

SMDA Newsletter



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SMDA News and Updates

The Winds of Change...

An Important Message from the SMDA President

Since becoming our own USDF GMO in 2014, SMDA has worked towards becoming an official IRS tax-exempt organization. After much research into the rules and regulations, we have been advised that Southern Maine Dressage Association in its current organizational status is not suitable to become an IRS non-profit entity. It has been a difficult decision, but we are required to terminate the club at the end of this year. It's been a wonderful 27 years!

Although Southern Maine Dressage Association will no longer exist, a new club has been formed. State of Maine Dressage Association (SMDA) has been established as a Maine non-profit corporation and has applied for tax exempt status by the IRS.

State of Maine Dressage Association will publish a dressage show directory and will provide you with all of the membership benefits that we have offered you over the past 27 years. Information about the new club and its plans for the 2015 season will be coming out within the next week.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of SMDA's Board of Directors.

It's been my privilege to serve on the Board of Directors and most recently as President of Southern Maine Dressage Association. Although 2014 is our final "halt and salute" we look forward to a bright future.

Respectfully submitted by:

Susan Pendleton



Special note:

If you have already sent in a 2015 membership form for Southern Maine Dressage Association – you will be contacted in the near future about transferring your membership.

SMDA Show Update



We've had two shows since the last newsletter, in August and September. Probably the biggest news is that show attendance is down this year. In the past, our shows filled very quickly, and have sometimes had long wait lists. Difficulty getting into SMDA's shows was a common complaint among our members! We have still kept expenses under control and made a little money on the shows, but we really hope rider attendance will improve.

Our August show went very well, and once again we were lucky to have great weather. We had Susan Edelen (L) as our judge. It had been several years since we've had Ms. Edelen judge an SMDA show, and it was nice to have her back.

She was very complimentary of how well organized things were and the overall quality of our riders. We owe a special thank you to Erin Fralley and her father Bob who served as Show Managers. This was their first time managing an SMDA show and they did a fantastic job – everything ran smoothly and it was a great day.

The September show also went well. We owe a huge thank you to Jan Lamontagne, who stepped in at the last minute to manage the show. Jan's bright smile greeted people from the Manager's booth, and even though it was a short day everyone seemed to have a good time.



SMDA Participation in the USDF Convention

As an official GMO with the USDF, SMDA is allowed to send one voting delegate to the USDF convention. Jane Tremlett, SMDA's Vice President, has been designated as our official delegate, and will participate in the USDF GMO business meetings at the convention (which will be held this year in Cambridge, MA on December 3-6). Please contact Jane if you have any special interest regarding the USDF business meetings, as she will be representing SMDA and voting on the club's behalf.



Trainer Tips – “Never Kidding” by Robyn Cuffey



One of the most important things to teach our horses is the response to leg pressure. This predictable response is what keeps us safe on top of a large animal and is the only way our training can progress. It doesn't matter if you are riding Intro B or 4th level, the horse has to go when and where you ask. Sensitivity to the leg is what makes transitions, lateral work, bigger gaits, and more collection possible.

When I am training a horse to move from my leg I try to think like a horse. When in a herd, they are used to giving each other warnings with pinned back ears before they use bodily force. I think of my leg as pinning “my ears” and then my harder leg pressure or whip tap as my version of a bite. If I have to “bite” them, I want them to think I

am not kidding and they best get going NOW. I need to be the head of the herd. That first challenge may have to be a forceful one depending on the dominance level or insensitivity of the horse. I want them to move from the warning and not need “the bite.” This will only happen if I always back-up my warning quickly with a physical reason for the horse to move. Nagging the horse with a busy leg or clucking voice with no consequence teaches the horse that I don't really mean it. It leaves the horse wondering who is in charge. They don't know who is the head of the herd. Being wishy-washy is not being nice to the horse.

If you plan on competing you need to have this response as quick and sharp as possible at home because as soon as you leave your familiar surroundings to go to a show your horse will be distracted and less likely to be paying attention to you. Be sure to work on the leg pressure reaction in your warmup and try to keep the same routine at the show that you use at home.

As you work on this, if your horse doesn't improve in his reaction to the leg, you need to be more clear. Make your motto “Never Kidding.” Your horse will appreciate you being clear and treating him like a horse.

Robyn Cuffey is the owner of Photo Finish Farm in Buxton, ME





In The Community: Longhorn Horse and Pet Supply

The Longhorn truck is a familiar sight at farms across southern Maine as they make deliveries of grain, shavings, and other products along multiple routes. Longhorn has been around for many years, including 12 years at their current location on Long Plains Road in Buxton.



Owners Rob Metcalf and CeCe Welch are both SMDA members, and some of us may remember Rob competing his horse Hustler at our shows a number of years ago! These days, the store keeps them very busy and there's not much time for riding. We asked CeCe what she likes best about working at the store, and her immediate response was "the customers." She explained that many customers have been coming for years and it's nice to have the opportunity to get to know people on a long term basis. Saturday mornings the store parking lot can seem like a social event as horse people say hello to neighbors and old friends!

What's the biggest challenge? Running multiple delivery routes, six days a week through all kinds of weather. When asked if he had any difficulties making deliveries in the winter, long-time employee Jarid York quickly responded with a smile, "You mean like the time I got hit by a plow truck and rolled the truck over into the ditch?" Delivering grain in the winter can be hair raising, but the folks at Longhorn know that horses and other animals never take a day off from eating, and the owners rely on them to bring the food on time!

For more information, stop by and visit Longhorn at 1371 Long Plains Road in Buxton, or check out their Facebook page.



Member Profile: Sue Terry



Like most horse enthusiasts, Sue Terry grew up with a love of horses, and as far back as she can remember she always wanted to ride. She grew up in a family of five and couldn't afford a horse of her own, but she rode her bike three miles to a local barn to clean stalls in trade for lessons on a pony (with a mind of his own, or course!).

Today, she owns a Quarter Horse/Belgium cross named Rioja. She's owned Rioja for ten years, and they have been through a lot together – hip replacement, ACL replacement, and an aneurysm. She says "He's awesome. If I didn't have him I'm not sure I'd be riding. He takes good care of me, and we work together." In the beginning, Sue and Rioja had many discussions on who was the leader, but they figured it out, and moved on to a great partnership. Rioja is 20 years old now, and Sue wouldn't trade him for a million bucks (no pun intended!).

She rides with trainer Jackie Smith, and it was Jackie who encouraged Sue to join SMDA. Sue was ready to start showing and be more active in the horse community.

Sue's favorite piece of training advice:

"Just ride your horse."

She said "I love horse people and to talk with them. Everyone has a different story and new information to share."

Sue is currently showing at local schooling shows, but she has also been to Florida and Vermont to compete in recognized shows. Her goal: "To do a musical freestyle with my guy – to dance with my horse."



The SMDA newsletter committee welcomes your input! Please share newsworthy events, including new horses, achievements, and life passages. We'd love to hear from you!



Please contact:
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www.southernmainedressage.com
Stay current with SMDA on Facebook



Volunteer Notes: What Does a Show Manager Do?

One of the most important keys to a successful dressage show is having a well-organized Show Manager! We've been lucky to have several faithful volunteers that have filled this position, and we are always looking for new people to help share the workload. One of the most significant tasks the Show Manager is responsible for is lining up volunteers for show day. We typically ask people to work for a half day, and there are various jobs including scribe, announcer, runner, and ring steward. Usually the Show Manager will line up friends and family to help – SMDA can also provide a list of names of members who have indicated they are willing to help out at a show. The Show Manager also lines up help for ring set up (usually late Saturday afternoon the day before). Sometimes people hesitate about the Show Manager job because they are unfamiliar with how to set up a dressage ring, and some of the details of running the show. Fortunately, we have several "old timers" that are always willing to help and who can serve as a resource, and we also have very detailed written instructions on everything that needs to be done.

In addition to lining up the other volunteers, the Show Manager is responsible for contacting the judge the week before the show to confirm everything, getting lunch and snacks for the judge and the other volunteers, handing out the rider packets and ribbons, and getting the show results (scores) to our awards coordinator. The Show Manager is responsible for keeping the show on schedule, adjusting the schedule and informing the judge when there have been scratches or fill-ins, and basically ensuring things run smoothly. At the end of the day, the Show Manager supervises the clean-up – it's important to leave the equestrian park in good condition for the next group of people. The Treasurer will provide checks for the judge and for the Show Manager to reimburse for food and any other incidental expenses.

Show Manager Checklist

- ✓ Coordinate volunteers for ring set up and show day
- ✓ Get rider packets from the Show Secretary and distribute
- ✓ Arrange snacks and lunch for the judge and volunteers, and bottled water on show day
- ✓ Get check from Treasurer to pay the judge
- ✓ Ring tear down and clean up
- ✓ End of show day – Relax and BREATHE!!

Fortunately, we've been running dressage shows for many years and most of our competitors are very familiar with how our shows are run. There are times, however, when the Show Manager may be called upon to help with a situation (Thunderstorm? Loose horse? Problems in the warmup ring?), so a cool head and sense of humor are essential!

Next time you're at an SMDA show, stop by the booth and thank the Show Manager for his or her effort! It's a really important job and we are lucky to have SMDA members who are willing to help us put on such well-run shows.



SMDA Member News



Congratulations to Laurie Mason on her purchase of Atticus. Atticus is a 5-year old Friesian/Clydesdale cross. At 17.1 hands he's just the kind of big guy that Laurie was looking for. Atticus arrived from North Carolina on September 4th, and is settling in nicely.

We also wish good luck to Susan Pendleton, who recently purchased a 10-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding named Kezar from another SMDA member, DiAnne Ward. We hope to see this pair in the show ring next summer!

Congratulations to SMDA member Jean Murphy-Ashton on her Friesian Youke of High Meadows. In training with Jackie Smith, Youke recently performed his first Prix St. George test. We hear that Jean is bursting with pride!

Our sympathy to London Morin on the loss of her pony Toodles. It was nice to see you back out there on Scotty – best of luck to you both!

Faith Duplinsky is closing her business Dream Tree Riding School, and moving to Maryland to work at Hassler Dressage. This is an exciting opportunity and we wish her the best.

Congratulations to Vienna Farm on their 30th anniversary. A special celebration was held on September 27, with over 50 people in attendance including both current and former students!



Year End Awards and Rider Report Forms

Are you going for an SMDA year-end award? Please don't forget to send in your Rider Report Form. The form can be found on the SMDA website. Due date is November 1st.

- Rider must be a member of SMDA before the first show of the season for scores to count.
- Year-end scores are calculated by test. A horse and rider combination needs a minimum of four scores from different judges for each test. Three best scores are averaged.
- At least two scores must be from SMDA schooling shows. The other two scores may be from SMDA schooling shows or SMDA affiliated shows.
- The average score must be above 55% to qualify.

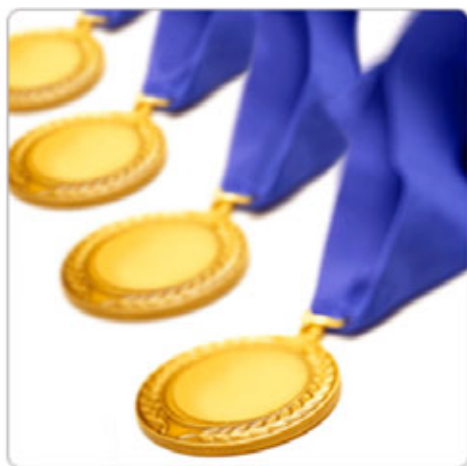


SMDA Medals Program



If you are going to submit scores for an SMDA Medal, please send in a SMDA Rider Medals Award form. The form can be found on the website, and is also due November 1st.

- Scores can be submitted for any test within the specified level. "L" judge or higher.
- Scores from year 2013 or earlier years may be from any dressage show in Maine.
- Beginning in 2014, scores must be from SMDA or SMDA affiliated shows.
- Riders must be SMDA members 1) at the time scores are submitted; and 2) beginning in 2014, at the time scores are earned.
- Riders must submit photocopy of their tests.



- SMDA Bronze Medal: Two (2) scores for Introductory Level and three (3) scores from Training Level. Scores must be 60% or higher.
- SMDA Silver Medal: Three (3) scores for First Level and three (3) scores for Second Level. Scores must be 60% or higher.
- SMDA Gold Medal: Three (3) scores for Third Level and three (3) scores for Fourth Level. Scores must be 60% or higher.
- SMDA Platinum Medal: Three (3) scores from FEI Level. Scores must be 55% or higher.

If you have any question about SMDA year-end awards or the Medals program, please contact Robyn Cuffey.

SMDA Banquet – Save the Date!

The SMDA Awards Banquet will again be held at the Captain's Galley in Old Orchard Beach. The Banquet is scheduled for Saturday evening, **January 24, 2015**. Details and the banquet sign-up form will be sent out shortly after January 1st. We'll be holding another silent auction, so please start saving your new or lightly used items to bring to the auction and help us raise money for the club!



Dressage Dreams Youth Camp



The first annual Dressage Dreams Youth Camp was held at Bear Spot Farm and Foundation in Acton, MA on August 5-6. Created by Amy Libby of Vienna Farm, the camp was designed to further participants' education in a relaxed and friendly environment. It provided an opportunity for kids to ride with gifted instructors, and also experience the responsibility for caring for a horse in an overnight situation. The clinic provided an atmosphere to prepare students for recognized shows, or for those looking for a "get away" with their horses but who are unable to get to the recognized shows.

Amy worked hard to organize the event. The participants also worked hard to raise the necessary money, and SMDA was pleased to support the Dressage Dreams Youth Camp as a recipient of the 2014 SMDA Grant. "My goal was to provide an opportunity for my students, and for all New England youth who seek a super educational, enjoyable, overnight adventure with their horses," Libby said.

The Youth Camp featured several demonstrations, and a 45 minute private lesson with a different clinician each day. The camp began with a riding demonstration by Jane Karol, which was commented by Sue Williams. Jane performed upper level movements, while Sue explained them to the campers. Next were private lessons with Williams and Karol.

Throughout the first day of the camp there was also the opportunity to watch Lendon Gray instruct the Emerging Dressage Athlete Program (Dressage4Kids) riders. As the first day came to a close, the campers took their horses for a walk and a stretch, and fed dinner. The evening concluded with barn chores and a picnic dinner. The campers themselves did not have to "rough it" – they stayed close to their horses in a large and comfortable camper on the grounds!

Early morning began with feeding, mucking, giving treats, and preparing for lessons. Each student rode with a different clinician. There were also several demonstrations during the day, including Phil Silva demonstrating Stallion Handling for Sport Horse Showing (featuring a sassy mini stallion!) and Sal Robert Salvetti who did a fascinating demonstration on equine massage.

The Dressage Dreams Youth Camp was a huge success, and planning for 2015 has already begun. Plans are in the works to hold next year's camp right here at Vienna Farm, and Susan Jaccoma and Jane Karol have already agreed to serve as the instructors. The goal is to hold an annual event open to all New England youth riders that will be hosted at different New England facilities each year. The program is intended to grow and provide an opportunity for young dressage enthusiasts to have a special "get away" with their horse, make new connections, and to have FUN while soaking up tons of knowledge!

Amy Libby summed it up with a big thank you to the clinicians and demonstrators, and also to SMDA for the very helpful grant.



First Annual Dressage Dreams Youth Camp Participants

- Allie Parkin
- Lindsay Charlton
- Ally Dasch
- Sophia Chavonelle
- Natasha McGowan
- Maggie Roy

