

2014 HDS Junior Young Rider Championship Competition Highlights – *by Anna Campbell*

This summer I was able to participate in three of the most prestigious shows in the country. The first show was The Festival of Champions, held in Gladstone, New Jersey, at the historic headquarters of the United States Equestrian Team. In the past few years, there were only a handful of riders from Region 9 who qualified for this show, however, this year one of every four junior (under 21) riders at this competition hailed from Region 9 in addition to being HDS members. It was so much fun to have such a large portion of your region to share such a great experience with, and it made the whole competition even more memorable to me. Our region dominated this year and I was very proud to be a part of it. Jessica Fan and Emma Patterson both had very strong finishes in the FEI Pony division with Jessica earning the reserve champion title. In the Junior division five HDS members, myself, Bronwyn Cordiak, Allison Cyprus, Cameron Dauterive, and Cassie Schmidt, were among the twelve competitors. Cassie earned the championship title and Cameron finished the competition in third place. Kalie Beckers was a top six finisher in the Young Rider division. Having a large group of your own region creates an amazing atmosphere around the stables and takes some of the nerves away just knowing that everyone you usually go to shows with is standing by the warm-up arena just like always. They give you a sense of normalcy when you are competing in such an important and respected venue.

In July we traveled to the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington to compete in the North American Junior Young Rider Championships (NAJYRC). At this competition, a rider has the ability to compete in three tests: the team test, individual and, if they place within the top eighteen riders from the individual test, they will be able to move on into the freestyle round. This year Region 9 was able to produce two full teams – a four member junior team and a four member young rider team- and with so many more riders and parents invited to attend, it was an exciting week for everybody! We had a great time together and placed well against very talented riders from North America including Canada. The junior team (myself, Cassie Schmidt, Bronwyn Cordiak, Allison Cyprus) finished fifth in the team competition and the young riders (Kalie Beckers, Ty Wittke, Janet Ashley, Caroline Adams) finished seventh. In the junior individual competition, our region had riders placed in fifth, sixth, and seventh, with only one other US competitor placing higher. Kalie was the region's top ranked rider in the young rider individual competition earning seventh place. On the last day of competition, Cassie was able to bring home an FEI silver medal for her fantastic freestyle! It was such a fun week and I can't wait to see what next year brings.

In August, three riders travelled to Lamplight Equestrian Center in Wayne, Illinois, to compete in the Dressage Seat Equitation Medal Finals. While I did not compete, I went with Kalie Beckers as moral support and a groom; it was a very beautiful facility and we had an amazing weekend. It was great to be surrounded by people from your own region and makes you feel settled about competing in a new arena. Bronwyn Cordiak and Kalie competed in the 14 years and over division where Bronwyn finished first and Kalie brought home fifth. Nia Kinney, an 11 year third level rider at my barn, who is also an HDS member, competed in the 13 years and under division, and earned the reserve champion title. Everyone was so happy for the riders and proud of how well our riders did against some very tough competition.