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SMDA Newsletter

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SMDA News and Updates

Happy New Year!



Banquet and Year End Awards

The SMDA Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet was held January 23 at Ocean Gardens Restaurant in Gorham. This was a new venue for us, and we are grateful to the Ocean Gardens staff for helping to make the evening a success. We had a delicious buffet dinner including lasagna, fish, and stuffed chicken – and for those who saved room there was a choice of cheesecake or chocolate mousse for dessert!

We had a short business meeting to review SMDA's finances and plans for the coming year. A highlight was the presentation of a video slide show prepared by Ali Perkins. Ali was the winner of SMDA's 2015 Grant Program award, and she used the money to help fund her participation in Lendon Gray's Winter Intensive Training (WIT) program in Florida last year. Ali is back at WIT this year working as Lendon's assistant. She sent us the fun and informative video to tell us more about the WIT program and share her appreciation for SMDA's help. After dinner, we had the annual presentation of awards. Robyn Cuffey once again did an outstanding job in selecting the awards, which included monogrammed jackets, saddle pads, and beautiful coolers for our high point winners.

Ally Dasch was presented with the Jane Petrin perpetual trophy for the high point First Level award. Jane sponsored this trophy in honor of her beloved appaloosa horse and First Level mount. Jane is no longer with us, but we appreciate the opportunity to remember her every year when this trophy is presented.

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Platinum Medal trophy to Taylor Noonan. Taylor had a big smile as she accepted the engraved plate that recognizes her accomplishment with her horse Magical. Congratulations, Taylor!

Lots of photos were taken of this fun event. Check out SMDA's Facebook page for a link to the photo album. [facebook.com/StateOfMaineDressageAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/StateOfMaineDressageAssociation)

SMDA 2015 High Point Senior

Mark Root was our High Point Senior award



winner. Mark is new to riding, and his equine partner is Enchanted Rose, a 21-year-old Swedish Warmblood. Mark enjoys a special bond with Rose, and told us "I call her Baby Girl. We bonded really well over the summer." He is also very grateful to Cassi Martin and Breezy Meadows, whom he credits for his accomplishment. Mark is a Special Agent with the U.S. Coast Guard and has been on active duty for

18 years. He also enjoys snowboarding, but spends most of his free time helping out at the stable. With such a successful first year, Mark and Rose hope to compete at Training Level in 2016.

SMDA 2015 High Point Junior

Our High Point Junior award goes to 18-year old Ally Dasch. Ally told us "I started riding about 10 years ago. Not till about 5 years ago did I stumble across Vienna Farm. Ever since, I have been riding with Amy Libby and



she is the best instructor ever!" Ally graduated from Casco Bay High School in 2015. She is currently taking some time off from higher education, and working two jobs as well as spending time at the barn. She and 15-year-old Halo have been a team for about a year and a half. Ally and Halo have a special bond as she tells us "He is totally the horse for me, so

willing and ready to learn." Ally and Halo have set an ambitious goal for 2016 and hope to tackle Second Level. In addition to SMDA, she plans to compete at two GMHA shows and hopes to earn her SMDA Silver Medal.

News and Updates Continued

2016 Show Season

We have a great line-up of shows for the 2016 season. With three SMDA Schooling Shows, one SMDA USDF/USEF Recognized Show, and 12 SMDA affiliated shows it will be a busy season! Among the affiliated shows we have some familiar venues, and we are pleased to have some new affiliates as well.

The SMDA show dates are: May 22; July 17 (USDF/USEF Recognized Show; August 21; and September 18.

The full schedule of shows, including judges, locations, and class lists can be found in the Equine Edition Show Directory and is posted on the website www.mainedressage.com.

2016 SMDA Show Dates

- May 22
- July 17 (USDF/USEF Recognized Show)
- August 21
- September 18

Training 3

For our schooling shows, Training 3 will be in the large arena this season. Historically we've run all the Intro and Training Level tests in the small arena, but we're making the change to allow riders the full arena experience (which might be helpful as we navigate our horses through that broken line movement!).

Equine Edition Show Directory

A huge thank you to all who worked on the 2016 show directory – especially our ad coordinator Valerie Cole. It's hot off the press, and once again Tebo Marketing & Design did a tremendous job with the layout and publication. Another special thank you goes to Elena Raymond, who is responsible for the beautiful and creative cover photo.

The directory was handed out to all 2016 members at the banquet. If you were unable to attend the banquet, your directory will be sent in the mail within a week or two.

Membership Renewal

Just a reminder, if you have not submitted your membership renewal as of December 31, memberships received after this date are processed on a monthly basis. This means there might be some lag time before you receive your show directory and there may be a lapse in your subscriptions to USDF Connection and The Horse's Maine.

This year we implemented an on-line membership renewal feature on our website. This was new for us, and so far it's been working well with only a few glitches. We hope this is a benefit to our members.

How do I find my USDF Member Number?

Whether you renew online or by sending in the membership form with a check, you will need your USDF membership number (exception: first time members). This can be found online at: www.usdf.org/card. Please note that if you did not renew your membership before we submitted the initial roster to USDF on December 1st, when you do this search you will show up as a non-member. When we get your membership renewal and send it in to USDF, your status will be updated.

Volunteer Notes

Introducing . . . SMDA Dollars!

(Drum roll please!) We are introducing a new program called SMDA Dollars. SMDA Dollars are vouchers that we will give to volunteers who help at SMDA shows and other events. Each voucher is worth \$10 and is redeemable towards:

- SMDA Membership
- Show Entry Fees
- SMDA Merchandise (hats, shirts, etc.)
- SMDA Banquet



SMDA Dollars are good for two years. They are transferable, so you can have a friend or family member volunteer at the show and then use the SMDA Dollars towards your next show entry fees. We're implementing this program in hopes that it will be an additional incentive for people to volunteer for SMDA. We are all grateful to the people who work hard for SMDA and help us put on such great shows and other events. No amount of money could ever show our true appreciation, but we hope SMDA Dollars will provide a small perk and express our thanks to volunteers.

Ring Set-up

We always look for people to help set-up the ring and show grounds the day before our shows. Many hands make light work, and when we get a good turnout we can get the job done in an hour and half. The Show Manager coordinates ring set-up. Set-up time is typically around 4pm, but varies depending on whether or not Hollis Equestrian Park is rented to another group the day before our show.

During ring set-up, we drive the trailer (which stores our supplies) into the ring, and volunteers unload the rails, pylons, and letters. The arena is measured and letters are placed in the appropriate locations for the small and large arena. We usually tidy-up the grounds and sweep out the manager and judges booths (watching out for bees!) and make sure things look nice for the following day.

Ring set-up is easy, and if we have a lot of volunteers it's a quick job. It's something that you can do even if you're showing the next day, which makes it a good volunteer opportunity for riders. The Show Manager usually puts an announcement on Facebook a couple of days before the show to ask for help and to let us know what time to meet. Please help out if you can – remember this is a club and we are all volunteers. We need your help to make these shows happen!

Equipment Check - What mistakes will get you eliminated?

The USEF Dressage Rules are lengthy and complex. And they can be very unforgiving, especially at recognized shows. We try to adhere to USDF/USEF rules at all of our shows to keep things fair and help train our riders to be correct.

Here's a quick quiz! Which one of these will get you eliminated?

- Three errors during a test
- Whip longer than 39.5 inches (including the lash)
- Wearing a pink saddle pad

Answers on Page: 7

Member Profile – Deb McKeon

Deb McKeon was surprised when we asked her to be the member profile! “But I don’t ride!” she exclaimed. She may not spend time in the saddle, but Deb’s love for horses extends deep. She came to horses in middle life when she bought a farm in Buxton and became re-acquainted with neighbor Robyn Cuffey. Robyn referred a boarding client, and that started Deb on the horse path. Realizing she needed to know more about horse care and handling, she took in another boarder named Clippy and reports that it was then that she fell in love! Deb had to sell the farm in 2012, but she still owns horses and keeps them with her friends the Pierrotti’s. The Pierrotti kids (Jordan, Hannah, Emma, and Dominic) are regulars at SMDA shows, and Deb reports that they take excellent care of her horses who are happily living at the Pierrotti’s place in Limington.

Deb is an RN by training and has worked in psychiatry and rehab. She currently lives with a friend, Betty Foran. Betty is also a horse lover and enjoys carriage driving. Robyn is presently training Betty’s pony for dressage – to date both Meghan Wuorio and Jordan Pierrotti have shown him at SMDA shows. Deb’s story reminds us that love for horses lives deep in our souls, so even when you can’t ride “we all get to horses in our own ways.”



SMDA Member News



The Dressage Foundation Monthly e-newsletter – Free for SMDA Members!

The Dressage Foundation (TDF) has invited us to sign up for a NEW and FREE educational opportunity called TDF's OP-ED (OPportunity for EDucation). This is a monthly e-newsletter that provides educational articles from prominent and respected dressage professionals. It's easy to sign up; visit the TDF website for more information at <http://www.dressagefoundation.org/op-ed/>



SMDA Merchandise – introducing Sweatpants!

We sold several pairs of the new SMDA sweatpants at the banquet. By popular request, these are new this year and will be sold at our shows and other events. We still have SMDA hats and shirts for sale as well. Support the club and wear the SMDA logo with pride! Polo shirts are \$30, hats \$15, and the new sweatpants are \$25. If you can't wait until the May show for a pair, contact Robyn Cuffey at robyn@sacoriver.net.

Awards Banquet Photos



Logo on SMDA Jackets



London Morin accepts her award



Ally Dash accepts the Jane Petrin Perpetual Trophy



The Breezy Meadows Group



The Vienna Farm Group



Taylor Noonan with the FEI Platinum Award

Answers to Equipment Check

- a) Elimination. You are deducted 2 points for the 1st error, 4 points for the 2nd error, and if there is a 3rd error you are eliminated. The judge may allow you to finish the test at his/her discretion, but the ride does not count. (Reference USEF Rule DR 122). Note that this applies to tests 4th level and blow. According to an article in Dressage Today, FEI recently voted to change the rules to result in elimination after the 2nd error for FEI Tests.
- b) Acceptable. Per USEF Rule DR 120, one whip totaling 47.2 inches (including the lash) is allowed. Note: This does not apply to USDF/USEF Championship classes and other classes where whips of any size are not allowed.
- c) Elimination. Saddle pads must be white or a conservative color. (Reference USEF DR121) You might get away with a pale pink if it's deemed a "conservative color" but it's best not to take any chances.

President's Corner

It was great to see everyone at the Banquet. We were pleased to have a really good turnout, and it was a fun evening. I love seeing the big smiles as people accept their awards. We all know how much hard work and dedication go into this sport, and getting a year-end award is a great affirmation. The ribbons and medals were beautiful and really nice prizes were given. Congratulations to all our competitors – well done!

The SMDA Board has been busy all fall organizing the shows for 2016, getting the Equine Edition pulled together, and preparing for the banquet and year end awards. Now we get to breathe for a couple of months before show season starts in May. We have 16 shows in the SMDA "circuit" this year, including the 4 SMDA sponsored shows and 12 SMDA affiliate shows. To help our members make plans about which shows they would like to attend, in April we are planning a special show edition of the SMDA newsletter. The special show edition newsletter will include profiles of each of our affiliate shows, and more. Keep an eye on your "inbox" and we hope to get this information to you in early April!"

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:

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