



News from Southern Maine Dressage Association December 2009

Things are busy at SMDA and we have a lot of news to report!

Annual Awards Banquet:

A sign-up form is attached for our 2009 Awards Banquet, which will be held at the Captain's Galley in Old Orchard Beach on January 15, 2010. This is always a fun event, and we hope to see you there!

Silent Auction:

Once again, we'll be having a Silent Auction at the Banquet to help raise money for club activities. Even if you can't make the Banquet, please consider donating something to the Silent Auction to help SMDA. Contact Wendy at 839-2114 or wnbrunson@aol.com.

SMDA Grant Applications:

SMDA has had a history of providing financial support to various endeavors, such as our 2008 donation to the Hollis Equestrian Park to contribute to the cost of re-building the warmup ring, and our 2009 donations to help young riders. This coming year, we have formalized the process and have developed guidelines and an application form for individuals/organizations interested in applying for an SMDA grant. Funding will be dependent on club finances, but we hope to be able to serve as a resource to worthy dressage-related causes and give back to the southern Maine dressage community. Check out our website for more info and our application form and guidelines.

Elections:

It's SMDA election time - included with this mailing are biographies of the candidate running for SMDA Officer and Board of Director positions. Please fill out your ballot and send in your vote!

By-Laws:

We are also proposing to make some changes to SMDA's by-laws. The purpose of these changes are to adjust our election schedule to allow for

elections prior to our annual Banquet. A few years ago we moved the Banquet to January (instead of December when everyone was so busy) and this has been a big success. However, to get accurate information into the Omnibus we need to change our by-laws to allow for elections prior to the annual meeting. The proposed changes are attached - please review, and feel free to contact any one of SMDA's Board members if you have any questions.

2010 Show Season:

We have confirmed the dates of our 2010 shows as follows: May 16, June 13, August 1, and Sept. 19 (all shows to be held at the Hollis Equestrian Park). Additionally, we are delighted that Pineland Farms Equestrian Center will be hosting two SMDA-affiliated shows (in April and October), AND the Standardbred Pleasure Horse Organization (SPHO) will be sponsoring an affiliated show in July (check the Omnibus for exact dates). This will allow SMDA members more opportunities to earn points for year-end awards, and will address one of our members major concerns from our recent survey - the popularity of our shows has increased to where it has become difficult to get in unless you send your entry on opening date! We are hoping that the addition of THREE affiliate shows will alleviate this concern; however, remember that to qualify for SMDA year-end awards at least two of your scores must be from SMDA shows at the HEP.

Heather Blitz Clinic:

SMDA is pleased to announce that we will be hosting a clinic with Heather Blitz on May 1-2. Heather Blitz is an international Grand Prix rider who has been based in Europe for the past few years. She is also a popular and successful clinician who focuses on the effect of the rider's body and aids on the horse at all levels and teaches a clear and easy to understand system of training to riders of all levels. We are also tentatively planning a second clinic oriented towards lower level rider - please check

our website for more information as our plans for 2010 progress.

L Program Comes to Maine:

We are very excited that the Maine Dressage Society will be hosting the USDF L Program Part 1 (Sessions A, B & C) in 2010. It's been many years since MDS has hosted the Learning Judge program which is required if a person wishes to move on the r Judge program. This lecture series is also a great educational event for riders to learn more about how dressage tests are judged. The 3 weekends will be held at Pineland Farms Equestrian Center in New Gloucester. The first session is A: February 6&7 with Lois Yukins, session B: April 10 & 11 with Betsy Berrey & session C: May 29&30 with Sandy Howard. Applications for participants are one the web site & silent auditors are welcome. For applications go to the MDS' website www.mainedressagesociety.org.

New Show Policies:

In our September newsletter we told you about two new policies that will come into effect in the 2010 season - 1) The same horse/rider combination cannot win the same SMDA year-end award more than once; and 2) To be consistent with USDF rules, the same horse/rider combo can only ride tests in consecutive levels at a show (in other words, you cannot skip a level at the same show). We have updated our Show Policies guidance document, which can be found on the SMDA website.

SMDA Meetings and Communication:

In 2010 we hope to have more members participate in our regular meeting with the SMDA Board. We appreciate member input, and rely on volunteers to make our shows, clinics and other activities a success. To improve communication, we plan to keep our website updated with news and information, and to publicize SMDA meetings and improve outreach efforts to try to get more participation. Pending approval of the proposed changes to the by-laws, we are aiming for four business meetings each year, in addition to the annual Banquet, with all members welcome.

2010 Membership Reminder:

PLEASE make sure to get your membership renewal in by January 1st. Not only is there a late fee (\$10)

after this date, but it's VERY important that you get your membership renewal in to us as early as possible to ensure that you get on the USDF roster and for timely delivery of the Omnibus and The Horse's Maine subscription. Please submit your membership form to Bev Dudley (address is on the form). The membership form can be found on our website. Membership cards will be handed out at our year-end Banquet, and emailed to those who are unable to attend the Banquet.

Year-End Awards:

Reminder - you must be a member before the show for the score to qualify for year-end awards. Only SMDA Schooling Shows and SMDA Affiliated Shows qualify for SMDA year-end awards. And very important - you MUST send your scores into Robyn Cuffey to qualify for SMDA year-end awards. The Rider Report Form may be found on our website. Contact our "keeper of the scores" Robyn Cuffey for more info.

SMDA is "Going Green:"

SMDA will be transitioning to an electronic format for newsletters and other club communications. Sending information via email saves our volunteers a considerable amount of time, and also saves the club money. 2010 will be a transition year as we move in this new direction. Please make sure to clearly print your email address on your membership form. Yes, we know the space is small - feel free to attach a separate sheet of paper or write it in the margin of the membership form. And please notify the SMDA Treasurer and Secretary if your email address changes.

SMDA Hats and Shirts:

Have you seen our great SMDA logo hats and shirts? We have them for sale at our shows and other SMDA events (including the annual Banquet). Please buy a hat or shirt and show your support for the club!

Hope to see you at the Banquet in January!

www.southernmainedressage.com