



B

F

SMDA Newsletter

In This Issue

- Page 2 – 2018 Membership Form
- Page 3 – Membership Renewal Time
- Page 3 – Saddle Fitting Demo
- Page 4 – Recognized Show a Success
- Page 5 – Technical Delegate Q&A
- Page 5 – Member Profile
- Page 6 – August Schooling Show
- Page 6 – Year End Awards
- Page 7 – Member Profile
- Page 7 – Hay Talk
- Page 8 – President's Corner



SMDA
 Application for Membership
 2018 Season
 Due by November 1, 2017

You can submit your membership online at our website: www.mainedressage.com

What you get as a SMDA member

- Free subscription to The Horse's Maine & New Hampshire.
- SMDA Equine Edition Directory (available for late joiners only as supplies last).
- Automatic membership to USDF.
- Quarterly USDF Connection magazine and SMDA newsletters.
- Information on shows and clinics in the SMDA area.
- Possibility to earn awards for show performance within SMDA.

Select a membership type:

- New Membership Renewal (USDF # required)
 Individual (\$40) Junior (\$38) Family (\$45)

Note: A family membership qualifies one person for a group membership in USDF.
 USDF Rule: All add'l family members must pay an additional \$10 to receive Supporting Family Member status. Birth date required for JR members for USDF and year-end awards. USDF number required, unless you are a new member.

Primary Member Name (automatic USDF membership): _____
USDF # (required) _____ **Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY)** _____

Add'l Family Member _____
Requires an additional USDF membership fee of \$10.00
USDF # (required) _____ **Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY)** _____

Street Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

I would like to volunteer as (select all that apply):

- Show Secretary Show Manager/Co-Manager Ring Steward Scribe Scorer
 Announcer Banquet Committee Show Set-Up Runner Other

Category of Membership and Payment (membership year begins December 1 and expires November 30)

1. SMDA dues (includes USDF dues)
 Individual (\$40) Junior (\$38) Family (\$45) \$ _____
2. Membership sent in after Dec. 31, 2017 – include a \$10 late fee
 (Note: late fee does not apply to first-time members of SMDA) \$ _____
3. Additional USDF supporting memberships (families only) # _____ @ \$10.00 each = \$ _____
4. Additional Show Directory # _____ @ \$10.00 each = \$ _____
- Total** \$ _____

Please send completed application and check made out to SMDA to:
Cindi Spear, 25 Tarbox Lane, Buxton ME 04093 / blkthunderfriesians@yahoo.com / 207-651-1651
OR
Submit online via our website www.mainedressage.com

SMDA News and Updates



Membership Renewal Time!

Labor Day rolls around and it's that time of year again. We need to start our membership renewal process to stay in compliance with USDF's rules. It takes a few weeks to process memberships, and we need to get our roster in to USDF in November. So please take a minute and renew for 2018! You can renew your membership 3 ways:

- A copy of the membership form is included with this newsletter. Mail it in with a check.
- You can print the membership form off our website: www.mainedressage.com under "Resources" then "Forms" – fill it out, and mail in with a check.
- You can renew on-line using PayPal or a credit card.

Note: You MUST have your USDF Number to renew your membership. The only exception is for first-time members that have never been a member of USDF through any other GMO. Please note that USDF's membership year starts December 1st. If you have not renewed your membership and go to USDF's website looking for your number you won't find it there after that date! So please renew on-time!

Where do I find my USDF Number?

Don't have your USDF membership card? It's easy to find your member number on-line. Go <http://www.usdf.org/card/> and type in your name. Write it down (or save your USDF membership card – if your membership has expired you won't be able to go to find your membership number on USDF's website after the end of the year.

Saddle Fitting Demonstration

We're pleased to announce that Janie Matocha, Saddle Fitter and Sales Representative from Pelham Saddlery, will be coming to our September 17 show. Jane will be offering free "mini" saddle evaluations to anyone interested. She'll also be bringing a selection of demonstration saddles from their used saddle sales collection. This is a great opportunity to have your saddle checked out and discuss fitting or new saddle options with a trained professional.

During the lunch break, there will be a short demonstration on saddle evaluation and fitting. This is an educational opportunity to learn more about how to check your saddle for proper fit, where to look and what to look for.

Janie will be at the Hollis Equestrian Park showgrounds from 10 AM – 2PM during our show on September 17. The saddle fitting demo will be held during the lunch break.



SMDA USDF/USEF Recognized Show a Success!

SMDA held its third USDF/USEF Level 1 Recognized Show on July 16. It's a lot of work to put on these shows – the rules are complex and there are many requirements. But we're very glad to be able to offer this friendly and relaxed show environment for our local dressage community. We had a great day, and received a lot of positive feedback.

Our Judge was Ida Anderson Norris, who drove over from Vermont to officiate at our show. Ida's roots are in Maine, and she was formerly very active in the local dressage community. She gave us high compliments on our show, in particular noting that the riders were well prepared for their tests, and were showing at an appropriate level. This is very high praise from a judge of her stature!

Our Technical Delegate was Sarah Rigg. Sarah is the Director of UNH's Equine Program, and an accomplished dressage rider and instructor herself. She was helpful and provided us with a wealth of information, ranging from how to do a proper bit inspection to the nuances of USEF's rules regarding attire and equipment.

We owe a very special thank you to our hard working show volunteers. This show requires a lot of effort, and we need help from ALL of our members to make it happen. It truly takes a village! Please take a moment to say thank you to our Show Manager Robyn Cuffey, and Show Secretaries Polly Shields and Elena Raymond. These ladies put in many, many hours to make this show a success.



Congratulations to our High Point Junior rider, Keira Delahanty riding her Irish Draught "Neala."



Congratulations to Cassi Martin our High Point Senior. Cassi's ride on Little Red Corvette was so much fun to watch!

The Technical Delegate - Q&A with Sarah Rigg

What is a TD?

TD stands for Technical Delegate, which is a licensed official of the United States Equestrian Federation who is charged with overseeing a competition to ensure that the rules of the federation are being followed by all involved and all involved are safe. The TD is essentially the referee of the show. They are also involved in handling complaints, protests, inquiries, and, notably, they are the only person on the grounds who is officially responsible for ensuring the welfare of the horses.

Why did you become a TD?

A TD I regularly work with at the shows I manage told me that she thought I would be good at it. Prior to that, I hadn't ever considered it. I started researching the process and decided it would be a great way to give back to the sport and to the animals we all love.

What do you like about it?

I enjoy being able to help and educate people about the rules and considerations of dressage.

What's the best part of the TD's job?

I like being able to answer questions and help everyone's day run smoothly. The best part of the job is seeing happy horses and riders and happy show management and volunteers. And of course, it's always fun to meet people and watch dressage!

What are the biggest challenges?

Unfortunately, there are times that a TD has to enforce penalties or eliminations. I never like having to give riders bad news, but it's necessary for fairness and the integrity of the sport that the rules are followed by everyone. The other challenge is that sometimes a TD does have to deal with conflict and individuals who are unhappy.

Working with those situations is always stressful, but it's an unavoidable part of the job.

Any advice for newcomers?

Make a point to review the rules for shows! The USEF rules are available online to members and non-members alike. The first sections discuss the objectives of dressage and what the judge is looking for in terms of quality and the movements.

However, all riders who want to go to shows need to pay attention to DR 118-124, which covers the rules and conduct for dressage shows, including tack, attire, and grounds for elimination. In particular, the saddlery rules can trip up many competitors



Sarah Rigg is a USDF Technical Delegate. She is the Director of the University of New Hampshire's Equine Studies program and a Principal Lecturer in the Department of Animal, Nutrition, and Food Systems. She is an active dressage instructor, PATH-certified instructor, MENSA member, and the proud mom of twin boys.

SMDA August Schooling Show

We had another great schooling show on August 21. Our judge was Bryn Walsh of Puckerbrush Farm. The weather was perfect, and we had a full day of rides from Intro through PSG. Highlights of the day included the all Friesians First Level Test 3 class, where we had 3 beautiful black horses competing!

Another special moment was our last ride of the day, which was Claire Decker's last show with her handsome grey Twisted Van Gogh. We've watched Claire and Van grow through the years, and so happy they made it to Fourth Level – that's a real accomplishment!

Our show manager was Desiree Strout, who did a great job keeping things organized and on-time. Our show secretary was Cindi Spear. Please make a point to say thank you to these important volunteers, without whom our shows would not be possible.



Mark Root on Royal Rose



Kristine Brassard and Gracie



Maggie Roy on Juno

Going for a Year End Award or Medal? Don't forget to submit your Rider Report form by November 1. Remember, to qualify for year end awards you need to have (for each test):

- 4 Scores from 4 different judges
- At least two of these scores need to be from SMDA's regular shows

Member Profile - Meet Deb Harter

What's that out in the arena? Is that dressage rider wearing a sparkly jacket and sitting in a Western Saddle? Yes, it's Western Dressage, and Deb Harter has become a familiar sight at SMDA's shows.

Deb lives in Sanford with her husband. She started riding at a very young age, and was involved in 4-H. A highlight was earning a top score at Eastern States and even leading the Drill Team. When she was older and started having children, Deb tried to keep her passion for horses alive, noting that she set up the playpen right next to the riding ring! But as the kids kept coming (4 altogether), Deb had to put horses aside and focus on her growing family.

Once the kids were grown, Deb found she had the time to return to horses. She tried riding dressage, but found it was not quite a fit – she laughs “I'm a cowgirl at heart!” Eventually, she found Riverhurst Farm in Kennebunk, and discovered Western Dressage. Deb works with Elaine King, and is very grateful for Elaine's friendship and support.

Deb competes Western Dressage with her horse Impulsive Rita, who she calls Mijah. Mijah is an 11-year old Quarter Horse. Western Dressage is new for many of us, but the basic movements and criteria are similar, so you'll see leg yield, rein-back, lengthenings and other elements to the Western Dressage tests.

Deb has found her home in Western Dressage, and encourages other riders to try it. She's hoping the discipline will gain support and that we'll see more western saddles and sparkly jackets out there soon!



Hay Talk

Got your hay in yet? It's a familiar question that comes up every summer. Every horse owner knows the importance of hay, and we all feel the stress of making sure we have a good supply. When you factor in the weather and the changing landscape of southern Maine with fewer farms and fields, it's no wonder we all ask each other how we're doing for hay.

What makes good hay? Good fertile fields, sunshine, and low humidity are all essential. We all know that rain can ruin a field of hay before it's had a chance to be raked and baled. But hay needs to have some moisture to maintain its quality.

First crop or second? Second crop is beautiful stuff – but not all horses need premium hay. Second crop is great for high performance horses or hard keepers, but can be too rich for many backyard equines. Horses are meant to graze, and having steady access to hay keeps a healthy gut and calms the horse brain. But an overweight horse is not a healthy animal, and owners need to make sure they match their horse's feed to his nutritional needs. Many owners choose to have their hay analyzed to get a better understanding of its nutritional content and to help create a balanced feed program.

Free Hay Analysis! Stop by the Manager's Booth at SMDA's September 17 show and pick up a bag and instructions on collecting a hay sample. Return it to Andy's Agway in Dayton by Oct. 5th. On Thursday Oct 19th at 6PM, Andy's Agway will host an evening at the store for people to get their hay results. Allison Wilshire, Equine Nutritional Consultant will speak on how to read your analysis and what it means for your horse, and will also talk about pasture and hayfield management. The store will provide pizza and drinks, and everything is free!

President's Corner

Focus on Education! Since we earned our 501(c)(3) Non-Profit status a couple of years ago, SMDA has been promoting educational opportunities that are consistent with the club's mission. Clinics are the first and obvious choice, but we've had to cancel the last 3 clinics that we've planned due to lack of participation. As a result, we're looking for creative ways to offer education that will fit with our members' busy lifestyle. This month, we'll be having a saddle fitting demonstration during the lunch break at our September 17 show. We hope to do more activities like this. What are your thoughts? Is there a topic that you'd like to learn more about? Please share your ideas on how SMDA can promote education in the dressage community - we'd like to hear from you!

Susan

