

REGION 1 FALL MEETING

NOV. 2, 2008, 9AM

MINUTES

Regional Championships: Terry Masters reported that the 2008 Region 1 USDF/GAIG Championships in NJ went extremely well, with great weather, 247 championship rides and 647 total rides. There was a well attended competitors lunch and a welcome cocktail party. Of note, the footing in the Horse Park was much improved.

BLMS: Celebrated its 26th year with a successful show. There were 1100 rides and 363 horses. Over 500 rides qualified (a big jump from prior years) with 345 championship rides at the show. There were some facility improvements in Lexington but the footing in some rings still needs work.

There was a discussion of the rule that riders must be mounted and present at the stated awards time or be disqualified. In fact, 3 riders were disqualified at this show for failing to comply with this rule, which led to a discussion of the rule and its application at this show as well as other Championship shows with the same rules.

2009: The BLM Championships will be in NJ 10/9-11; the USDF/GAIG Regional Championships in Lexington 10/22-25 (so far 4 judges for this have been confirmed.) Terry raised a question about the proposed rule change which would require all horses in championship classes to be stabled at the show ground (to enforce the rule that only the person showing the horse can ride the horse before the championship.) It is too early to say whether the rule will pass, but it will affect stabling in NJ so it needs to be monitored.

Rule changes for the BLM Championships were discussed and the following changes were passed:

- Riders can now show at multiple levels at the USDF as well as the FEI levels.
- Some fees to participate as an organization in the BLM Championship process were raised (to cover the prize money awarded, which this year was \$5600):
 - It will be \$35 (from \$25) for a GMO affiliates show to be a BLM qualifier;
 - Non-affiliated shows will be charged \$60 per show to participate;
 - Small GMOs will pay \$200 (no increase), Medium - \$275 and large - \$300 for their members to be eligible to compete.
 - re the breakout of sections A and B at a level, for section A there is now a 5 year rule for riding at the upper level (ie, if a rider has not ridden at the upper level within the last 5 years, they are become eligible to ride in Section A again.)

2010 Dates – these are complicated by the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky. One option would be to move the NJ Championship to the Labor Day weekend show at the

Horse Park; also need to see where NC is in the mix by then. Possible NC date is in November, which would work well. On a side note, PG Equestrian Center is expected to expand and add 3 new rings; if they do PVDA might in the future bid on a championship. Some problems would be stabling (temporary) and the State or County fair, which might have competing dates.

2008/2009 Adult Team – hosted by VADA in 08. The facility (Commonwealth) was very good and the management very accommodating; there was a mix-up with the prizes (what would be provided and what VADA needed to provide) and despite the \$500 USDF grant, the show operated at a loss.

There seems to be an interest in having the show again in 09 and an increase in rider interest to participate. VADA agreed to host it again in 09, but urged the other GMOs to step up to assist, with volunteers and especially sponsorship. An idea that was presented was to partner the Youth and the Adult teams for regional marketing for sponsors. The show will probably be the 1st weekend in August (1st & 2nd).

Youth Team – in 09 the show will be July 18 & 19 with the same show management (Tina as Secretary, Alison as Manager). In 08, the show was good but a bit smaller than last year. It was suggested that the transportation industry was looking at the horse community as a marketing source so we ought to target them for sponsorship. Alison made a plea for more participation from GMOs that bring teams to the show in providing sponsorships and advertising and volunteer help. This year, the show operated at a small loss even with sponsorship.

General Region 1 Issues - We need to recruit a Region 1 Sponsorship Coordinator. It was suggested that we should also create an e-mail list for newsletter editors and one for web masters.

NAJYRC – for 08, 3 young riders and 2 juniors represented Region1; each rider was reimbursed \$1300, after team expenses were paid. For 09, the site is not yet approved. Of note, the FEI and Young Rider Tests are being revised. We will have the same leadership team in place for 09 with Patsy Albers as Regional Coordinator.

Devon – lots of rain, but a good show. The GMO party was small. Next year, all CDIs must have 5 judges both for the small and large tours. This is a hardship for the CDIs.

Region 1 Omnibus – Cover contest closes 11/15. Deadline for content the end of December, but sooner is better. Price for ads and shows is staying the same; price for the book going up to \$15.

Region 1 Awards – nominations needed; deadline extended until 11/15. All nominating information is on the Region 1 website.

Performance Standards - There was a comprehensive discussion of the proposed performance standards and a commitment from Sam that there would be an opportunity to discuss them at the convention.

Region 1 Educational Activities –

L Programs – Several in the works; DVCTA, PVDA (2 sessions) and N. Carolina
No current Instructor Certifications underway or planned

Region 1 Website – content needed. Send it to Alison for approval and she will send it to the web master. We will work to put up a “fillable” Region 1 2009 Entry Form based on the print version prepared by Janine.

E-News – has grown in 08. Only GMO & Chapter activities; all are encouraged to submit items to Alison in text form only – no graphics.

Grants – so far the only applicant is DVCTA. \$2250 in grant money available; applications are due by the convention.

Youth Activities – Nicole DelGiorno was introduced. She is the new Region 1 representative to the Youth Executive Board. Nicole will be attending the Convention and hopes to be active in discussions with Youth riders in Region 1.

Treasurers Report: total assets \$14,327.14 (FEI Jr/Young Riders = \$4991.60; Education = \$2213.20; Youth = \$3084.64; General = \$4037.70)

USDF Report by Sam:

2009 convention in Austin; 2010 Jacksonville; Adult Clinician will be Charlotte Bredahl-Baker. FEI Trainers Conference in FL in January; main focus next year is on strategic planning and governance issues. Last 5 years, USDF operated in the black, now there will need to be both a dues increase (effective 12/09) and a reduction in spending to balance the budget.

Additional Regional Coordinator Reports:

Update pages of Show Biz being worked on by the Competition Management Council; Also a proposed change for TDs re pony measurements was noted. University credit/diploma structure being revised

GMO Reports: The following GMOs presented reports: PVDA (1200 members); ESDCTA (850 members); DVCTA (374 members); LVDA (90ish members); IEO (the 1st and oldest GMO, celebrating its 50th anniversary!); WPDA; VADA (1000 members) French Creek(3 years old, 80-90 members); and MDA

There was a suggestion that we set up a mail Yahoo group to share GMO successes.

The **spring 09 meeting** is March 15th at Scott and Suzanne Hassler’s farm, with a clinic sponsored by them on the 14th.

