

SOUTHERN EVENTING AND DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION
2020 GMO REPORT
REGION 9 SUMMER MEETING

July 7, 2020

2020 marks the 45th Anniversary for SEDA! We had hoped to make this a more celebratory year, but given the current climate, it's been a bit slow getting started. We are planning a picnic gathering for mid-October with food, music, and a commemorative gift for those who attend. We are also offering for sale T-shirts commemorating the occasion (purchase one here: <https://seda2020.itemorder.com/sale>) and have started a Facebook photo album with photos from the past. We are trying to encourage members past and present to submit photos from their membership over the years (far past or recent past) to show the history of our club. We've had moderate participation in this venture thus far.

As of today, we have 119 paid members. This is reduced a bit from previous years as there is a tendency to renew right before a club organized competition.

Our spring Fleur De Leap show (schooling horse trials, combined test, and dressage show) was cancelled due to COVID-19. Locally, there was one schooling dressage show in February and a licensed dressage show in March right before everything was closed down. A local schooling competition happened in June (it was HUGE for our area), with others scheduled for August, September, and November.

We surveyed our membership regarding moving our spring show to a July or August date. The low response was a good indication there was not sufficient interest for a show in the heat of summer. Those who did respond were largely in favor of an event, but we ultimately decided we would not go through the hassle and expense of planning an event for the 15 riders who were willing to commit to attending.

Our recognized Horse Trials will hopefully take place in late September. As of today, it is on track to happen as scheduled and should be partnering with the local Pony Club as well.

Similarly, our licensed Level 3 Dressage Show is scheduled for Halloween weekend and we are hoping for a good turnout for that. Scores for that show will, of course, apply toward 2021, but we are optimistic that people will attend our show to get scores in case more disasters crop up next year which will prevent competitions.

Our Junior Director is in the process of contacting our young members to find out what kind of event we could have for them. We were supposed to have a Juniors Only show earlier this year, but it just didn't happen for a variety of reasons. We want to have something geared toward juniors - whether it be a ride a test or a clinic (probably not a show) or something else. This is still in progress.

Because we haven't done much, we haven't spent much money. However, last year we took a large financial hit because of losses at our recognized shows, improvements to our cross country course, and a banquet everyone loved. We were counting on our spring show to help fluff up the coffers. Since that did not happen, we are being very prudent regarding expenditures and attempting to conjure up some other sponsors for upcoming events. This won't be easy, but any little bit will help.

On the education front, most local clinics were cancelled, and we had not had anything on the calendar for our club as the Board was in discussion earlier this year regarding what to do for our members. The Board is not comfortable trying to schedule anything for the rest of this year

because of the changing nature of the environment and our need to not lose a lot of money on something if it gets cancelled. We are at a bit of a loss as to what other educational opportunities we can offer right now, but have passed on anything we came across that was virtual in nature. We are open to suggestions from members on things that they would like to see happen.

To keep in touch with our members, we have an active Facebook community and our e-newsletter goes out at least twice per month. Plus our website. We try to encourage members to write about what they have been involved in or experiences they've had during this time to both keep up interest and maintain engagement.

Right now, we are mostly focusing on getting ready for our two fall shows and December show, generating interest for our anniversary party, and attempting to plan our Awards Banquet. We have a January date for the latter, have not settled on a theme, and are trying to determine what would make good awards this year, since, due to lack of income, we will have to scale down a bit.

The lack of competitions and camaraderie has been difficult for everyone, but mostly people have handled it well. Our members are definitely looking forward to getting back out in competition and doing things together, even if it means wearing masks and staying further apart. We're hopeful the rest of the year will be a bit more 'normal'.