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# SMDA News and Updates



Fall Is In The Air



**2016 Membership Drive:** Yes, it's that time of year again! Time to renew your SMDA membership for 2016. But it's not even close to the end of the year! Why do we do this so early? The answer is simple, to remain a Group Member Organization (GMO) affiliated with USDF, we need to submit our initial membership roster in November. So we're sending out membership forms this week, and asking for you to return your form with payment by October 15<sup>th</sup>. This will allow us to compile the membership roster and submit it to USDF before their deadline. Please support the club with your membership!

Don't forget that you will need your USDF member # to complete the membership application form. You can get your USDF member number on-line at: <http://www.usdf.org/card/>

**Join SMDA On-line:** We're trying out a new feature where you can join or renew your membership with SMDA on line with payment via Pay Pal. Please go to our website [www.mainedressage.com](http://www.mainedressage.com) and follow the instructions. Please note that we are not set up to accept credit card payments at the present time, so you'll have to be signed up with Pay Pal to use this option. The on-line payment option will cost a little bit (\$3) more, but we're hoping that the added convenience will be worth it and that this will make renewing your membership easier – let us know how you like this new feature!

**Yes you can still renew your membership by sending in the completed membership form and a check!** The on-line membership renewal is just an additional option that we're providing. We'll be mailing out 2016 membership forms shortly, and we hope that the on-line form will be available by the end of September. We'll post an announcement on our Facebook page when it's up and running.

**2016 SMDA Shows:** The SMDA Board of Directors is busy planning the 2016 season. Based on the success of our Recognized and Schooling Shows this season, we will be planning to again hold 3 Schooling Shows and 1 USDF/USEF Recognized Show at the Hollis Equestrian Park. Tentative dates for the schooling shows are: May 15, August 7, and September 18. The recognized show will be held on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

Over the next couple of months we will be confirming the show dates, lining up Judges, Show Secretaries and Show Managers, and coordinating with the other shows that will affiliate with SMDA and be part of our show listings.

A full listing of the 2016 shows, including the regular SMDA shows plus our SMDA-affiliated shows will be published in the annual show directory, and included in the calendar section of our website.

**2016 Show Directory:** We're also planning the 2016 Equine Edition Show Directory. Please consider placing an ad in the show directory, it's a great way to advertise and support SMDA. The ads are very reasonable starting at just \$25. Please contact Valerie Cole for more information! [weebitfarm@roadrunner.com](mailto:weebitfarm@roadrunner.com).

**Training 3:** We've had discussion over the years about whether to do Training 3 in the small arena or large arena. After checking out what some of the other schooling shows in the area are doing, we've decided to try it out next year and have Training 3 in the large arena. For some horses, it may be easier to do the broken line movement with the additional space. It's also good preparation for the riders, since Training Level tests at Recognized Shows are held in the large arena, and as a segue up to First Level. Let us know what you think!

**Show Entry Forms:** We'll be making some changes to our Schooling Show entry form. We all struggle with the current form, trying to cram the information into the tiny spaces. We're trying to clean up the form and make it easier to enter the rider and horse information into our show scheduler system. We're also increasing the non-member fee from \$3 to \$10 ... SMDA is here to serve its membership, and we really want to encourage people to join and support the club. We're hoping this additional fee won't deter people from occasionally stopping in to ride at one of our shows, and we're hoping it will encourage people to send in their membership and become part of the club.

# News and Updates Continued

## **SMDA Year End Awards – Reminder!**

Please don't forget to send in your Rider Report Form by November 1st. The form can be found on the SMDA website. Year-end awards rules may be found on page 11 of the show directory, and are summarized here:

- 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. The four best scores are averaged.
- At least two scores must be from regular 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.
- Important! If you submit scores from an SMDA affiliated show, you **MUST** submit photocopies of your tests (front and back) along with the Rider Report Form.

## **SMDA Medals Program:**

If you are going to be submitting scores for an SMDA Medal, please send in a SMDA Rider Medals Award Form. The form may be found on the website, and is also due November 1<sup>st</sup>.

- 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 at [robyn@sacoriver.net](mailto:robyn@sacoriver.net).

**SMDA Banquet:** The banquet date is tentatively set for January 16. We're interested in getting your input on a good venue for this event. We typically have 50-60 attendees and the banquet includes social hour, dinner, presentation of awards, and a silent auction. It's a great opportunity to meet other SMDA members and cheer on our award winners. If anyone is interested in helping out with organizing the Banquet this year, please contact Polly Shields [pollyshields@maine.rr.com](mailto:pollyshields@maine.rr.com).

### **2016 Tentative Show Dates**

- May 15
- USDF Recognized Show: July 17
- August 7
- September 18

SMDA's 2015 show season is in full swing. So far this year we've held three schooling shows and one USDF/USEF Recognized Show. The Recognized Show, held on July 12, was a big success! It was a big transition from running our regular schooling shows to putting on a full-blown USDF/USEF show with all the additional rules and requirements. The show was the result of many months of planning and effort, and we are especially grateful to our Show Secretary Elena Raymond and our Show Manager Robyn Cuffey for all their hard work. It was a really hot day, and a long one as the show had a full number of riders (including a few lucky ones from the waiting list!) We had a lot of mid-level riders (Second, Third, and Fourth) and a few FEI riders, and almost everyone was from Maine. We felt that the show really reached its target to provide a local, one-day show opportunity for Maine riders seeking to get a qualifying score, work on their medals, or just have the opportunity to bring their horse to a recognized show environment. We had a wonderful Technical Delegate who was very helpful to us "newbies" and overall things went very smoothly.

Our schooling shows have also gone well. The May show was not full, which caused some concerns, but the August show was full with a wait list. Then it was September and everyone wanted to ride! The September show filled in just a few days. We apologize to the riders who did not get into the show, and for not starting the wait list and informing you sooner; that was an oversight. Please understand that we are a club, and we are all volunteers with jobs and busy lives. You can be assured that the wait list riders were ranked by the entry postmark date according to SMDA's standard policy, and we tried to fit as many people as possible into the show.

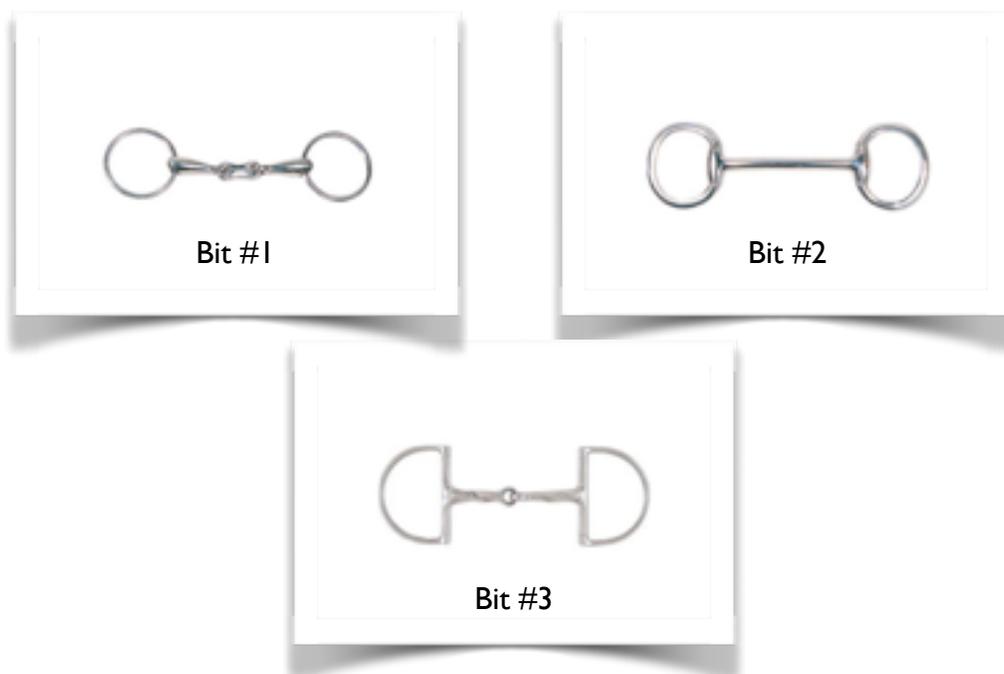
We hope that our current menu of 3 schooling shows and one recognized show is the right mix for our Maine dressage community, and have plans for the same next year.

This year we introduced a "Test of Choice" category that has brought us some interesting rides. We've enjoyed seeing some Western Dressage riders participate in SMDA shows (love the outfits!) and have seen an increase in musical freestyle rides. Our transition to the Fox Village dressage show management software system has been a big step up, but not without some growing pains. The good news is that we've figured out the issues that caused scoring delays at the August show, and things should run smoothly from here on.

## Equipment Check – Is this bit legal?

Everyone who rides dressage knows there are a LOT OF RULES! The good news is, the majority of the rules are designed to safeguard our horses. With the emphasis on correct training, there are definite rules on what types of bits are allowed in the dressage ring.

Test your knowledge – Which one of these bits is illegal? The answer is on Page 8



# Trainer Tip – Susan Jaccoma

## Controlling the Shoulder

Watching a series of lessons at a recent Susan Jaccoma clinic (hosted by Vienna Farm), we saw a common theme applied to riders and horses at different levels. Part of each lesson focused on the rider's ability to move the horses' shoulders. This was a highlight of her teaching for each horse/rider pair ranging from lower levels through FEI. On the upper level horse, Sue encouraged the rider to make sure that "everything was available" to her at all times. "Ask the horse a question, and make sure you get the answer" she said as she encouraged the rider to move the shoulders and other parts of his body.

On the lower level riders, she did more work on this theme.

One rider was given the exercise of moving the horse's shoulders to the inside and then to the outside as she traveled down a second track off the rail. The rider should expect a fluid movement as she asks his shoulders and front legs to move to the inside and outside of the track, while the hind legs travel straight on the track. Another rider was put to work on shoulder-in to help her horse engage his inside hind, and to support his outside shoulder on his hollow side. A few minutes of shoulder-in down the long side in both directions yielded a noticeable improvement in the quality of the horse's trot.

Watching the same principles in controlling the shoulder movement on multiple horses and with riders working at different levels was fascinating, and a good tip for us all!



## Volunteer Notes: SMDA Newsletter Committee



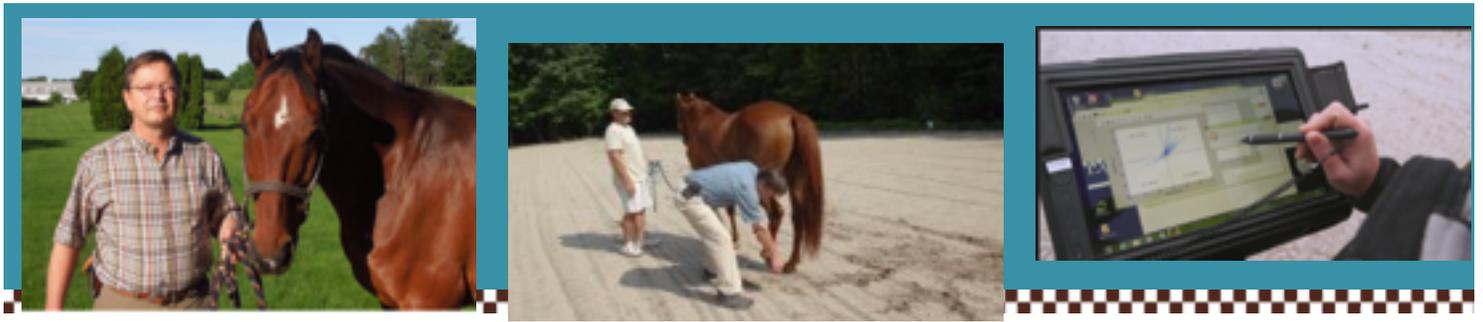
In our previous newsletter editions, we've highlighted some of the volunteer jobs associated with running our shows – Scribe, Ring Steward, and the all-important Show Manager. There are many jobs that keep SMDA running, but not all of them involve spending the day at one of our shows. This month, we are looking for a Newsletter Contributor! We've had a lot of positive feedback on SMDA's upgraded newsletter, but we need some help with the content.

Do you have an interest in journalism, or at least getting to know people in the dressage community? The SMDA Newsletter Committee is looking for one or two additional volunteers to help with some of our regular features (Trainer Tip, In the Community, and Member Profile) and/or special feature articles. This involves including researching ideas, performing phone or personal interviews and writing up the short (2-3 paragraph) articles. It's actually a lot of fun and a great way to contribute to SMDA as well as meet and get to know others in the dressage community. If you're interested, please contact our Newsletter Editor, Tania Jones [tjones86@me.com](mailto:tjones86@me.com).

### **Hollis Equestrian Park: Fix a Fence, and Build a Community:**

We're fortunate to have such a great facility as the venue for our shows. The HEP is a non-profit organization, and needs our help in making some improvements. A priority is fixing up the arena fence. SMDA will be actively helping HEP in fundraising for this effort, and plans are being made for a "Fix the Fence" work day next spring. We're hoping to have a BIG team of volunteers to come help. Lunch will be provided and everyone is invited – no special carpentry skills required! Later this year we'll have more information about the fence project, including the dates (and back-up rain dates) for the work day.





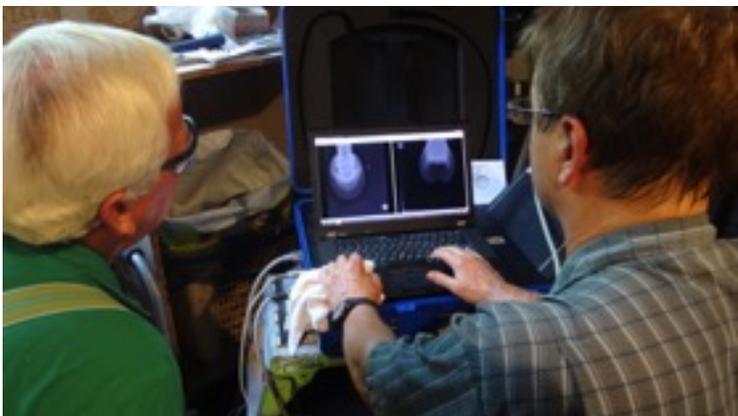
## In the Community – Kaneps Equine Sports Medicine and Surgery

We're fortunate to have Dr. Andy Kaneps in our dressage community! An equine sports medicine specialist, Dr. Kaneps has a mobile practice that includes sports medicine evaluation of performance horses, pre-purchase exams, lameness diagnosis and treatment, and equine rehabilitative therapy.

"Is he off?" Evaluating a horse during pre-purchase exam is a critical responsibility. Subtle lameness can be missed by even a highly trained eye. Dr. Kaneps has invested in sophisticated equipment to assist in lameness evaluation. When he called for his assistant to "Bring out the Lameness Locator" we expected a gizmo made of coat hangers and tin foil! But instead, a portable instrument was produced, and sensors were attached to various points on the horse's body. The sensors measured the horse's movement and send an electrical signal to the instrument. The Lameness Locator then creates a graph showing if lameness is present and which limb and to what degree it is detected. This provides an objective result and definitive answer as to whether our eyes were deceiving us!

Dr. Kaneps has had a lifelong passion for horses, and is an equestrian himself. A hunter rider, he jokes about becoming a veterinarian to find a career in horses. He shares his passion with his equine patients and human clients alike.

[www.kanepsequine.com](http://www.kanepsequine.com)



# SMDA Member Profile: Meet Ashley Dibiase!

Ashley Dibiase is a 15 year old sophomore at South Portland High School, and a true horse enthusiast! Her horse "George" is a 9 year old Appendix QH, and he has a strange appetite. Ashley proudly hung her ribbon from the August SMDA show,



but while everyone was sleeping George was busy eating his ribbon! When I went to visit Ashley to bring her a replacement ribbon, she told me a little more about George. He's her



first horse, and she's owned him for about a year. When she first went to look at him, her first impression was not "love at first sight." "I thought he was a giant butt," Ashley said. "When I went to ride him he took off on me!" But as she got ready to leave the barn, she went back to look at him again and he came up to her and put his head on her shoulder. In that moment, George sealed the deal and the two have been a pair ever since!

## Dances with Horses

Maine Equine Welfare Alliance & Riding to the Top  
Present: Dances with Horses

An Afternoon Musical Gala Featuring: Horses, People, & the  
Special Bond they Share

September 27, 2015 - 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Riding to the Top Therapeutic Riding Center

14 Lilac Drive, Windham, ME

Tickets in Advance: \$20

For Tickets and Purchase Options Please Call Susan @ 207-892-2813 ext. 10 or E-Mail: [info@ridingtothetop.org](mailto:info@ridingtothetop.org)

Additional Information Available At:

[www.mainequinewelfarealliance.com](http://www.mainequinewelfarealliance.com)

[www.ridingtothetop.org](http://www.ridingtothetop.org)



# Answers to Equipment Check

Bit #1 (French Link Snaffle): LEGAL

Bit #2 (Mullen Mouth): LEGAL

Bit #3 (Slow Twist Snaffle): ILLEGAL

From the USEF Rule Book: "Snaffle bits must be smooth with a solid surface. Twisted and wire bits are prohibited."

## President's Corner

We did it! SMDA hosted a USDF/USEF Recognized Show! We had a toast at the end of the day to celebrate a successful show. It was a LOT OF WORK, but very exciting and we've received a lot of positive feedback. We learned a lot (there are many, many rules!) and we did our best to be organized and make sure everyone felt welcome. I think we met our goal, and that everyone had a safe and positive show experience.

Some of the recognized show participants were from other parts of the state, and some were former members who have moved up and no longer participate in schooling shows. Based on the success of our first recognized show, we are hoping that adding this type of show into our mix will broaden SMDA's membership base as we provide both types of show experiences for our local community.

SMDA is a non-profit and all-volunteer organization. Our mission is to advance the sport of dressage in Maine, and we have a particular focus of helping newcomers become introduced to the sport. The recognized show was a bit of a switch, as it was SMDA that felt like a newcomer as we learned the ins and outs of dealing with USDF and USEF (hint – it was complicated!) But despite the work, it was a great experience and we're proud of our accomplishment and our ability to serve our membership. We're looking forward to a repeat performance in 2016!

As always, we welcome your input and feedback about SMDA opportunities and events. If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns please feel free to contact me or any of the other SMDA Board of Directors.

Best regards,

Susan Pendleton

SMDA President



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:  
Tania Jones [tjones86@me.com](mailto:tjones86@me.com)  
[www.mainedressage.com](http://www.mainedressage.com)  
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