

2008 Dec. Meeting GMO Reports

Alamo Dressage Association

Alamo Dressage Association conducted a highly successful Fall Horse Show at the San Antonio Rose Palace on 6-7 September. Attendance was high, larger than previous fall shows, with over 100 horses on the competition grounds. Three rings were in use during both days, and most competitors entered in additional classes so they would be in the running for the daily championships. Medals were given to the class and championship winners, as well as improved ribbons and sashes. The show ran impeccably, thanks to our extensive volunteer staff and the top professionals, Jan Colley and Ed Lavallee, employed by ADA.

The most important development of the period was the establishment of Alamo Dressage Association's first chapter. With a kick-off party at Barbie Piccinni's farm on the evening of 8 November, the Austin Dressage Unlimited chapter has been an instant success, gathering more than 80 members in an intensive recruiting drive. The new members include the most prominent competitors, trainers, and riders in the Austin area. Alamo Dressage Association is most pleased to welcome to the club, and will provide administrative support, space in our monthly newsletter and website, seed money for horse shows, training clinics, and whatever else we can do to cater to their desires of fostering dressage in Austin.

In an effort to reach all of the members of Alamo Dressage Association, we conducted a special Trainers' Clinic, with Sophie Pirie Clifton, at the Double Diamond Equestrian Center in Boerne. Under the guidance of ADA Vice President Ashley Hammill a group of trainers from throughout Region 9 spent two days with Sophie sharpening their training skills with a series of lectures, demonstration rides, exercises, and discussions.

The next weekend, ADA sponsored a special clinic for Young Riders and Juniors, featuring our YR National Champion Devon Kane. Devon starting riding with ADA as a young girl, and, for the past seven years, has studied under Michelle Gibson, one of the United States' leading international riders. She knows her stuff, and we hope that our young riders were both educated and inspired by her teaching, and perhaps shown the way to international success!

We will hold our annual Free Christmas Clinic on Saturday, 27 December, at Retama Equestrian Center, and expect it to be well attended. The professionals in the club donate free lessons, and ADA, with the assistance of the Riding Light Therapeutic Horsemanship Center, sponsors a lunch for everyone in attendance. We will run four rings during the day, have lectures and demonstrations, and it attracts a bigger turnout than any other ADA event. Submitted by Bill Askins

Austin Dressage Unlimited – Chapter of Alamo Dressage Association

In September of this year, Austin Dressage Unlimited (ADU) was formed. A subchapter of San Antonio's GMO, Alamo Dressage Association, ADU has grown quickly to over 80 members. Sixteen co-chairs man the working positions of the education-oriented organization. Member Cean Embrey created ADU University which offers a positive way to monitor and grow one's riding skills within an annual structure. Students will pair up with ADU-approved "dressage mentors" and declare their riding and educational goals for the year, pledging to follow one of five ADU University training tracks. The student's activities will be recorded in a provided journal. Monthly evaluations will be performed between the student and mentor. A variety of pre-determined requirements must be met for completion of this program.

Self-responsibility and dedication will reflect in ADU end-of-the-year awards. Awards are to be determined by a rider's advancement within their own right rather than against each other. Folks who achieve USDF medals by year's end will be honored as well. Other riding disciplines (such as Eventing, Driving and Sporthorse versatility) which benefit from dressage training are

welcome within the umbrella of the organization via the use of liaisons. There is also a liaison for breeders. ADU offers a multi-level show format (formal, informal, recognized). For more information: <http://austindressageunlimited.blogspot.com/> or <http://www.alamodressage.org/index.htm>.

Submitted by Ingrid Edisen

BACH

As 2008 winds down, the only activity we have left is our year-end holiday party. At the party, we will be electing new officers. Some of the unopposed nominations for 2009 are Ashley Wesp for President and Cynthia Werner for Vice President. Unfortunately we have two 2009 board positions that currently have no nominations.

We are very proud that our newsletter, BACH Notes, won the USDF Award for Best Layout and Design. This is the 2nd year in a row that our newsletter editor, Elisha Trombley has won the award. She does a terrific job and we are thankful she has agreed to do the newsletter again in 2009.

BACH is undertaking its largest event in recent history when we host a clinic with Jane Savoie on March 21 and 22, 2009. The clinic will be held at the Brazos Expo Center in Bryan, Texas, which is a really great new facility. The arena is indoors with grandstands so it will be comfortable for both riders and auditors, even if the weather does not fully cooperate. This is a Region 9 Recognized event and we hope to have lots of participation from members of all the Region 9 GMOs. BACH is underwriting the clinic to help make it affordable. The auditing fee for non-BACH members is just \$50 for both days and includes the Saturday morning lecture, Saturday demo rides and the Sunday clinic rides. More information is available on our website, www.bachdressage.org.

We held our traditional spring and fall schooling shows in 2008, which are the only source of fund raising for the club. The spring show was very successful but the fall show was quite small. We did still make a small profit on the fall show, however. As usual, Ginni Cifelli did a fantastic job as show secretary of both shows and Topsider Farm was a great host.

Other activities we sponsored in 2008 included a Pilates for Riders workshop, a cavaletti clinic with Bess Reineman, a lecture by Dr. Leon Scrutchfield on equine dental health and an ice cream social and roundtable discussion with Reinhard Dorsch.

As we wrap up 2008, we are looking forward to a busy and successful 2009.
Submitted by Julie Wright, President

Central Texas Dressage Society

CTDS will go green with USDF in 2009. We finished off this year 209 members strong, and hope to continue our growth next year.

We continued our Mini-show series this fall which will culminate in our Fall Formal show, that is run like a recognized show. There has been an enthusiastic response to our "Themed" shows. The last show crossed disciplines and held a "Western Trail class", complete with sponsored Belt Buckle prizes! Watching some of our taller Warmbloods navigate this course was entertaining for all. Many thanks to our Sponsors for these special awards, and also to the Western Judge who donated her services. We will thank all our participants and volunteers with a BBQ at the formal show. Next year we will hold 6 shows, three in the spring and three in the fall.

Our CTDS Mini-Shows are now APHA approved for the Paint Alternative Competition Program (PAC) for 2008. It took awhile, but it's now firmly in place and our shows will also be approved for all of 2009, beginning in March!

The PAC program allows members to receive APHA national credits from approved shows. If you compete with an APHA-registered horse, please visit www.apha.com/pac for more information.

The CTDS Bluebonnet Classic I & II will return in 2009. It will be held on June 13 & 14 at Silver Hill Stables in Austin with "S" judges, Bill Solyntjes and Doreen Horsey. Susan Howard will TD and Jan Colley will be our Secretary/Manager for these shows.

The Club will also sponsor an Instructor Certification program with workshops to be held in July, August and September 2009. The Pre-cert. and Exam will roll into the beginning of 2010. Vera Muckleroy will head our organizing committee.

Two clinics are already scheduled with Reinhard Dorsch and Sonja Vracko, for the beginning of next year. We are working on other educational opportunities for our members as well.

The Board will finalize our "Procedure Handbook", 2009 Budget and continue to work hard as we prepare once again for our Annual Banquet and elections.

We have a lot to look forward to in 2009 with the return of the Bluebonnet, the Instructor Certification and the USDF Convention in Austin. Our successes this year and next depend on our wonderful volunteers and sponsors. Many thanks to all!

Respectfully submitted, Jen Jarvis, CTDS President

FWDC

The Fort Worth Dressage Club (FWDC) has had a busy year. We ended 2007 with our Annual Year of End Awards, Christmas Party, silent auction and election of 2009 Board. Our Spring show was a little down on entries but ran very smoothly and was enjoyed by all. We are planning a sponsorship campaign for our 2009 show with brochures describing our club and a letter requesting sponsorships at different levels, plus the benefits of sponsoring classes or advertising with FWDC.

FWDC had a low cost clinic put on by one of our professionals for our Club members with a bar-be-que lunch, also well attended with several auditors.

Our Adult Camp was full with 8 members riding with our instructor Meg Flemming. We received grants from Region 9 and the Dressage Foundation. The Camp consisted of private and group lessons, lectures, trail rides, braiding demonstrations, a Ride-A-Test and gourmet lunches.

One of our members hosted a video watching party at her house in July with tapes from the Camp and a pot luck lunch which several members attended.

FWDC put on a Scribing Clinic which one of our members hosts every year -we have On the Level tapes and copies of the tests and members learn to scribe.

FWDC had a Fall Schooling show which was very well received by local dressage riders, eventers and Pony Clubbers.

FWDC has monthly meetings open to all members. We also have a large video and DVD library available to members at \$5 a month of rentals. FWDC offers a scholarship program based on volunteer hours.

Our members also volunteer at the Championships and SWDC. Our Jr/YR chair offers educational opportunities throughout the year.

FWDC maintains a web-site www.fortworthdressage.com and we send out monthly group e-mails to members with information of what dressage activities are going on in the area. Several individual clinicians send out clinic information and we post for our members.

FWDC welcomes riders of all levels and offer educational opportunities throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Harty

Houston Dressage Society
2008 HDS Year In Review

◆ **HDS Administration**

President:	Kathy Jones
Vice President:	Julie Berry
Secretary:	Charles Saltzer
Treasurer:	Margaret Dhont
Membership:	Nancy Walker Taylor
Recognized Show Chair:	Marilyn Kulifay
Schooling Show Chair:	Jeanette Snow
Historian:	Karen Roepke
Education:	Susan Shiba
Awards:	Liz Glass
Special Events:	Sylvia Workman
Vendors and Sponsors:	Catherine Kinzer
Juniors	Catherine Smith
Volunteers:	Position Open
Publications:	Syrisse Longbottom

Elections for half of the board were held in September. Offices up for election include President, Vice President, Historian, Awards, Special Events, Vendors and Sponsors, Schooling Shows and Juniors.

New Board Members include the following:

Vice President:	Cal Eller
Awards:	Position Open
Vendors and Sponsors:	Amanda Miller (Hudson)

All other board positions are being filled by current board members.

◆ **Education**

HDS brought in Ida Anderson for a long lining clinic in January of 2008. The event was held at Canaan Ranch in Fulshear, Texas.

HDS sponsored a symposium with Stephen Clarke, an FEI "O" judge from England and Linda Zang, an FEI "O" judge at Canaan Ranch in Fulshear, Texas in May of 2008. On the first day of the symposium, Linda Zang had to leave for a family emergency. Stephen carried on with great success.

In June Of 2008, HDS sponsored a continuing education for judges with Joan Humphrey at the summer show.

In July of 2008, HDS sponsored a Breed Seminar with Hilda Gurney. The event was held at Canaan Ranch.

In January of 2009, HDS will sponsor a clinic and symposium with Volker Brommann. The event will be held at Canaan Ranch.

◆ **Philanthropy**

HDS sponsored the Battle of the Barn Baskets at the 2008 SWDC Championships. Proceeds from this event are being given to the Region 9 FEI Junior and Young Riders. In addition, a time share in Orlando, Florida was given in a raffle for the Region 9 FEI Junior and Young Riders. The Juniors and Young Riders sold the tickets for the raffle. Melanie Pai of Canaan Ranch hosted a margarita party to raise money for the Region 9 FEI Junior and Young Rider program. She matched the \$180 raised in donations. All totaled, the Region 9 FEI Juniors and Young Riders raised \$2,500.

The HDS board voted to donate \$500 to the Region 9 FEI Juniors and Young Riders. Next year, the gift will be increased to \$1,000 in 2009 and will be awarded based on volunteer hours at HDS events.

At the 2008 SWDC Championships, HDS sponsored a silent auction that distributed funds to the GMO's in Region 9 that provided items to the auction and volunteers for the show. \$1066 was raised for three GMO's that sent volunteers: CTDS, DDC, & FWDC. Here are the hours. In the margin, are the GMO's that get money. Only three of them. ADA and BACH did not give a gift to the silent auction.

CTDS	19.50	11.221 \$	218.81
DDC	11.50	11.221 \$	129.04
FWDC	64.00	11.221 \$	718.14

HDS donated \$300 to Leslie Fan in order to help her put on a Balimo clinic held at Canaan Ranch.

Mary Martin and Tim Martin were recipients of a drawing from a pool of HDS volunteers to attend the Stephen Clarke Symposium.

◆ **Horse Shows**

HDS hosted five shows in 2008: the newly added Winter Show in January, the Spring Classic in April, the Summer Show in June, the Laborius Day .Show in August and the SWDC Championships in October/November.

USEF recently named the HDS sponsored SWDC Championships, Spring Classic and Summer Show as qualifiers for the NAJYRC and/or the developing dressage horse programs. In addition, the Spring Classic has been named a High Performance Qualifier and will be extended to a three-day show. On the first day, HDS will also incorporate a breed show.

HDS will submit a bid to host the Adult Team Championships at the Summer Show in June of 2009.

HDS was awarded the 2009 Great American/USDF Region 9 Championships and the Southwest Dressage Championships.

HDS usually hosts a schooling show for Juniors during the summer. The show in June of this year was cancelled due to lack of entries.

◆ **Recognitions**

HDS held its annual Award Banquet in February 2008 at the Cadillac Bar party room. The night's entertainment included a casino party.

Jeanette Snow, the HDS Schooling Show Chair, was awarded the Charlotte Raisbeck Good Sportsmanship Award while Terri Smith received the Bushager Award, a scholarship totaling over \$2,000. The Bushager Memorial Scholarship was established in 1989 by the widow of Joe Richard Bushager, Lauralyn Bushager, in honor of late husband. Joe Bushager was one of the original founders of the Southwest Dressage Championships. He was dedicated to bringing dressage to the southwest region of the country. The Bushager Scholarship is given annually by HDS to an individual that has shown and continues to show a dedication in the pursuit of training and excellence in dressage.

HDS nominated Tim Martin for the Region 9 Volunteer of the Year. Tim won the award.

HDS nominated Kassidy Peacock from Helotes, TX as the USDF Junior Volunteer of the Year. Kassidy won the award.

Paul Kathen won a best article award.

Sally Chionsini was rewarded with the Region 9 Horseperson of the Year Award.

◆ **Membership**

As of November 30, 2008, HDS has 380 members.

Submitted by Kathy Jones

Llano Estacado Dressage Association:

LEDA has had a busy Spring. In addition to doing two schooling shows already this year, LEDA also put on a Ride-A-Test where riders has a chance to spend 15 or twenty minutes with a judge after riding their tests. This was a great opportunity to get feedback immediately after riding and work on problem spots with the judge. The judge also did a wonderful dinner lecture discussing common mistakes she see riders make while riding their tests. This was a big hit and we plan to have another one at the beginning of 2009.

This Fall, LEDA held a dressage schooling show in conjunction with our membership drive and managed to get almost everyone signed up over the one weekend by offering show discounts if the riders signed up for their membership at the same time. At this time, LEDA is now 43 members strong, up 4 from last year, with a few others likely to join before the end of the year!

Discussions are being held to decide if LEDA will host another Adult Camp in 2009 or possibly host a Dressage Clinic in the Fall of 2009. There has been lots of interest in these projects and decisions will be made at the beginning of the year.

Respectfully Submitted, Renee Smola, LEDA

Oklahoma Dressage Society:

- Purchases:** None, except painting our ODS Trailer
- 3 Chapters:** Each chapter has been providing educational activities along with schooling shows at the local level. GCC will move their recognized show from September to June in 2009.
- Recognized Show:** ODS hosted our annual recognized show at Shawnee, Ok. This year it will be again the first weekend in May at Shawnee, OK.
- By-laws:** By-laws were rewritten and approved by the general membership. Policies and procedures were created and under continual development.
- Education:** Lots of great educational opportunities.
Jeff Moore Symposium in March. It was well received and membership indicated that they would like to have him back.
Adult Camp the first of June was a huge success.
The membership is currently voting on their choice for our March Symposium which will be held in March at the Tulsa Fairgrounds.
The adult camp will be held in June at the Claremore Fairgrounds.

Regional Championship

ODS hosted the 2008 Great American Regional Championships. There were 158 horses and about 550 rides. States represented were MO, TN, KS, TX, OK, AR, MS, and LA. Approximately \$23,000 was raised to host the show. The greatest portion was used to host the show. The show was a benefit for two therapeutic riding programs. They will be receiving their checks in the near future. 60 volunteers who gave a total of 1200 hours of work over the 5 days for setting up, running the show and tear down.

Submitted by Roberta Clark