

SMDA Newsletter



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SMDA News and Updates

Welcome 2015!

SMDA's Logo

As a new Group Member Organization with the USDF, SMDA commissioned a new logo. It was an interesting process, as the Board of Directors reviewed several rounds of proofs (patiently prepared by Tebo Design Studio). Some of us are more artistic than others, and we had some lively discussions about preferences. But in the end, we all agreed on the final design, and we love the fresh look of our new logo! Watch for SMDA merchandise coming soon!

Equine Edition is Here!

Equine Edition – A Directory of Dressage Shows in Maine is back from the printer and it looks great! Once again, we have a very professional publication with the help of Tebo Design Studio, and a beautiful cover photo by Elena Raymond Photography. We have 17 shows listed this year, including four SMDA shows and 13 SMDA affiliated shows. We also have a new show listing this year – Ridgewood Farm in Wilton Maine. Unfortunately, we did not get this listing until after the Directory went to print, so the listing is provided as a special insert. Special thanks to Elena Raymond for her hard work preparing our show pages and working with the Tebo Design staff on the layout and publication!

Once again, we were successful in selling advertising to help pay for the Equine Edition Directory. We especially want to acknowledge the efforts of Amy Libby. Amy and the Vienna Farm team sold over \$600 worth of ads; this was an enormous contribution! In recognition of her efforts, Amy was selected as SMDA's Volunteer of the Year and was given a special thank-you gift at the banquet.

The directories were handed out to current 2015 SMDA members at the banquet. If you were not able to attend, a copy will be mailed to you within the next couple of weeks. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so right away to get your Equine Edition Directory in time for show season!

New Tests for 2015!

SMDA coordinated with USDF and USEF to obtain authorization to print the USDF Intro tests and USEF Training–Fourth Level tests in the Equine Edition Directory. It was no small effort, but we are happy to have the new tests in the Directory, as there are a number of changes. The USDF has published *On the Levels*, a DVD which demonstrates each test with narration by Kathy Connelly, Steffen Peters, Jan Ebeling, Hilda Gurney, and JJ Tate. SMDA has purchased the DVD and we are in the process of organizing a pot-luck event where we can watch and learn. If you are interested in attending, please contact spendleton@sacoriver.net.



News and Updates Continued

USDF Convention

Jane Tremlett attended the USDF Convention as SMDA's official delegate. The convention was held in Cambridge, MA in early December. Jane represented the club at various USDF meetings, and she also enjoyed attending the technical and educational sessions. We were lucky that the convention was local and that a number of SMDA members were able to attend.

IRS Tax Exempt Status

We did it! The new State of Maine Dressage Association has been granted official IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. As you know, we've been working towards this goal for quite some time and it is a major success to have this accomplishment under our belts. We're pleased to report that SMDA is financially sound and we've prepared a budget for the coming year. Our Treasurer, Lorna Carter, has organized SMDA's books and provides the Board of Directors with a quarterly financial report. It took a real team effort to make this happen, and we're very happy to have this past us and get back to focusing on horse activities!

2015 Show Season

SMDA is holding four shows this year at the Hollis Equestrian Park – three schooling shows and one recognized show. The schooling show dates are: May 17 (Paula Foote L), August 2 (Elaine Johnson L), and September 13 (Laura Mitchell L). The USDF/USEF recognized show date is July 12 (Susan Roberto S). The Level 1 recognized show will include classes from Intro through FEI, as well as open classes and qualifying classes for those who seek scores to qualify for Regional Championships. The show will also offer opportunity classes at Intro and Training Level for riders who wish to obtain scores for SMDA year-end awards only.

In addition, we have a number of SMDA affiliated shows, including Breezy Meadows, Ridgewood Farm, Standardbred Pleasure Horse Organization (SPHO), CMDA, Sunset Farm, and Vienna Farm.

Please remember that in order to qualify for year-end awards, you must submit FOUR scores for any one individual test (for example, four scores for Training Level Test 1). The tests must have the same horse/rider combination and must be from different judges. Two of the scores must be from a regular SMDA schooling show or SMDA recognized show. The other two scores can be from an SMDA affiliated show. If you have questions, more details are provided in the Equine Edition and on SMDA's website (Show Policies), or you contact our awards coordinator, Robyn Cuffey.

Test of Choice

We've made one change to SMDA's schooling show class list. We've added Class 7 – Test of Choice. We are trying this class to see if there are tests people want offered in the future, but that are not on our current class list. For example, you can ride a Western Dressage test as a Test of Choice. If you are interested in riding a Test of Choice, please help our show secretaries and provide a copy of the test (or a link to it). Test of Choice does not count for high point score at the show or for year-end awards.

Membership Note

Just a reminder – if you submit an SMDA membership form after the annual deadline (January 1), we process them on a monthly basis. Depending on your timing, it could take several weeks to get your Equine Edition Directory, your USDF Connection subscription, and your Horse's Maine and New Hampshire subscription. Please note: if you received a postcard from The Horse's Maine and New Hampshire stating your subscription is expired, please don't worry. As long as you renewed your SMDA membership, the subscription is automatically renewed. If you have questions regarding the status of your membership, please contact Lorna Carter at pcarter5@maine.rr.com.

SMDA Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet

Over 50 people ventured out on a snowy evening to attend the January 24 banquet. Held at a new location – Keeley's Banquet Center in Portland – we found it to be convenient, and considered ourselves lucky because our former location, The Captain's Galley, notified us they were closing at the end of 2014. This left us only a few weeks to scramble and find a new place. But everything worked out well, and it was a successful evening.



After dinner we had a short business meeting; then, Amy Libby spoke about the Dressage Dreams Camp she organized last year. The camp was so successful they plan to make it an annual event. The Dressage Dreams Camp will be held this summer at Vienna Farm on August 8th and 9th. The instructors will be Sue Jaccoma and Tanya Rennie. More information including the cost of the camp and how to apply will be posted on SMDA and Vienna Farm's Facebook pages in the coming months.

SMDA Awards

SMDA Year-End Awards

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of year-end awards. Have you seen the new SMDA medals? They are BEAUTIFUL! We are grateful to Robyn Cuffey, who selected the medals, and handed-out prizes and ribbons to the winners at each level, including jackets, saddle pads, and other beautiful items.



Tar Baby Award

The cover of the Equine Edition Directory is graced by Brandi Raymond, riding Santorino. Rio is a six-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by Robyn Cuffey. In 2014, Brandi showed Rio at First Level and the pair did very well, winning SMDA's Tar Baby Award. The Tar Baby Award is given to the highest scoring horse/rider combination at First Level. The award was originally sponsored by the late Jane Petrin in memory of her First Level mount. For those of us who remember Jane fondly, it's always very special to see her memory live on through this award.



High Score Winner Profiles



Maggie Roy: Maggie Roy won the High Point Junior Award with her mount Pinepitch Jazz. Maggie has been riding since she was four years old. She was a hunter jumper rider until moving to Vienna Farm where she became a working student. She's been with Vienna for ten years now. For the 2014 season, she was paired with her current mount who is lovingly referred to as Jazzy. An OTTB, Jazzy spent the year learning to canter again, while also learning the ropes of competing and attending clinics. For 2015, Maggie hopes to take Jazzy into Training Level both at SMDA shows as well as hopefully travelling out of state for some recognized shows. After winning her award, Maggie said "I can't thank SMDA enough for providing a perfect springboard into showing!"

Tania Jones: Tania Jones and her mount Otis are becoming a familiar sight at SMDA shows. Things are looking good for this pair, as they've won the High Point Senior Award for the second year running! Otis is a 15-year-old registered Paint gelding who Tania has owned since he was eight-months-old. They started doing dressage in the summer of 2011, and attended their first show in September of that year. Tania moved-up to show Training Level in 2014, and had a great season. Otis is a sweet and steady horse, and while Tania's goals for 2015 are not firmly set, she reports that she'd like to try First Level (but wants to wait and have a couple of lessons in the spring to see how it goes)!





In The Community: Sunset Farm

Sunset Farm, located in Waterford, ME, is owned and operated by Patti Swan. Patti has been around the Maine horse scene for as long as most of us can remember! In years past, the Sunset Farm mobile tack shop was a familiar site at some of the larger horse shows in the state, but these days the action is all at home as Sunset Farm has an active schedule of schooling shows and clinics.

Sunset Farm has affiliated three shows with SMDA this year, which will be held July 18 (Jane Tremlett, L), August 15 (Charlotte Trentelman, S), and October 10 (Carol Poulin-Taylor, L). Patti herself is an L Graduate and has judged for SMDA and other shows across the state. She has a passion for judging and putting on "user-friendly" shows and clinics. Patti told us "I try to hire kind judges who will be more encouraging than critical. Sunset Farm's shows are a place where both green horses and green riders will be comfortable and feel safe."

Sunset Farm's shows offer traditional dressage classes (Intro through Fourth Level, Freestyle, Rider Tests and Leadline Dressage). A Western Dressage Division is also offered, plus a 2-Phase event (Combined Division Pre-Elementary through Preliminary). In addition to the shows, Sunset Farm hosts several dressage clinics throughout the year, including clinics with Sara Contois and Charlotte Trentelman. Sara spent two years at the Spanish Riding School. Patti reports that she is a very positive clinician with an emphasis on classical and correct dressage. Charlotte is an S judge located in the Ocala area who specializes in Dressage and Driving instruction.

Patti is presently working three horses. She was thrilled to report that Outfoxed II (owned by Adrienne Lorio) won Second Level Horse of the Year with the Maine Dressage Society this year. Her other mounts include her young horse Damariscotta SF, a fourth generation homebred RPSI; and Dutch Warmblood Mistral upon whom Patti got her Bronze medal.

SMDA is pleased to have Sunset Farm as part of our dressage community, and we wish them a successful 2015 season!



How to Enter a Recognized Show

For those who have never entered a recognized show, you will see that the entry form is more complicated. Don't panic – but it is important to plan ahead and be prepared.

If you are only interested in Opportunity Classes, you don't need to worry. Entering the show will be similar to entering a regular schooling show. You do not need to be a USDF or USEF member. You do need to sign all the required fields on the entry form (rider, owner, and trainer). You do need to submit a copy of your Coggins and the required payment for your class fees and office fee. You do not need to join USDF or USEF or pay the non-member fees.



For everyone else, it gets more complex, and to some extent it depends on your goals. There are different membership requirements for rider, horse, and horse owner with both USDF and USEF. And there are different requirements if you are aiming towards a USDF Medal, Regional Championships, or another USDF awards program. Step one is to define your goals and research the requirements for that category. For the purposes of this article, we will assume people attending our show are aiming for a USDF Medal score or a qualifying score to attend Regional Championships (or both), and therefore these two categories are our focus.

USDF Memberships (Rider): There are two categories. If you are a member of SMDA, you are also a member of USDF in the category called GMO Member. A USDF GMO member can earn scores towards USDF medals, but this membership level is not sufficient to earn scores to qualify for Regional Championships. To do this, you must upgrade your membership to a USDF Participating Member. Information on how to do this can be found on USDF's website.

If the rider is not a USDF member (either category), you must note this in the appropriate field on the entry form. A USDF non-member fee of \$25 must be included as part of the show entry fee. In this situation, the scores do not count towards USDF medals or any other program.

USDF Horse Registration: Your horse must be registered with USDF to participate in the show and have your scores recorded with USDF. There are two options: you can get a USDF Horse Identification Number (HID) or a USDF Horse Lifetime Registration. The forms can be found on USDF's website. If the recognized show is a one-time event for you, it is less expensive to obtain the HID number. The HID number is a one-time fee of \$25. The Lifetime Registration fee is \$95. If you decide to upgrade from an HID to a Lifetime Registration the fee is \$70. If you are seeking scores towards a USDF medal, the HID number is adequate. However, if you want your scores to qualify for Regional Championships, your horse must have a Lifetime Registration. And, if your horse was previously registered by a former owner, you must allow time to get the HID number or Lifetime Registration transferred to your name.

USEF Membership (Rider): The rider must be a member of USEF or pay a non-member fee. Membership with USDF is not enough – you must be a member of both organizations. USEF memberships cost \$55 per year (or \$165 for 3 years) and can be completed online. You will receive a USEF membership number and card that specifies your discipline (Dressage). It is possible to participate in a recognized show without a USEF number, but a \$30 USEF non-member fee must be paid, and your scores do not qualify for Regional Championships.

USEF Horse Registration: Your horse must be registered with USEF if you are participating in qualifying classes for Regional Championships. The annual fee is \$75, or a lifetime USEF Registration can be filed for \$200. The USEF Horse Registration is not required to participate in classes solely to obtain scores towards a USDF medal.

Horse Owners: If the rider is not the owner of the horse, the horse's owner must be a member of USDF and USEF, or pay the applicable non-member fees. This is an important detail! The horse owner requirements mirror the rider requirements, so if the goal is to participate in classes qualifying for Regional championships, the owner must be an active member of USEF and a Participating member of USDF.

Completing the Form: The show entry form for a recognized show is more complex than a schooling show entry form. In addition to the usual information about the rider, owner, and horse, there are a number of required signatures. The rider must sign the form, and if the rider is under 18 a parent or guardian must also sign the form. The horse owner must sign the form. And the trainer must sign the form. The trainer is considered "the person on the show grounds responsible for the rider and the horse." If you do not have a trainer attending the show with you, the rider (or a legally responsible adult for riders under 18) must sign this part of the entry form. The \$30 non-member fee also applies if the trainer/parent is not a current USEF member. And, for all show entries except Opportunity Classes, you must include a \$16 USEF drug fee. You must attach copies of the USDF and USEF membership cards for the Rider, Horse, Trainer, and Owner. These can be obtained on the USEF website: <http://www.eqverification.org/>



How to Enter a Recognized Show Continued

Quick Summary:

Competing towards a USDF Medal (Bronze, Silver, Gold):

- ✓ Rider and Owner must be USDF members (GMO or Participating)
- ✓ Rider and Owner must be USEF members or pay non-member fee
- ✓ Horse must have USDF HID or Lifetime Registration
- ✓ Horse must be registered with USEF or pay non-member fee

Note: although you can compete towards your medal without the USEF memberships, the non-member fees are for EACH SHOW and add up quickly. It is highly recommended you join USEF and register your horse, unless the recognized show is a one-time event for you.

Competing in a GAIG/USDF Qualifying Class

- ✓ Rider and Owner must be USDF Participating Members
- ✓ Rider and Owner must be active USEF members
- ✓ Horse must have USDF Lifetime Registration
- ✓ Horse must have USEF Registration

Recognized Show Entry Mentors:

We have identified local volunteers to serve as mentors for riders who do not have access to a coach or other resource to help with their entry form. These mentors can answer questions and/or review your show entry to help make sure everything is accurate. If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

Hannah Keohane at hkeohane2008@gmail.com

Amanda Gervais at durginfarm@hotmail.com

Laura Noyes at Indressage@gmail.com

Jane Tremlett at calamity101@roadrunner.com

What is an Opportunity Class? We realize that some people might want to participate in a recognized show just to try it out (or to earn scores towards SMDA year-end awards). But some of our riders might not be enthusiastic about paying the extra fees and memberships! We are pleased that USDF and USEF allow us to offer a limited number of Opportunity Classes that bridge this gap. Recognized shows can offer two Opportunity Classes per level at the lower levels. Riders in Opportunity Classes do not have to pay the extra fees, nor do they need the additional memberships. SMDA is offering two Opportunity Classes at Intro, two at Training, and two at First Level at our July 12 show. While the scores from these classes only count towards SMDA year-end awards, the classes provide the chance to participate in the show without investing in the additional memberships. Riders in Opportunity Classes cannot enter any other Open or Qualifying classes. For Opportunity Classes, you must pay the \$35 class fee plus the \$25 office fee, but none of the other fees or memberships apply. If you have any questions, please contact one of the Recognized Show Entry Mentors or the Show Secretary.

Are you interested in learning more about how to enter a recognized show? SMDA is considering hosting a workshop which would assist riders in filling out their entry forms and verifying that they meet all membership requirements. If you are interested, please contact Jane Tremlett at calamity101@roadrunner.com.

Volunteer Notes

What Does a Scorer Do?

In the back room of the Manager's booth at the Hollis Equestrian Park, you can hear the sound of number keys tapping, quiet muttering, and the whir of adding machine paper. What's going on back there? It's the Scorer! The Scorer has a very important job at SMDA shows; calculating the scores for each test. And we all know how important this is!

Each dressage test has a series of required movements that are given a score on a scale of 0–10. The judge dictates the score for each movement, which is written onto the test sheet by the scribe. Some of the movements are given a coefficient, which means the score is multiplied by two (and thereby making it twice as important). At the end of the test the judge writes the Collective Marks, which are a series of scores for the overall performance of the test. Each Collective Mark has a coefficient multiplier. And, if there are any errors on the test, the points deducted from the score on that movement are marked on the test.

The Scorer must take each test and calculate the score. An adding machine with a print-out is used, and the print-out is stapled to riders' tests so they can check the score calculation. Although it is not a difficult job, the Scorer must pay close attention to make sure the scores from the individual movements are totaled correctly (using the appropriate coefficient where applicable), and then calculate the total score by dividing by the number of available points (which is printed at the top of the test). The Scorer then marks the total score on the front of the test and hands it to the Show Manager.

It can be fun to score the tests – you get a feel for how the Judge is evaluating the different movements. You also get to read all of the comments, so it can be a learning experience as well. Some people may be interested in a volunteer job that is a bit more behind the scenes. If you are interested in serving as a Scorer for one of SMDA's shows, please contact the Show Manager or Secretary (listed in the Equine Edition Directory).



President's Corner

It's been an incredible year, and it was a lot of work setting-up a new USDF GMO, picking a logo, creating a new website and Facebook page, getting our IRS tax exempt status, managing the books and setting up a budget, and making plans for the coming year. Whew! Yes, it definitely was a lot of work but we're pleased and proud that SMDA is on solid ground and we're looking forward to a successful 2015.

Our big news is the July 12 recognized show. This is new territory for us, and we've had to do some hustling to pull things together, including finding a Judge and Technical Delegate, getting our official approval from USDF and USEF, and drafting the show page. We hope this show will appeal to riders of all levels and bring back members who have moved on from schooling shows to attend the other recognized shows in the New England region. We believe this will be a good opportunity for riders to earn a qualifying score for Regional Championships or to get a score towards one of their USDF medals while staying close to home in a familiar environment. We're excited, but also a bit nervous, as we're learning as we go. So please be patient with us – hopefully everything will go smoothly, but in the horse show world you never know!

As a Board we are committed to making SMDA a fun and successful club. Please feel free to contact me or any of SMDA's officers or board members and share your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions.

spendleton@sacoriver.net



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

www.mainedressage.com

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