



August 2015 – July 2016 HDS Year In Review

◆ HDS 2015– 2016 Administration

President:	Leslie Rohrer
Vice President:	Angel Gunn
Secretary:	Charles Saltzer
Treasurer:	Elizabeth Fingerhut
Membership:	Karen Peacock
Recognized Show Chair:	Leslie Rohrer
Schooling Show Chair:	Jena Tavormina
Historian:	Flo Edelman
Education:	Chris Renne
Awards:	Susan Heather
Special Events:	Patty Sutton
Advertising/Sponsors:	Lacey Halstead
Juniors	Joanne Patterson
Volunteers:	Open
Publications:	Malinda Edwards Demata

Elections for half of the board will be held in September. Offices in the election include President, Vice President, Schooling Shows, Junior/Young Rider, Advertising/Sponsors, Awards, Historian and Special Events.

◆ Education

HDS hosted a 2016 FEI Training Series with Conrad Schumacher in February and April. A third Series is being planned for late September. The focus is on FEI riders as well as Adult Amateur riders who have competed at Fourth Level and above. All riders must submit applications and be HDS members. The goal is to provide consistent world class training to Region 9 riders across all FEI divisions (Pony, Junior, Young Rider, Under 25, Young Horse, Adult Amateur and Open). The Series rotates among interested host barns and has thus far been well received.

HDS also hosted a Freestyle lecture with Karen Robinson. The lecture was free to HDS members and had around 20 participants. Karen was very generous with her time and answered everyone's questions. The lecture was well liked.

Two more possible lectures are being considered. One for learning how to scribe and the other on rider biomechanics. If offered, the lectures will be free to HDS members.

◆ **Philanthropy**

HDS sponsored the Battle of the Barn Baskets at the 2015 Great American/USDF Region 9 and Southwest Dressage Championships. HDS will sponsor the event again at the 2016 Championships. Proceeds from this event will be given to the Region 9 FEI Junior and Young Riders. HDS also allows the Region 9 Juniors/Young Riders to fundraise at recognized shows with raffles and silent auction items.

At the 2015 Great American/USDF Region 9 and Southwest Dressage Championships, HDS sponsored a silent auction that contributed proceeds to the GMO's in the Region that assisted with volunteers at the show. The auction is planned again for the 2016 Region 9 Championships so **please bring items!**

HDS would like to participate in a Disaster Relief Fund but planning has been slow for various reasons such as how to determine who qualifies for relief, etc.

◆ **Horse Shows**

HDS will host five recognized show weekends in 2016: the Winter Show in January, the Shoofly Farm CDI2*/Spring Classic in April, the Summer Show in June, the Laborious Day Shows in August and the Great American/USDF Region 9 Championships/SWDC and HDS Autumn Classic in October.

In December 2015, HDS held the Seventh Annual Schooling Show Championships at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, Texas. HDS will host the eighth annual schooling show championships in December 2016. For 2016, the show will change to a one day format consistent with schooling shows held throughout the year.

New in 2016, HDS started offering a Pony Division at all Recognized Shows. The shows are also National Dressage Pony Cup (NDPC) partner shows. The Pony Division is gaining participation. In the first 6 months of the year, HDS measured eight ponies and the program generated a new sponsor. Affiliation with the NDPC has also created interest.

The Shoofly Farm CDI/HDS Spring Classic was a 2* event in 2016 (rather than the 3* from prior years). A CDI2* requires only three judges compared to five for a 3* so allows significant cost savings. While World Ranking was not possible for riders (World Ranking only occurs at 3* or higher events), the 2* allowed entries through Grand Prix which satisfied the riders who competed. The Shoofly Farm CDI2* was the first in the United States to offer a Children's Division (CDICH) and the new FEI Young Horse 7 Year Old Division (CDIYH 7 yr old). There was one Child rider but the 7 Year Old entry could not compete due to rider injury. About half of the riders were "first time" CDI riders and the Adult Amateur Division continued to grow. One rider came from Mexico with two horses but all others were from Region 9. Having a CDI in the Region provides the rare opportunity for riders to learn about FEI competition before going to national championship shows such as NAJYRC and the FEI Festival of Champions. A press release about the Shoofly Farm CDI was published in EuroDressage.

At the 2016 June (Summer) Show, HDS sponsored a Pro-Am Tournament. Teams of 3-4 riders competed against each other. Many were "mixed" teams with riders from different barns that made the Tournament more fun. Eight teams participated and HDS plans to offer the Tournament again in 2017.

At the 2016 Laborious Show, HDS will test a “jackpot” Training 3 class with \$500-\$1000 in prize money, depending on entries. Riders must pay an extra \$35 to be eligible for the jackpot.

In an effort to expand membership from the eventing community, HDS is offering a 2016 Eventing Dressage Championship class at the HDS Schooling Show Championships along with an Eventing Dressage Year End Award. It’s likely this effort will take a few years to mature. HDS needs to promote this opportunity to the eventing community.

HDS was awarded the 2017 Great American/USDF Region 9 Championships. The show will be held at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, TX. The 2017 SWDC bid is still pending.

HDS is evaluating a bid for the 2017 Southern Breeders Championships. Further discussion is needed with the Region 9 Sporthorse Chair and the Region’s breeders to confirm interest. Qualifying Dressage Sport Horse Breeding (DSHB) classes at some of the Region’s recognized shows are needed.

◆ **Recognitions**

In 2016, HDS held its Annual Awards banquet at the HDS Winter Show I&II in January. Awards included garment and bridle bags for the Champions and Reserve Champions at both recognized and schooling shows. HDS is considering the addition of an annual Lifetime Achievement Award for 2017.

In 2016, Marie Morgan of Solstice Farms was the recipient of the Charlotte Raisbeck Good Sportsmanship Award for her sponsorship efforts promoting the National Dressage Pony Cup at HDS shows.

Devon O’Leary (Adult Amateur rider) was awarded the 2016 Joe R. Bushager Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1000 to fund dressage education and training. The Bushager Memorial Scholarship was established in 1989 by the widow of Joe Richard Bushager, Lauralyn Bushager, in honor of her 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 individuals who have shown and continue to show a dedication to the pursuit of training and excellence in dressage. Applications are received September to December of each year.

◆ **Membership**

HDS currently has around 377 recorded members for 2016. Up slightly from 2015.