

SMDA Newsletter



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Upcoming Events

October 15	Membership Forms Due (or As Soon As Possible)
November 1	Rider Report Forms Due
January 24	Awards Banquet
May 17	SMDA Schooling Show
May 31	Schooling Show at Vienna Farm
June 14	SPHO Schooling Show
July 12	Recognized Show
August 2	SMDA Schooling Show
September 13	SMDA Schooling Show

In This Issue

- Page 2 – Welcome!
- Page 2 – Membership Information
- Page 2 – Equine Edition
- Page 3 – 2015 Show Season
- Page 3 – Recognized Show
- Page 4 – Officers
- Page 5 – Directors
- Page 6 – Directors Cont.
- Page 6 – Banquet Date
- Page 7 – New Club FAQ's

Rider Reports and Medals Forms are due November 1st

If you are going for a year end award or an SMDA Medal please submit the appropriate forms to Robyn Cuffey by November 1st. The forms can be found on the SMDA website.



SMDA News and Updates

Welcome!

Welcome to State of Maine Dressage Association!

It's a fresh start for dressage in southern Maine, and we'd like to welcome you to the newly incorporated State of Maine Dressage Association (SMDA).

SMDA has been incorporated in the State of Maine and has been set up as an IRS non-profit organization. The Officers and Board of Directors have been appointed, and we are working on the many details required to get the new club up and running without missing a beat!

The State of Maine Dressage Association will be sending a membership roster in to USDF, and in 2015 we will be an official GMO with that organization. All the regular features of a GMO are being offered:

- Subscription to The Horse's Maine & NH publication
- Subscription to the USDF Connection magazine
- Copy of the Equine Edition dressage show directory for 2015
- Eligible for SMDA year end awards and medals programs
- Discounts at clinics and other club activities.

Membership Information

If you had previously sent in a membership renewal to Southern Maine Dressage Association, someone will contact you to discuss transferring your membership to the new club. It should be a fairly easy transition, and we are hoping that you'll be interested in being part of this new organization.

If you have not yet sent in a membership form for 2015, a new membership form for the State of Maine Dressage Association (SMDA) accompanies this newsletter. Please complete the form and send to SMDA Treasurer (make the check out to "SMDA"). Please send your membership form in as soon as possible – the due date is early because we need to send our membership roster in to USDF in November to ensure our GMO status.

If you have any questions about your membership status, please don't hesitate to contact SMDA Treasurer Lorna Carter at pcarter5@maine.rr.com.

Equine Edition – A Directory of Dressage Shows in Maine

The State of Maine Dressage Association is busy organizing the 2015 show directory. This will be a professional publication by Tebo Design Studio, and will be distributed to all SMDA members. The target date is to have the directory ready for distribution at the banquet in January. If you cannot attend the banquet, your copy will be mailed to you shortly thereafter.

We are actively looking for advertisers for the Equine Edition! The ads help pay for publication of this important directory, and are also a great reference for our riders. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please consider taking out an ad in the directory. The ads are very inexpensive, starting at just \$25 for a business card size. It's a great way to reach over 150 "horse people" in the southern Maine area.

If you are interested in advertising in the Equine Edition, please contact Valerie Cole at weebitfarm@roadrunner.com.

2015 Show Season

SMDA is planning a total of 4 shows for the 2015 season. This will include 3 regular schooling shows and one recognized show at the Hollis Equestrian Park. The show dates will be:

- May 17 (schooling)
- May 31 (schooling show at Vienna Farm)
- July 12 (recognized - tentative)
- August 2 (schooling)
- Sept. 13 (schooling)

Please mark your calendars! The Hollis Equestrian Park has been reserved for these dates, and we are working on lining up judges, show secretaries and show managers.

We are still working on coordinating with the other shows that will affiliate with SMDA. As of the date of this newsletter, we have one affiliate show scheduled – the SPHO show will be held at the Hollis Equestrian Park on June 14.

As usual, we are looking for volunteers to serve as Show Secretary or Show Manager. The **Show Secretary** job is fairly straightforward; however, you need at least the basic ability to use Microsoft Excel in order to run the ride scheduler program. This program makes it very easy to schedule ride times and generate the show programs and labels needed for the rider packets. One of the best things about being Show Secretary is that all of your work is done up front, and you can still ride in the show! We have experienced secretaries who will work with you to ensure things go smoothly. We estimate that it takes about 12-15 hours of time total – this includes receiving and processing entries as they come in, as well as the work the week before the show to schedule the rides and prepare all of the materials.

The **Show Manager** job is less time consuming, but does require some organizational skills! The Show Manager is responsible to line up volunteers to help with ring set-up and on show day. Then the Show Manager acts as “host” for the day, greeting riders, handing out packets, coordinating the volunteers, attending to the judge, and making sure the horse park is clean and locked up at the end of the day. We have experienced show managers who can help – so don’t be intimidated about not knowing how to set up the ring or other details.

If you are at all interested in serving in either one of these positions, please contact any one of SMDA’s Board members! We’ll be actively recruiting people during the coming month, so please don’t be shy – this is great way to support SMDA and give back to the club.

Yes, SMDA is Planning a Recognized Show!

We’re taking the plunge, and next year plan to offer a Recognized Show in addition to our regular schooling shows. The planned date is July 12; however we have not had final confirmation from USDF and USEF as these organizations both have to approve the date.

We’re really looking forward to offering a Recognized Show in southern Maine. This will offer our riders a chance to earn qualifying scores for Region 8 championships, as well as earn scores for USDF medals. There are a lot of extra requirements associated with running a Recognized Show, including hiring S-level or higher judges so the entry fees will be higher. However, for our members on a budget, we will offer “Opportunity Classes” so that riders only seeking scores for SMDA year-end awards can still compete without paying all the extra fees.

More information about plans for this show (including confirmation of the date) will be provided as we continue the planning process, so stay tuned!



Meet your SMDA Officers and Board of Directors

State of Maine Dressage Association (SMDA) has been incorporated as a new club. Articles of incorporation have been filed with the state, and we'd like you to "meet" our Officers and Board of Directors.

Officers



President - Susan Pendleton

Susan began riding as an adult, and has been riding for about 15 years. She is a USDF Bronze medalist and has recently purchased a new horse, 10 year old KWPN gelding "Kezar" and is hoping to get back in the show ring in 2015. Susan lives in Buxton with her husband and retired Buckskin Appaloosa mare Queen (along with dog, cats, and various chickens).



Vice President – Jane Tremlett

Jane has been riding for 30 years and has ridden dressage exclusively for 15 years. She is a graduate of the USDF L program and serves as judge at schooling shows throughout Maine. She has two horses at home, Corina and Lyra and most recently has decided that Lyra is looking for a new career as a Western Dressage horse! Jane has attended the CHA (Certified Horseman's Association) instructors' certification and qualified as a Level 3 in English riding and a Level 1 in Western riding. She is a USDF bronze and silver medalist. She works at Carlisle Academy in Lyman as an instructor and horse handler.



Secretary – Elena Raymond

Elena got her start as a junior rider in the 1990s. After moving away and then returning to the state of Maine, she quickly got involved in the local dressage scene. She often utilizes her writing, editing, computer, and photography skills to assist. While Elena no longer competes, she owns a retired Trakehner gelding and hopes to go pony shopping in the future for her young daughter.



Treasurer - Lorna Carter

Lorna is SMDA's Treasurer and responsible for keeping us fiscally healthy! Lorna has been riding since she was 9 years old and currently rides her mare, Willow, a 14 year old Palomino Quarter Horse. She and Willow are frequently seen at schooling shows in the area. Lorna lives in York with her husband and family.



Directors



Valerie Cole

Valerie Cole lives in Dayton and owns and operates Andy's Agway with her husband, Andy. Currently they own two horses and have a small boarding operation. Valerie has been riding for over 40 years and has taught riding intermittently for 20 years. As a junior she competed in hunter classes and in competitive trail rides. Now she enjoys riding non-competitively.



Robyn Cuffey

Robyn Cuffey is the owner of Photo Finish Farm in Buxton, ME. She has been riding for 45 years, showing for 25 years, and rode her first dressage test 20 years ago. Robyn has shown up through 3rd level and is currently riding her Warmblood Pony Charlie. Robyn is past president of Maine Horse Asso., National Standardbred Pleasure Horse Orgn., and has been very involved in the southern Maine dressage scene for many years. She is also founder and past president of Maine SPHO.



Beverly Dudley

Bev owns and operates Brookside Stable in Standish. She has two Holsteiners that she bred and raised that have done very well at the FEI and national levels. Bev earned her USDF bronze medal with her mare, Lulu in 2007. Bev's current mount is Ollie. She enjoys training with the "The Bills" (Warren and McMullin) and spends the winter in Florida working with them.



Hanna Keohane

Hanna is 17-years-old and lives on her family's horse farm, Inish Beg, in Standish. She began riding when she was seven years old and has been riding competitively for six years. While she has also been involved in eventing, hunters, and jumpers, dressage has always been her main focus and passion. She currently competes at the FEI Junior level with her "partner in crime," Ranger.





Polly Shields

Polly enjoys competing as an adult amateur and is currently working toward her USDF Bronze medal. She is employed by Unum as a Project Manager. Polly began her riding career at the age of ten, participating in the Amwell Valley Hounds Pony Club, many combined training events/rallies, and the USPC Nationals competition in 1984.



Kelly Somers

Kelly has competed horses since the age of five, starting out at local shows and at 4-H. She continued to show horses in all disciplines, and in her early 20s, decided that her passion for the sport of horses was in dressage. Kelly currently works as the manager, trainer and instructor at Inish Beg in Standish. She had a successful season competing her horse Kaden and is looking forward to continuing his progress up the levels.



Cindi Spear

Cindi owns Black Thunder Friesians where she and her husband, Shawn, breed, train and sell Friesian horses, as well as board others' horses. She shows her Friesians in both pleasure and dressage shows throughout New England and introduces others to the beauty and majesty of the Friesian Horse through the Black Thunder Friesian Experience. In addition to being on the SMDA board, Cindi is the Secretary for the Friesian Events Association, a member of the Friesian Horse Association of America and past President/board member of the NorthEast Friesian Horse Club.



Gloria Steiger

Gloria has been active in the local dressage community for several years. She showed her gelding Willoughby at the Hollis shows for a few years and loved every second of it. He is now retired and living at home and her young gelding Derby is waiting to grow-up and make an appearance at the SMDA shows. She loves dressage, the precision and progression of it, and the quietness and harmony we can achieve.

SMDA Banquet – Save the Date!

The SMDA Awards Banquet will be held at the Captain’s Galley in Old Orchard Beach. The Banquet has been 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!

State of Maine Dressage Association FAQ's

I already sent in a membership form for the "old" club – what do I do?

Someone will be contacting you. If you made your check out to "SMDA," all that is required is for you to give us the OK, and we will deposit your check into the bank account for the new club. Everything else will be taken care of for you – including submitting your membership to USDF, and processing your subscription to the USDF Connection and The Horse's Maine newspaper. If you made your check out to "Southern Maine Dressage Association;" however, we will need to get a replacement check from you (made out to SMDA).

Will I still be a GMO member with USDF?

Absolutely yes! State of Maine Dressage Association will be sending in a membership roster with USDF, and we will be an official GMO with this group. As long as you send in a membership form to SMDA, you will be a GMO member with USDF.

Why has a new club been started – what was wrong with the old one?

After many hours of research and consultation with legal counsel, we were advised that the old Southern Maine Dressage Association would not be able to become an official IRS tax-exempt organization, which was an important goal for us. As a 27-year old club, many of the original records had been lost, including our articles of incorporation. We needed to make a fresh start with a new organization. So although this is a new club, we anticipate the change will have no impact on the membership as the same type of shows and other activities are planned.

What about the SMDA website and Facebook page?

We are working on transitioning the SMDA website and Facebook page, and at the present time this is still a work in progress. Links will be provided so you'll still be able to find us!

What other changes will there be?

This is a new club, so there will be a new logo, mission statement and by-laws. A new financial tracking and budget system is being put into place. For our members, however, there should be no discernable change in how the club operates and the services offered. We will still offer shows, clinics, publish a show directory, have an awards and medals program, etc. To maintain our IRS non-profit status, we anticipate that there will, however, be an increased emphasis on education – which is something that we will all appreciate!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact any of SMDA's Officers or Board of Directors!

