

2018 SEDA GMO Report
Submitted by Nicole Miller, SEDA President

SEDA currently has 136 active members. This is a slight increase over last year.

Since last July, we held a Board election and a new Board was installed. The new Board is almost entirely new people with no previous Board experience, and they are energetic and looking to make change happen!

SEDA hosted a recognized horse trials in October, a schooling HT/CT/Dressage show in December and March, a Jeremy Steinberg clinic in March, a recognized dressage show in May, and a juniors only show in June followed by an Aaron Nobbs clinic. We are trying to organize an eventing clinic with Doug Payne after our December schooling show as he will be attending the USEA convention in New Orleans and it would be convenient to have him come. We've had good participation in all our shows, but are seeing a trend in an increase in eventing-focused members and a decrease in dressage-focused members. Offering Western Dressage and Gaited Dressage at our schooling shows has helped bring in a few new members.

We are currently trying to determine a new location for our recognized dressage show as the facility we have been using is no longer going to host rated shows of any kind.

The SEDA Board is in the process of developing a volunteer incentive program to encourage people to volunteer beyond their required four hours. As every other club is experiencing, getting people to volunteer and be reliable is a challenge. We are hoping the new program will be enticing and rewarding for our volunteers because we couldn't hold anything without them! The new program will be implemented beginning in December 2018.

As a club, we are struggling with how and what to offer for educational opportunities. Our members primarily want to show and get their award at the end of the year, it is a small percentage that actually wishes to participate beyond that. So, what to offer and when is a question.

SEDA purchased a subscription to a membership management software called MembershipWorks to help us manage memberships. There are a lot of helpful features other GMOs may find useful, such as automatic renewal notices, online access to update your own account, and online payments. There are many other features we haven't explored yet as we are focused on the basics right now.

The SEDA Junior Classic returned this year and, while not a huge show, proved to be a great time for the kids. There were many fun games and prizes, a pizza party, and just an overall fun atmosphere. Some of our members even created some fantastic stick horses out of pool noodles for the 'unmounted games'. (We are looking at doing a similar event next year for the Adults who are feeling left out.)

SEDA recently sponsored the pizza party at the USDF Youth Breeder's Symposium which was held at Oak Hill Ranch. This was a fun opportunity to meet some of the youth interested in building better sport horses as well as find out more about what is involved in running a top-notch breeding operation.

There were many clinics hosted in our area over the year which our members attended, but which were not organized by SEDA specifically. These include Leif Sorensen, Charlie Hutton, Aaron Nobbs, Linda Strine, and several others whose names escape me.