



April 2009
Volume 21, Issue 4

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Virginia Dressage Association, Inc.
Charlottesville Chapter

EXTENSIONS

President's Message

Hi Everyone,

Finally spring has arrived, and such a busy spring it is. Every weekend has so much happening including clinics, schooling shows, even licensed shows. The calendar is so full!

The recession might be taking its toll but it is hard to see its impact on our sport as the shows (so far) have been well subscribed, clinics are full and people have to choose which of the activities they want to do. Horse are hard to sell right now but I suspect as the sunshine works its magic people will get more hopeful and optimistic and things will get better. It is so hard to be upbeat in the doldrums of winter.

We had a very successful Chapter Grant Clinic with Jeanne MacDonald, who as always was full of useful insight and helpful advice. The second day had fewer of the upper level riders as they chose to go to a schooling show instead, but it opened the door for some of our lower level riders to get a chance to participate which was a great opportunity for them of course.

The Fix-a-Test with Nicky Vogel looks as if it has enough riders to fly. This is a much needed activity as it gives participants a chance to practice their test in front of a judge and get help with all those small details that can make such a difference to the scores. This is especially helpful when you are moving up a level and are in unfamiliar territory.

I do hope that many of you had the opportunity to enjoy the Ann Gribbons

clinic April 4th and 5th, which is yet another tremendous opportunity to learn from a top professional. There were a number of VADA-CH members riding in this clinic and I do hope that some of you were able to be there to support them!

The lovely spring weather means that we can all get out and ride more, and our horses can get out into the sunshine, but please be careful of all the spring grass as for many horses this is a recipe for founder. Please watch out and make sure that your horses don't get too much of it.

Have a great month riding and showing. I hope to see you at the next VADA-CH meeting on the 14th of April.

Yours truly,

Melyni



Upcoming Events

April 11-12
VADA/NOVA Spring Show
 Morven Park
 Leesburg, VA
Licensed Show

April 14
 7pm, Topeka's Steakhouse
 Rt. 250 Pantops,
VADA-CH Monthly Meeting
 All members are welcome!

April 19
Chestnut Oak Stable
 Doswell, VA
Dressage Schooling Show
www.chestnutoak.net

April 19
 Touch Point Farm
 Culpepper, VA
VADA-F Schooling Show
www.vadaf.org

April 25 & 26
Dressage at Fence
 Tryon, NC
Licensed Dressage Show
www.fence.org

April 26
SVADA Spring Fling Show
 Carlton Farms
 Williamsburg, VA
Licensed Dressage Show
www.gosvda.org

April 26
 Toad Hollow Farm
 White Hall, VA
Clinic/ Fix-a-Test with Nicky Vogel
 A few slots still available! Contact
gardy@gardybloemers.com

March Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Mary Lou Goings

Attendees: Melyni Worth, Tina Longaker, Sherri Booye, Gardy Bloemers, Carter Bass, Jan Templeton, Kim Schmidt, Odette Williams, Nancy Lowey, Sarah Kern, Debra Bliesner, Lauren Forrestell, Amy Gadsden, Mary Lou Goings

The March Board meeting was held March 17th, 2009 at Topeka's on 250 East in Charlottesville beginning at 7:00p.m.

Melyni opened the meeting once dinner orders were placed by all. Sherri Booye reported that the chapter currently has one hundred members, which enables our chapter to receive a \$100.00 chapter grant from VADA. She also reported that the chapter currently has \$6,122.96 in the bank. Schooling show flyers were presented to all in attendance.

A discussion was led by Gardy regarding the "on-line" newsletter. Most members have chosen to receive the newsletter on-line which should lead to a considerable savings for the chapter. For the few that have requested to continue receiving a mailed newsletter, arrangements are in progress enabling them to do so. Gardy has graciously made a VADA-CH group on Facebook for those who wish to participate. In addition she reported that she will start to recruit sponsors for The Adult Team Competition.

It was approved by the board to allow the distribution of members' e-mail addresses. Anyone not wishing to have their e-mail address distributed please contact Sherri Booye to let her know.

A discussion was held regarding the Nicky Vogel Clinic/Fix a Test scheduled for April 26th. Although few have committed to attend as of this date, this event will continue to be offered in

hopes that more members will take advantage of this upcoming clinic/fix a

test as show season approaches. Following the success of the Rider Fitness mini-seminar which was held in February, Gardy reported that a monthly Rider-Fitness will be offered the last Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. for \$25.00. In order to make this rewarding for each individual, it has been requested that no more than six attend each session.

Kim Schmidt gave an update of the Jeanne McDonald which was scheduled at her farm in Scottsville March 21st & 22nd.

The Anne Gribbons Clinic at Morven Park is scheduled for April 4th & 5th. The riders are scheduled and auditors continue to sign up.

Debra Bliesner agreed to be the coordinator for VADA-CH teams interested to compete in the Adult Team Competition.

Riding Accurate Corners

By Wendy Murdoch

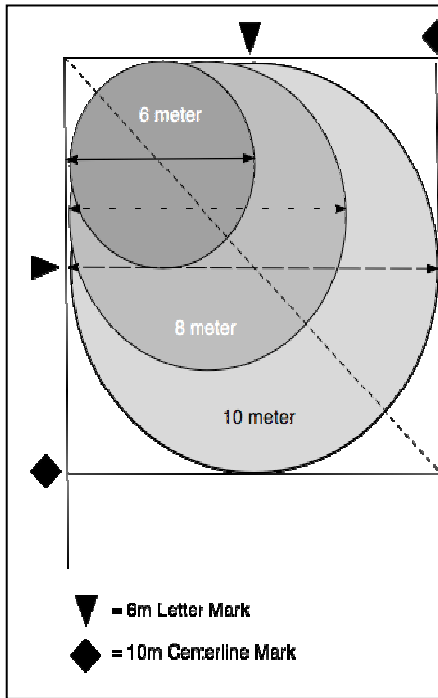
Do you have trouble riding accurate corners? Does this affect your dressage scores? Which corner is the harder one for you - tracking left or right? Do you miss the centerline after your corner because it was poorly ridden? Here are a few suggestions for riding more accurate corners.

Practicing at Home

You don't need to have a dressage arena for these exercises. If you are like me, you might not be able to delineate a large dressage arena in your daily riding space. The 20x40 meters necessary for a small arena just fits where I ride, but the arena is on a slope. This is great for training. When my horses are on level ground they find corners much easier. So don't despair if all you have is a field

to ride in. Riding in less than perfect conditions teaches you how to make adjustments. When you get to a show where the ground is even and level you will think that riding well shaped corners is easy.

If you don't have a dressage arena you can create a training corner near the edge of your arena. Four 12' poles work well where you use two for each "side" of your corner. You can work all the elements of a corner in this one representative section of an arena. After a few days move the poles to another place in the arena or field. Recognize that riding a corner is the same wherever you place it because the dimensions of the corner never change.



Geometry of a Corner

The corners in large and small arenas are the same. The letters on the long sides (H, K, M, and F) are 6 meters from the corner regardless of the length of the arena. This is a useful guide as you enter the corner from the long side. When approaching the corner from the short side you don't have a 6m marker to guide you. However, the letters A and C are always at the midpoint of each end 10 m from the corner therefore you can use the centerline to help determine the location of your circle.

While quarter lines aren't marked, they are 5m from the corner, halfway from the corner to the centerline.

Corners are formed by two lines joined at a 90-degree angle and are ridden as one quarter of a circle. When you construct your practice corner make sure it is a right angle (90-degrees) and place markers along each side exactly 6 meters from where the two lines meet. Any kind of marker will do if you don't have letters. Next, use a string starting in the corner at the joint of the two poles and pull it taut along the ground bisecting the 90-degree angle into two 45-degree halves. The center of each circle regardless of size will be along this line.

To sense the shape of your corner, walk it on foot. Have someone stand on the bisecting line holding a string (see previous article on improving your circles) measured at 3m, 4m and 5m marks (the radius of 6, 8 and 10m circles). Hold the string and walk the circle made by each radius while using a stick to mark the path on the ground creating an arc. If you have walked the circles correctly, each circle will touch the poles equidistant from the corner in different places on the track marking the tangent points of a 6m, 8m and 10m circle.

Look at the arc of the 3 curves through the corner. A quarter of the circle, which creates a corner, is the line between the two tangent points of the 6, 8 or 10m circle. Riding a corner as one quarter of a 6 meter volte is very advanced, meaning that you are riding at Intermediare or above. For those of you riding up to 2nd level your corner is one quarter of a 10m circle and from 2nd level to Intermediare, you could ride the corner as one quarter of an 8m circle.

Place another set of markers along the poles where the appropriately sized circle for your horse's level defines the quarter of your circle now called a corner. Observe where your corner touches the track in relation to the 6m mark (the dressage letter), quarter line and the centerline. (See diagram). After you get a sense of this distance go and

get your horse. You are ready to ride your practice corner.

Riding the Corners

Once mounted begin by walking through the corner you have marked. Notice if you reach your marks (not the letter) at the beginning and end of the corner. Reverse and walk through the corner going the other direction. Which way is easier? Make sure to hit your tangent points entering and exiting the corner to ensure that you have the arc of the appropriate circle through the corner.

Ride a circle in your practice corner appropriate to your level. For a 10m circle you will touch the centerline as the third tangent point along the arc of the circle. Sense the shape as you get near the poles. Do you tense because of the boundary? Or do you bulge when there is no boundary on the open sides of the circle? Establish the arc of your circle then ride out of the circle onto the straight line either along the track or down the centerline. Notice that the 10m arc of the corner creates an excellent centerline. Also note that the tangent point along the short side for a 10-meter corner is the quarter line.

Just like driving your car through a cloverleaf exit ramp, you have to keep the horse moving through the corner to maintain the shape of the curve. As you walk through the corner do you back off the throttle, stomp on the gas or maintain your horse's forward movement through the curve? It is important to maintain your forward motion through the curve to keep the shape. As you exit the corner are you still trying to fix what when wrong or are you looking ahead for your next movement?

If you are still having trouble with the shape, use cones along the inside of the curve. This will give both you and your horse a visual aid. As you get the feel of the corner remove one cone at a time until you no longer need them as markers.

Work on the elements of the corner, rather than simply riding a lot of corners over and over:

- Practice at walk, trot and canter both left and right.
- Establish the arc so that you ride the corner as a curve.
- Pay attention to you entry middle and exit on each turn.
- Hit your marks. Your corner needs to touch two tangent points of the circle.
- Keep riding through the corner to maintain your forward motion.
- Put the corner on a slope to test your skills.
- Set the corner on grass to practice on different surfaces.

Go slowly so that you can recognize where you have problems and where can make improvements. This will help with horses that want to anticipate and then rush the corners. By learning the skills required to ride a good corner you will be able to ride a corner wherever you like and combine corners into other movements.

Once you have learned how to ride one corner you will have mastered all your corners! And remember to enjoy the ride!

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Awaken the Relationship between You and Your Horse

April 17-19, 2009

Ashanti Farm
Gordonsville, VA

Bruno Greber and Wendy Murdoch join forces again in a clinic which combines the teaching talents of both with technology to provide visual and kinesthetic feedback for the riders. The total learning process is enhanced by combining a variety of learning modalities.

April 17	7-9PM
April 18 & 19	8.30-5PM
April 18	6-8PM

Cost: \$625/ rider

Includes clinic with 2 sessions each with Wendy and 2 each with Bruno, groom's audit fees, both evening "classroom" discussions and dinner Sat. evening.

Would you prefer to sample?

We are also offering an à la carte menu where lessons are offered "no frills" so no no videoing, Wii Fit, dinner or a movie.

Cost: Lesson with Wendy \$130

Cost: Lesson with Bruno \$120

Auditors Welcome! \$25.00 (1 day) or \$40.00 (2 days)

Contact Shannon Pedlar at
sgp588@hotmail.com
or call 703-431-5663

Adult Team Competition – Get Your Team Together

Teams may represent the Region's GMOs (Group Member Organizations of USDF), private stables, or a group of dressage friends. Solitary riders can be grouped into "scramble" teams, so anyone can enter, whether with a group or not. This year, we have added teams with mixed levels (in addition to teams all at the same level) to make entering easier. Intro level may be mixed with any team.

Teams may be made up of amateurs or professionals. Team competition starts at Introductory level and continues through the FEI levels. Tests may be read from Intro level through 4th level. There will also be open freestyle classes, including pas de deux and quadrille.

Team costs are \$400 a team for a 3 or 4 member team and \$95.00 per horse or tack stall for the week-end (Friday through Sunday) Stalls do not need to be cleaned at the end of the show. Ample hotel rooms, restaurants and shopping are nearby in Culpeper. There will be a party for competitors and friends on Saturday night as well as vendors on site.

To put forward your team for VADA-CH please contact Debra Bliesner at oceangr12@verizon.net. The first three teams are eligible for a chapter grant monies of \$100 each. For complete details please visit: www.blongaker.com.

Sponsorship opportunities abound – which is a nice way to support the team effort. Contact Gardy Bloemers at gardy@gardybloemers.com for more information. Please visit <http://sponusdfadulteamreg1.wordpress.com/>.

2009 SCHOOLING SHOWS

Saturday, May 1, 2009

Toad Hollow Farm, Crozet, VA

Dressage Schooling Show

Judge: TBD

Closing Date: April 24th

Contact: Renee Shifflett – toadhollow01@aol.com

Sunday, June 14th, 2009

Cedar Creek Farm, Staunton, VA

Dressage Schooling Show

Judge: Bettina Longaker, “L” Graduate

Closing Date: June 6th

Contact: Melyni Worth – Melyni@ntelos.net

Saturday, October 17th, 2009

Grayson Farm, Scottsville, VA

Dressage, CT & Jumper Schooling Show

CT Jumping Schooling Rounds

Judge: TBD

Closing Date: October 10th

Contact: Molly Armentrout – mollyarmentrout@yahoo.com

 Go to www.vadach.org for complete details including
prize list and entry form

- Classifieds -

Horse For Sale - Redford - 11 yr. old Percheron/ TB gelding. 16h. Flashy, dapple-grey, big mover. Never seen him pin his ears - really. Shown to Training level 4 at the Rose Mount licensed show on September 13.

Does First level movements easily. Asking \$9,000 to loving home. Deborah Howard, 453 Amphill Road, Cartersville, VA 23027 (804) 375-3519, debbiehoward08@aol.com

Dressage Prospects For Sale - Payana von Rosenof, registered Knabstrupper filly, DoB April 2005, Bay based leopard spotted. 15.2 h. Solid build. Nice mover, easy gaits to sit. Very sane and sensible, has shown in 2008 at schooling shows training level, scores in the 60's. Just started over jumps. Excellent on trails, good manners. Easy to work around. Super PC or amateur horse. See her on www.knabstrupper4usa.com, Sale page, and click on Payana. Email melyni@ntelos.net.

CCS Chakotay, Grey gelding, DoB July 2006, mature to 16h+ (currently 15.3), big, scopey gaits, easy going temperament, easy to handle and work around, just beginning his education U/S. Great prospect for a future competition horse. Sire: African Dreams, Holsteiner Dam: Annie, grade mare. Offers to Melyni@ntelos.net.

Impulsion's Pride, Dk grey mare, 15.2hh, DoB April 2004, sire TB. Nice mover, very sane and sensible, great on trails and easy to work around. Well started under saddle, jumps nicely. Done a few dressage tests at schooling shows with scores in the 60's. Great PC or amateur horse. Contact April Reedy at ethlucy_ar@yahoo.com.

Staff Wanted – Part-time rider in exchange for lessons from experienced USDF Bronze and Silver Medalist. Please call Patience Wadley on (434) 293-9702 between 7am and 9pm to discuss this opportunity.

Saddle for Sale - Theo Sommer, 18" extra wide dressage saddle in very good condition. This is a really wide saddle – suitable for a draft horse or a horse with no withers! For sale as it is too wide for any of my horses. Offers welcome to Melyni@ntelos.net.

Saddle for Sale – Niedersuss Symphony, Blk dressage saddle, size 17.5", wide tree, excellent condition, only normal light wear marks from leathers. Designed to give exceptional balance and comfort w/out feeling forced into an artificial position. Super soft, ultra-comfortable seat. Long billets and wool flocked gusseted panels. \$2300 new. Asking \$900. Call Wendy Owens on 540-672-1294 or tomtebo@hughes.net.

Saddle for Sale – Ideal International, Eventing Saddle, Dk Brwn, beautiful buffalo leather all purpose eventing saddle, size 18", wide tree, like new condition, padded seat, knee & thigh blocks, super comfortable saddle for long trail rides, foxhunting, eventing and flat work. Manufactured in Walsall, UK by master saddlers. Wool flocked, gusseted panels. Hate to sell but no longer have the wide-backed horse! New \$1,500. Asking \$900. Call Wendy Owens on 540-672-1294 or tomtebo@hughes.net.

Trailers for Sale – LIQUIDATION SALE at 25% to 30% Discount from retail prices of 31 Kiefer Built Trailers at Blue Ridge Trailers. Please contact Donna Martin on **434.985.4151** or go to www.blueridgetrailer.com for additional information.

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Full Page	\$15/ issue \$150/ year
½ Page	\$10/ issue \$100/ year
¼ Page	\$7.50/ issue \$75/ year
Business Card	\$5/ issue \$50/ year
Classified	\$5/ issue \$50/ year

VADA-CH Members can run classifieds and business card ads free of charge. These will run for 2 months and then must be renewed.

All ads must be in .jpg format. Send to gardy@gardybloemers.com by the 25th of each month. Please make checks payable to VADA-CH and send to Sherri Booye, 721 Lake Rd, Troy, VA 22974.

Ads will not be run until payment is received.

2009 Year End Award Standings

Please find the award standings as of the 24th of February below. Please submit your scores to Amy Gadsden, P.O. Box 111, Rochelle, VA 22738. If you have any questions please call Amy on 434 974-2268. GOOD LUCK IN 2009!

Please consult the Chapter Award Rules for 2009 on the following pages.

Schooling Division					
<i>Level</i>	<i>Rider</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>Avg Score</i>	<i>Vol Rqmt?</i>	<i>All Scores?</i>
Introductory					
Training					
First	Calla Bell	Esculira	67.63%	No	No
	Elizabeth Gaithright	Maki	62.83%	No	No
Second	Calla Bell	Esculira	65.26%	No	No
	Catherine Sutton	Prima Gracie	59.74%	No	No
Third	Barbara Goshorn	Belvedere	63.95%	No	No
	Hannah James Darnell	Rhumba	63.59%	No	No

Recognized Division					
<i>Level</i>	<i>Rider</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>Avg Score</i>	<i>Vol Rqmt?</i>	<i>All Scores?</i>
Training					
First					
Second					
Third					
Fourth					
Prix St Georges					
Intermediaire 1					
Intermediaire 2					
Grand Prix					
Freestyle, FEI					

Member of the Month – Sherri Booye

When did you become a member of VADA Charlottesville?

Sherri: I joined VADA-CH in 2001.

When did you move to the area and why? From what location did you move?

Sherri: My husband, Warren Edmunds, and I moved to the area in 1998. We purchased our property as open farmland in 1989 and spent the next nine years having fences, barns, sheds, and our house built so that it would be complete when we were able to retire from our Federal government jobs. I continued in a new career as a lawyer after moving to the area and commuted to Washington for a while and then converted to a telecommuter. We moved from Fulton, MD, which is right outside Columbia, Md.

When did you start riding? What made you interested in dressage?

Sherri: I started riding as soon as I was old enough to talk my parents into letting me onto a pony ride. I took jumping lessons off and on as a child and teenager and into my early 20s. I finally bought my first horse in my mid 20s and used her for pleasure riding and one baby, and had her from the time she was 3 years old until she died at 29. I became interested in dressage in 2001 when Odette Williams came to live with us and brought her dressage horse Leviticus. She taught me the basics, helped me train my horses, and pushed me into trying this hard new riding style, and the rest is history.

What do you do for a living? If this involves horses now, did it always

involve them? If not, what did you do in your previous life, and how did the switch evolve?

Sherri: I am an attorney practicing in the field of energy law.

What do you consider your greatest achievement in the sport during the last year?

Sherri: Surviving the year. I had a rough year in 2008. My beautiful mare Molly, who was my dream horse and dressage star as well as my eventer, contracted laminitis that progressed to founder and ultimately led to her humane euthanasia. My other horses took turns hurting themselves, so my showing was rather limited. I also bought a new horse, Echo, a half-Arabian half-Hanoverian gelding, who I am starting to train to turn into my new dressage and eventing horse. He is a real sweetheart and pretty gifted, so I have high hopes for him.

What are your ambitions in the sport?

Sherri: To get above first level with one of my horses. Molly was getting close before I lost her, and my purebred Arabian gelding Rebel may make it by next year if he can ever get the idea of lengthening his canter and sitting. My best hope is my new horse Echo, who seems to have both the talent and the brains to make a nice dressage horse that will let me advance up the levels. But he is very green and we are currently competing at Introductory Level. He did get a 69% in his third test ever, so I have hope for a successful future.

What do you want to get out of VADA-CH? What can you contribute to VADA-CH?

Sherri: Mostly the opportunity to learn more about this difficult sport

and to improve my riding with clinics and lectures.

I do whatever I can for the chapter, acting as Treasurer and Membership person, drafting the prize lists, liability waivers, and entry forms for our schooling shows, working with our insurance company to make sure we are properly covered, filing our tax returns with the IRS, keeping us licensed with the State as a charitable corporation, providing the calendar and prize lists for our schooling shows for the web site, maintaining the Bylaws and rules for the annual awards and scholarship program, and running the annual election for chapter officers.

I volunteer at the shows whenever I can, usually scoring or setting up rings and I store at my home all of the documents, such as the score sheets, and equipment, such as the calculators, clipboards, walkie-talkies, etc. for running the schooling shows and the licensed shows and delivering them to the show managers.

I also make my home available for various chapter functions such as viewing of Dressage DVDs and our summer meeting and pool party.

2009 Board

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Melyni@thorlaser.com

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Secretary
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marylouwatt@hotmail.com

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NICKY VOGEL

is scheduled for

Sunday, APRIL 26, 2008

**Location: TOAD HOLLOW FARM,
White Hall, VA
Organizer: GARDY BLOEMERS, 434-
981-1017,
gardy@gardybloemers.com**

**Cost: \$35 per ride for a 30 minute
fix-a-test session**

Auditing: Free

**Priority given to VADA-CH
members.**

**Non VADA-CH members are able to
participate IF we do not have
enough VADA-CH members to fill
the clinic.**

**RIDER YOGA &
STRETCHING CLASS**

for VADA-CH MEMBERS AND
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**When: Last Monday of
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**Next Session: Monday April
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Time: 6.30 to 8PM

Cost: \$25 per person



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Located 30m North of Cville, south of Madison. Contact Jan Templeton on 540 948 6629 or on streatorhill@attglobal.net

CALLING ALL TEAMS



USDF Adult Team Competition August 1 & 2, 2009

***Commonwealth Park
Culpepper, VA***

The Adult Team Competition provides an opportunity for adults to compete in a team-like atmosphere with awards for division-specific team champions as well as individual champions and reserve champions. The event encourages camaraderie and provides support for adults competing at any level. For more information go to www.blongaker.com.

Please contact Debra Bliesner at oceangrl2@verizon.net to put forward your team. The first three teams from VADA-CH are eligible for \$100 in chapter grant money.

USDF Region 1 Youth Team Competition

July 19th and 20th, 2009

**Morven Park Intl Equestrian Center,
Leesburg, VA**

This is a great opportunity for our younger members to participate in a Team Championships – both JR and YR – and have fun!

- Points count towards Chapter Schooling Show Awards.
- Get to ride in a show "away from home."
- Team comes FIRST - all rides count and can make a difference
- Trainers/Barns/Families that have a team, please contact the VADA-CH Board and the Chapter may be able to give some support and guidance.
- Volunteers earn both VADA-CH & VADA hours.

Show Manager: Alison Head - Lookingglassfarm@mac.com. Please contact her if you would like to volunteer or sponsor a class.

Show Secretary: Bettina Longaker - vadvirag8@gmail.com.

For more information please go to <http://www.bglongaker.com/2009youth.htm>

VADA CH Extensions
c/o Gardy Bloemers
6486 Hillsboro Lane
Crozet, VA 22932



Virginia Dressage Association – Charlottesville Chapter

Monthly Meeting Location

TOPEKA'S STEAKHOUSE

*Located on Rt.250, Pantops in front of the new Martha
Jefferson Hospital - 1791 Richmond Road*

7 pm on Tuesday, April 14th, 2009