



News from Southern Maine Dressage Association September 2011

It has been a great year for SMDA! Despite rainy weather for our first two shows, our shows have been a great success. With one more show to go, it's hard to believe that it's time to start planning for 2012. Here are some of the things that are going on:

2012 SMDA Schooling Shows

We are planning to again hold four Schooling Shows at the Hollis Equestrian Park in 2012. Tentative dates are May 6, June 10, August 5, and September 16. We need to confirm these dates, and we will post the dates on our website once they are final.

PLEASE help our volunteers who work so hard as Show Secretaries and Show Managers. Plan ahead so that you have your paperwork in order for the upcoming season - this means scheduling vet calls for rabies and Coggins, and getting your SMDA renewal in on time.

And as always, we are looking for volunteers to help with our shows. If you are willing to help SMDA and serve as a Show Secretary, Show Manager, Scribe, Runner, Ring Steward, or Announcer - please contact any one of our Board members. We really need your help!

Food Booth

We want to extend a big THANK YOU to the Boots & Buckles 4-H from York County, who provided the food for our first two shows. The Food Booth will be manned by the Mollyocket Pony Club for our September show. Riders, families and friends are encouraged to please patronize the food booth; this is an important fund-raising activity for these groups so we should show them our support!

Year End Awards

Remember, if you are qualifying for a year-end award with SMDA, you need to send a rider report

form to Robyn Cuffey by **November 1st**. The rider report form is on our website.

SMDA Elections

It's election year for SMDA. Included with this mailing are the biographies of the candidates for the SMDA Board of Directors and SMDA Officers. Please fill out your ballot and mail to: Heather Stringer, 38 McGill Fern Road, Standish, ME 04084. The ballot can be folded over, sealed, stamped and put into the mail.

SMDA Needs Help!

SMDA is one of the five clubs that comprise the Maine Dressage Society (MDS). MDS is the official Group Member Organization (GMO) that is our link to USDF. The MDS Board of Directors meets 3 times per year (April, September, and in January at the MDS Banquet). SMDA needs volunteers to serve as our MDS representatives. This is an easy (three meetings a year!) but important job. If you think you might be able to help SMDA by serving as an MDS representative, please contact our President Robyn Cuffey (robyn@sacriver.net).

SMDA Banquet

We are tentatively planning to hold our annual SMDA Banquet on Friday, January 20 at the Captain's Galley in Old Orchard Beach. We will send out announcements and a sign-up form shortly after Christmas. In the meantime, please mark your calendars!

SMDA Clinics

We had two really great clinics this year. In March, Photo Finish Farm hosted a clinic with **Heidi Hauri-Gill**. Last year the "Breaking out of Training Level" clinic with Heidi was such a success that we invited her back. This year's clinic was held over 2 days, and on the second day featured a "ride re-ride" event to

allow our riders to practice the 2011 dressage tests.

In May we had an outstanding clinic with **Susan Jaccoma**. This clinic was hosted at beautiful Spring Creek Farm. Sue is a former SMDA member who has had a long and successful dressage career. She was a popular trainer and instructor in the area until her move to Florida a couple of years ago, so it was a real treat to have her back in the area.

We are very excited to announce our clinic for 2012. **On April 14 and 15, 2012 at Spring Creek Farm SMDA will host a clinic with Shannon Dueck**. Shannon is an international rider from Canada who has had a successful career - she is a Pan Am Games Silver Medalist and was the top Canadian rider at the 2002 World Championships in Spain, along with numerous other accomplishments. We'll be organizing rider entry and auditor information in early February. Please mark your calendars now, and stay tuned for more information.

2012 Membership Drive

Included with this newsletter is the 2012 SMDA Membership form. Memberships are due October 1st; however, we will accept membership renewals without a late fee up until December 15th. 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).

Please make sure to clearly print your information, including email address, on your membership form. After many years without an increase, SMDA has been forced to increase our membership dues by \$6. This is a result of an increase in USDF dues. Many people don't realize that your membership with SMDA also includes membership in the Maine Dressage Society (MDS) and group membership with the USDF. We regret the increase, but it's necessary to pass the USDF increase along.

Remember -to get your Omnibus on time, PLEASE submit your membership renewal by the due date.

SMDA Grants

In 2010 SMDA launched a Grant Program. This year's grant recipient was Team Notorious Durgin Farm Dressage - a group of young riders who had

the goal of competing at the 2011 Dressage for Kids show. We've made a few changes for next year's SMDA Grant application, including:

- Recipient must have demonstrated record of volunteering for SMDA;
- The grant must be for a specific activity, event or goal - in other words, not just everyday training or showing; and
- SMDA will no longer award grants or make donations outside of the Grant Program - this is necessary to be fair and make sure that we do not divert funds to other causes at the expense of our grant applicants.

For more information including application form and guidelines, please go to our website.

SMDA Classifieds

Have you checked out SMDA's "**CLASSIFIEDS**" yet? Our website gets a good amount of traffic from people checking show dates and ride times, etc. We thought this was a perfect opportunity to offer a place for people to advertise their stable, horses for sale, saddles, etc. Ads are free for SMDA members but you do need to register to post an ad on the site.

SMDA is on FACEBOOK!

Isn't everyone? For current events and feedback, please check out our Facebook page.

SMDA's 25 Year Anniversary

Last but not least, did you know that 2012 is SMDA's 25th Anniversary? SMDA was established in 1987 by a group of riders who were looking to form a club that focused on dressage training and showing. We are planning some special celebration activities to recognize this milestone, and will provide additional information early next year. We are particularly interested in hearing from SMDA old-timers, and getting copies of photos from our old shows. If you have any suggestions please contact Susan Pendleton (spendleton@sacoriver.net).

We hope that everyone had a great summer, and are looking forward to seeing you at an SMDA event soon!

www.southernmainedressage.com

