to work and family demands. Bruce works diligently to update the Web site weekly. We are in the process of designing a new Web site that will provide important, up-to-date information and communication to our members.

**Horseperson of the Year- Burnis Foy**

Nominations were accepted up to September 3, and a blind committee selected the winner. This year's recipient is Sally Chionsini. A much deserved award, to a dedicated and hard working member.

**Judges- Marilyn Kulifay**

In order to encourage more L Grads to attend Continuing Education, seminars, symposia, clinics and other educational events meeting specific requirements were identified. A calendar of qualifying educational events was sent to L Grads and Judges in Region 9.

On June 14-15, 2008, we held a Continuing Education for Judges and L Grads Program: Upgrading Your Judging Eye, Part II with Joan Humphrey, an "S" Judge and L Faculty Member. Nine "L" Graduate Participants and seven Auditors attended. The evaluations rated the program and instructor as "Excellent."

We received a grant from The Dressage Foundation to help with expenses and the program broke even. Because the CE program did not utilize all of The Dressage Foundation funding available, there are additional funds available for another program in Region 9 this fiscal year.

An e-mail has been sent to identify GMOs interested in hosting a Continuing Education for Judges and L Grads Program.

**Omnibus- Tess Goodwin and Liz Grimsley**

We are hard at work putting together the 2009 Region 9 Omnibus, which will be mailed out in late November. For the first time, it will be offered as a PDF on the regional Web site, and will be available for order on a flash drive or CD.

Thanks to the 2009 regional shows for planning early so their information would be ready and available for the omnibus. A list was compiled with the 2009 dates in the spring, and published on the regional Web site so other shows could plan accordingly and not conflict.

**Marketing / Membership- Laurie Virkstis**

With communication at the forefront, and “going green” an important step, we are planning a regional group list for implementation by 2009. I already maintain a “Lone Star” group list, where regional news is posted. Marketing is supplying dressage related articles to non-dressage publications.