



## **August 2016– July 2017 HDS Year In Review**

### **◆ HDS 2016– 2017 Administration**

President:	Christine Renne
Vice President:	Angel Gunn
Secretary:	Charles Saltzer
Treasurer:	Elizabeth Fingerhut
Membership:	Karen Peacock
Recognized Show Chair:	Leslie Rohrer
Schooling Show Chair:	Jena Tavormina
Historian:	Vincent Flores
Education:	Christine Renne
Awards:	Kristin Cypress
Special Events:	Devon O'Leary
Advertising/Sponsors:	Lacey Halstead
Juniors	Elizabeth Crawford
Volunteers:	Emily Conn
Publications:	Malinda Edwards Demata

### **◆ Education**

HDS hosted a continuation of the 2016 - 2017 FEI Training Series with Conrad Schumacher in January and March. A third Series is being planned for late September or early October depending on availability. 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 (Children, Pony, Junior, Young Rider, Under 25, Young Horse, Adult Amateur and Open). The Series rotates among interested host barns and continues to be well received.

HDS also hosted a cocktail reception at the 2017 USDF Sport Horse Prospect Development Forum held at Isabella Farms on May 13-14, 2017. The reception was open to all riders and auditors of the event. The clinicians were Willy Arts and Michael Bragdell. It was a fantastic forum. Several articles were written, including one by a participant that HDS posted on their website.

Interestingly there were a number of Spring Classic entries in the open show FEI classes that chose not to enter the CDI. We queried a couple of trainers who mentioned that the passport was an issue for entering the CDI. HDS has developed a "CDI Entry Guide." However, one trainer said they would prefer a "live" demonstration of how to get an FEI passport. HDS is considering offering a "live" lecture on how to obtain a passport for foreign and US bred horses. If offered, the lectures will be free to HDS members.

Kacie Linegar (Adult Amateur rider) was awarded the 2017 Joe R. Bushager Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$2000 to help fund her 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. This scholarship is available to any HDS member and can only be used for dressage education (not showing).

### ◆ Philanthropy

HDS sponsored the Battle of the Barn Baskets at the 2016 Great American/USDF Region 9 and Southwest Dressage Championships. HDS will sponsor the event again at the 2017 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 2016 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 will be planned again for the 2017 Region 9 Championships; however, HDS proposes a different format. In the past, HDS has been stretched thin trying to organize a silent auction in addition to all the other responsibilities of running the Region 9 and SWDC championships. The result has been dwindling silent auction proceeds for the Region's GMOs. This year, HDS proposes to have a silent auction table(s) for each GMO. Each GMO will solicit and manage their own auction items. HDS will promote the silent auction as well as provide space, tables, clipboards and pens for all the GMO tables. This will have the result of expanding the items in the auction and increasing the proceeds each club can generate. HDS will continue to organize the Battle of the Barn Baskets benefitting the Region 9 Junior/Young Rider program.

### ◆ Horse Shows

HDS will host five recognized show weekends in 2017: the Winter Show in January, the 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. HDS will also offer an HDS Schooling Show Championships in December. USEF Level 3 show license applications, including World Breed Qualifying YH classes, are pending for the 2018 Winter, Spring and Summer shows.

New in 2016, HDS started offering a Pony Division at all Recognized Shows, which has continued in 2017. The shows are National Dressage Pony Cup (NDPC) partner shows and qualify riders for the National Dressage Pony Cup Championship held at Kentucky Horse Park. The Pony Division participation continues to grow.

In an effort to expand participation from the eventing community, HDS is now offering Eventing Dressage classes at HDS recognized shows. This effort needs to be promoted more aggressively to the eventing community but riders are starting to take note and enter the HDS shows, especially in the “off” eventing season.

The Shoofly Farm CDI/HDS Spring Classic was a 2\* event in 2017. A CDI2\* requires only three judges compared to five for a 3\* so allows significant cost savings. While World Ranking is 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 CDI numbers were down this year due, in part, to NAJYRC being in Saugerties, NY (too far away). The CDI application has been submitted for 2018, but if rider numbers do not improve or we do not get more financial support from other sources, we may decline to host the CDI as it is a tremendous burden to ask HDS members to underwrite annually. This show has lost \$14,000 or more every year HDS has offered it due to all the show officials required. The CDI riders come from around Region 9 and it has helped the Region 9 Jr/YR team prepare for NAJYRC and the other FEI national championships. Each year, over half of the riders are “first time” CDI riders and Region 9 has seen significant AA and Open rider growth in FEI recognized show classes.. Key question: Is this show important for future dressage growth in Region 9 since travel to the east and west coast CDIs is so expensive and difficult?

At the 2017 June (Summer) Show, HDS sponsored a Pro-Am Tournament. Teams of 2 riders competed against each other. Teams were selected in a blind draw and the winners were announced on Saturday evening at the competitor’s party. Many were “mixed” teams with riders from different barns that made the Tournament more fun. HDS plans to offer the Tournament again in 2018.

At the 2017 Laborious Show, HDS will host the USDF Southern Breeders Championships along with a full complement of USDF Regional Championship qualifying classes. This show is one of the last USDF Regional Championship qualifying shows. For the first time in Region 9, the Southern Breeders Championship will feature an under saddle Materiale Championship class. To draw attention to this new championship and encourage qualifying, HDS has been hosting a Materiale Stakes Series with prize money at three of its recognized shows. The Materiale Stakes Series has had good interest and participation.

HDS will host the 2017 Great American/USDF Region 9 Championships, Southwest Dressage Championships and HDS Autumn Classic on October 5-8, 2017 at Great SW Equestrian Center. The typical activities are planned including a competitor party, Saturday banquet/entertainment, stall decorating contest and silent auction. Volunteers are ALWAYS needed!! HDS was awarded the 2018 Great American/USDF Region 9 Championships. The show will be held at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, TX on October 4-7, 2018. The 2018 SWDC bid is still pending.

In December 2016, HDS held the Eighth Annual Schooling Show Championships at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, Texas. HDS will host the Ninth Annual Schooling Show championships in December 2017. The 2016 show changed to a one day format to be consistent with schooling shows held throughout the year. It was a tremendous success and the participants were really enthusiastic. A new Eventing Dressage division was added in 2016. The Western Dressage division added in 2015 grew significantly.

#### ◆ Recognitions

In 2017, HDS held its Annual Awards banquet at the HDS Winter Show I&I in January. Awards included Noble Outfitter backpacks and grooming 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 2018.

For 2016, Paul Kather, of Tex-Over Farms, was the recipient of the Charlotte Raisbeck Good Sportsmanship Award for his lifetime devotion to classical dressage training in the community and the number of riders he has supported and inspired.

◆ **Membership**

HDS currently has around 320 recorded members for 2017. Down slightly from 2016, but we will be trying to reach those who inadvertently forgot to renew.

◆ **Communications**

HDS at the urging of many of our younger members asked if we would have a more active presence on social media. This has been something that we have not done in the past so we asked some of our more savvy board members to activate the Facebook and create an Instagram account. We have put restrictions on access and what can be posted and so far we seem to be getting good feedback. We will continue to monitor and increase our social media activities to try and keep up with the interests of our members. HDS is compiling various email lists—e.g., members, schooling and recognized show riders—for better communication targeting.