



August 2017– July 2018 HDS Year In Review

◆ HDS 2017– 2018 Administration

President:	Christine Renne
Vice President:	Angel Gunn
Secretary:	Jody DeStefanis
Treasurer:	Elizabeth Fingerhut
Membership:	Kathy Powell-Florip
Recognized Show Chair:	Leslie Rohrer
Schooling Show Chair:	Jena Tavormina
Historian:	Ida Mattison
Education:	Allison McDonald
Awards:	Emily Heather
Special Events:	Devon O'Leary
Advertising/Sponsors:	To be Filled
Juniors	Elizabeth Crawford
Volunteers:	Jessica Jamison
Publications:	Doug Canter

◆ Education

HDS hosted a continuation of the 2017-2018 FEI Training Series with Conrad Schumacher in January and April. A third Series is being planned for September. The format has remained the same and there is a core group of trainers that continue the progression. Each session has a few openings for new trainers and adult amateurs so we encourage everyone to keep submitting applications. The focus is on FEI riders as well as Adult Amateur riders who have competed at Fourth Level and above. One must be an HDS member to ride with Conrad Schumacher in this Series. 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 one change we have made is that the series is held at one barn in the morning and another for the afternoon session so that no host barn has to close their rings all day. The Series has been well received and HDS members can audit for free.

A saddle fitting clinic was held at the HDS Spring Classic/CDI with independent saddle fitter, Bruce Close, of Florida. There were around 15-20 attendees and Bruce welcomed their questions.

HDS also hosted a reception at the 2018 USDF Region 9 JR/YR Clinic with George Williams held at WV Farms on June 23-24, 2018. The reception was open to all riders and auditors of the event. George Williams spoke at the reception and provided some insight into the path to the Olympics and also how our young riders are faring in Europe training and competing. It was a great event.

HDS was a sponsor for the June Dressage4Kids event held at Tex-Over Farms with dressage judge and trainer, Lilo Fore. HDS members were allowed to audit the event, including lectures, for no cost.

We had hoped to offer an educational event addressing how to acquire a CDI horse passport but some of our events were derailed by the recovery from Hurricane Harvey which took centerstage for many of our barns. Some of our most active barns in the schooling shows and recognized shows were destroyed by Harvey. We are pleased to report that all rebuilt, but it did take several months. With a new Education Chair we hope to put on this unmounted event and several other unmounted events in the future.

We are also discussing the idea of putting on a "Ride a Test" Series with judges from the area. This would be primarily for our Adult Amateur and Junior Members or those that are currently doing schooling shows but thinking of moving to recognized shows. .

Jessica Fan (Young Rider hopeful) was awarded the 2018 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 2017 Great American/USDF Region 9 and Southwest Dressage Championships, HDS sponsored a silent auction with the new format of the GMO's handling their own silent auction tables. This was certainly more manageable for HDS as we are stretched very thin with volunteers running the rings and the other events that are required at the Championships. We intend to continue with this format unless one of the GMO's would like

to undertake and spearhead the silent auction. 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 2018: the Winter Show in January, the CDI2*/Spring Classic in April, the Summer Show in June, the Laborious Day Show in August and the Great American/USDF Region 9 Championships and HDS Autumn Classic in October. We are still waiting to hear on the SWDC participation in the event. HDS will also offer an HDS Schooling Show Championships in December. USEF Level 3 show license applications were approved for the 2019 Winter, Spring and Summer shows.

New in 2016, HDS started offering a Pony Division at all Recognized Shows, which has continued in 2018. 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 2018. 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* allows entries through Grand Prix which satisfied the riders who competed. The CDI entries were 23 in 2018, up from 2017. We are so immensely thankful that Region 9 stepped up last year when HDS was really feeling the financial pain (loss) of the CDI due to low numbers. We are very pleased to report that this year the CDI broke even (-\$351). This was due to the generosity of the GMO's that stepped up and sponsored parts of the CDI. To give you an idea of how this helped, we have historically lost approximately \$14,000 and as a result of support and tightening of the belt, we were able to reverse this trend. Thank you, thank you. It was wonderful to see the GMO's working together to support the Region 9 CDI and we really appreciate Alamo Dressage, Dallas Dressage, Ft. Worth Dressage and Oklahoma Dressage who each sponsored the event. We also had Adequan as a first time sponsor and hope that they will continue to support the Region. Just so everyone knows, we are currently the only CDI between the two Coasts. As a result of the Region and GMO support, the CDI application has been submitted for 2019.

At the 2018 June (Summer) Show, HDS sponsored a Pro-Am Tournament. Teams of 3 or 4 riders, including one Open rider and two or three AA riders, competed against each other. This year eleven teams entered and the team average scores were very high—many over 70%! Winners were announced on Saturday evening at the competitor's party. HDS plans to offer the Tournament again in 2019.

The 2017 Laborious Show was cancelled due to Hurricane Harvey. This was a first for HDS and a tremendous undertaking to cancel a show. We sincerely hope that this never happens again and that our barns are never as adversely impacted by a weather event. As HDS relies upon shows for much of their income this has had an adverse effect on the bottom line that we will work to overcome. HDS made the decision that we would offer a One Time Only refund policy because the HDS riding community was so hard hit and HDS

negotiated with some vendors to a reduced rate. We are pleased to report that many of our event planners, organizers and the venue waived some of the contractual obligations so we were able to refund most of the rider entry fees (less any unavoidable and already incurred expenses).

HDS hosted the 2017 Great American/USDF Region 9 Championships and HDS Autumn Classic on October 5-8, 2017. We had some concerns because of the effect of Hurricane Harvey and the cancelling of the Laborious Day Show as a qualifier. Our numbers were slightly down, but not to the degree of our concern. The numbers for the past few years are listed below.

2014= 316

2015= 330

2016= 342

2017= 329 (down slightly from prior year primarily due Hurricane Harvey)

HDS will host the 2018 Great American/USDF Region 9 Championships, SWDC and HDS Autumn Classic on October 4-7, 2018 at Great SW Equestrian Center. It is a Level 4 show. 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 2019 Great American/USDF Region 9 Championships. The 2019 SWDC bid is still pending.

In December 2017, HDS held the Ninth Annual Schooling Show Championships at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, Texas. HDS will host the Tenth Annual Schooling Show championships in December 2018. The 2016 show changed to a one day format to be consistent with schooling shows held throughout the year and we continued this format in 2017. 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.

In 2019 HDS will host the “regular” shows including the Winter, Spring and Summer shows that all received a Level 3 status from USEF. The Laborious Day show in August is a Level 2 show.

In 2018 HDS introduced the “Dapples Award” with the goal to support those AA riders over 50 who are still competing. It has been very popular. Because of privacy concerns HDS made it an opt-in for anyone interested to sign up for the award. It is available first through fourth level. Freestyles, materiale, equitation classes are excluded. It has been well received by the recipients who frequently do not win the AA high points. The Dapples recipient receives the same award as any other high point winner. We hope to continue this award in 2019.

One Day Shows: HDS is exploring the option of offering one day shows at various barns in the area that can support a show (HDS cost and venue analysis is occurring). It is still in the initial stages of development, but we think that our members would really appreciate the opportunity to go to a one day show that would provide another opportunity to get scores but not require a weekend undertaking. It will be a “no frills” show and will be at smaller facilities which will mean fewer volunteers and less management requirements. HDS hopes that this will also provide opportunities for new show management to get training as well as show secretaries to get training. We remain concerned with loss of larger venues and want to diversify. Also, with our show numbers down we want to see what response we get to a new “type” of show opportunity. The added bonus is that we can offer these shows during

the early spring when the weather is better. This is a time period that our members have expressed an interest in showing, but the GSWEC is not available.

◆ **Recognitions**

In 2018, HDS held its Annual Awards banquet at the HDS Winter Show I&II in January for 2017 winners. Awards included silver bowls for the Champions and Reserve Champions at recognized shows and wooden plaques for schooling show winners.

For 2017, Anna Williams, was the recipient of the Charlotte Raisbeck Good Sportsmanship Award. Anna Williams is a junior who volunteers for HDS tirelessly and doesn't even ride dressage. We struggle to get juniors to volunteer so we really thought her constant volunteering (even when she wasn't old enough to drive) should be recognized and rewarded.

◆ **Membership**

HDS currently has around 322 recorded members for 2018. We appear to be on track to meet 2017's number, but that number was down. We have a new Membership Chair who is working with Doug Canter to identify those that did not rejoin the past couple of years and she is contacting them personally. We hope that her efforts will pay off.

◆ **Communications**

HDS, at the urging of many of our younger members, asked if we could have a more active presence on social media and we listened. We now have an active FaceBook page and are on Instagram, as well. We have hundreds of followers and use social media to call out for volunteers and make general announcements and reminders. It seems to be well received. We are also getting bids to update our website as it is not mobile friendly and is hard to navigate. We will continue to monitor and increase our social media activities to try and keep up with the interests of our members. HDS is continuing to compile various email lists—e.g., members, schooling and recognized show riders—for better communication targeting.