



January 2009
Volume 21, Issue 1

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Virginia Dressage Association, Inc.
Charlottesville Chapter

EXTENSIONS

President's Message

Hi Everyone,

By the time this comes out, you all will have eaten your Christmas dinner and hopefully enjoyed a day with family and friends. Due to the change in the USDF calendar year, December was the first month of the new year, and we are now already into the 2nd month. Boy that's going to make the time seem to fly even faster! Whilst we still have a few weeks of winter left, we need to start thinking about next year's activities such as "the evenings with ...," clinics and the upcoming show season.

Our first activity will be the potluck and video evening January 10th at Sherri Booye's house. Everyone is welcome, bring your dish and have fun socializing and watching (we hope) dressage from the 2008 Olympics. This should be a chance to enjoy each others company and watch superb riding. I hope that I will see you there.

Next we have our Chapter Banquet at the Doubletree Hotel in Charlottesville on January 24th. If all my plans go well I won't be able to attend as I'll be in Florida again. I have no doubt that Nancy, Tina and Sherri will run a super Banquet. Please don't worry about me; will be sweating it out under a palm tree trying to improve my riding!

Hopefully the New Year will see a turnaround in the confidence of the country and the beginning of economic recovery. This is going to be a tough winter for everyone. I hope you are all well and wish you all a Prosperous New Year!

Yours truly,

Melyni

HAPPY



2009!

VADA-CH Awards Banquet – Make Your Reservation

Come one, come all. Members and guests are invited to attend the Charlottesville Chapter year-end Awards Banquet on **Saturday, January 24th at the Doubletree Hotel on Route 29 North in Charlottesville.** If you have not already done so please make your reservations by sending the reservation form in this newsletter together with a check for \$22 to Sherri Booye as soon as possible.

For those who have submitted applications for scholarship awards, please note that the drawing for the awards will be held during the banquet. You must be present to receive the awards.

Banquet reservations must be received by January 15th, 2009.

Upcoming Events

January 13th
7pm, Vinny's
Target Shopping Center
VADA-CH Monthly Meeting
All members are welcome!

January 24th
1pm, Doubletree Hotel
Charlottesville
Chapter Awards Banquet
Please send a check to Sherri for receipt by January 15th

February 8th
11am, Doubletree Hotel
Charlottesville
State Banquet
Please complete reservation form for receipt by January 26th.

Riding Accurate Circles – A Simple Way to Improve Your Score

By Wendy Murdoch

It seems like a simple thing – riding an accurate circle. But sometimes the simple things aren't so easy and in our training they can easily get overlooked. However riding accurate circles in your dressage test can really make a difference to your score especially at the lower levels. Twenty and ten meter circles become much more obvious when ridden poorly since there is a lot of time for the judge to observe how accurately you are riding.

Reasons for Inaccuracy

While you may try to ride accurate circles sometimes it is difficult. If your practice arena isn't perfectly square, is larger or smaller than a dressage arena you may be practicing the size that fits in your space. But this will not be accurate when you get into the show arena. You may think you are riding a good shape without realizing the size isn't accurate. Maybe you have trouble visualizing a circle as you are riding. You know it is important but you have trouble 'seeing' where to ride in order to make a nice round shape. Finally you might simply have show nerves and forget to breathe as you are riding your test. Holding your breath makes everything harder!

Figure Out the Figure

First, make sure you know the exact size of a 20m and 10m circle. To do this, get some bailing twine. Tie several pieces together to make a long string. Mark 4" from the end by putting a piece of tape on the twine. Next, measure down 5m and place another piece of tape here. Finally, measure down another 5m and put a 3rd piece of tape. You have now marked the radius of a 20 and 10m circle with a little bit of twine (the 4" piece) to hold onto.

Walk the Figure

Take your piece of string and go out to your arena. Place the 4" mark on the track at "A" (or anywhere you want to ride a circle). Walk down the centerline with your string until you get to the 10m mark. This is the center point of your 20m circle. Place something heavy on the string at the center point so that it stays in place. Then pick up the end at "A" and walk a circle keeping your string taught. You will be walking an accurate 20m circle. If you do the same thing with the weight at the 5m mark you will be walking a 10m circle at "A". Get a feel for the size and shape of your 20 and 10m circles on foot.

Ride the Figure

Next return the arena with your horse (and hopefully a helper). If you have someone to help have them hold the string standing at the center point holding the 10m mark while you hold

the other end (the 4" piece). Walk, trot and canter your 20m circle. If you stray you will either pull your friend over or if they are centered enough they might pull you over. Be careful! Continue to ride the circle until you can keep the string taught without touching the ground. Then repeat the exercise with your helper holding the twine at the 5m mark. When you have the feel for the circle size and shape ride the same circle without the string. This will help you develop the feel for accurate circle. You are well on your way to riding accurate circles!

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Wendy Murdoch resides in Washington, VA and is an international riding instructor/clinician. She travels worldwide teaching dressage riders of all levels and disciplines how to improve the horse's performance by improving their body position. For more information, please visit www.wendymurdoch.com.

Please Renew Your Membership Now!

As of the end of December, we had just 58 memberships renewed for 2009. If you are planning on participating in the 2009 scholarship drawing, remember that you must be a 2009 member to do so.

2009 E-Mail Newsletter

By receiving email copies of your newsletter our chapter will not only do a little something for our environment but we will also save \$200 in operating expenses for the chapter. If you wish to continue receiving a mailed copy you must select this option on your application. Failure to choose will result in the newsletter being emailed.

Please renew your membership using the application form on the following page.

- 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.knabstrappers4usa.com, Sale

page, 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.

ADVERTISING RATES

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.

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Year End Award Standings

The 2008 Year End Awards will be presented to the respective winners at our upcoming Chapter Banquet. Any questions, please contact Amy Gadsden on 434-974-2268.

Schooling Division					
<i>Level</i>	<i>Rider</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>Avg Score</i>	<i>Vol Rqmt?</i>	<i>All Scores?</i>
Introductory	Debra Bliesner	O Jackie	71.00%	Yes	Yes
	Jeannette Tuck	Rory's Spring Breeze	70.38%	Yes	Yes
	Lori Allshouse	Don Diego	67.75%	Yes	Yes
	Jennifer Sheltra	Oz	65.00%	Yes	No
	Amanda Lane	Infiniti LGF	64.00%	No	No
	Sherri Booye	AF Elegant Spirit	60.83%	Yes	No
Training	Hollyn Mangione	Tax Dance	68.45%	Yes	Yes
	Molly Armentrout	Commander-In-Chief	65.40%	Yes	No
	Sherri Booye	AF Elegant Spirit	64.49%	Yes	Yes
	Karen Lewis	Cortebez	62.00%	No	No
	Sherri Booye	AF Rebel Leader	61.40%	Yes	Yes
	Diane Laurie	Poppy	60.10%	No	No
	First	Calla Bell	Esculira	64.70%	No
Jennifer Sheltra		Oscar	63.20%	Yes	Yes
Catherine Sutton		Maki	62.80%	Yes	Yes
Sherri Booye		AF Rebel Leader	60.81%	Yes	Yes
Second	Diane Laurie	Leo	65.90%	No	No
	Barbara Goshom	Belvedere	64.69%	Yes	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	Jan Templeton	Ghalileo RSF	66.12%	Yes	Yes
	Krister Swartz	Absalom	65.47%	Yes	Yes
	Kim Schmidt	Andromeda	61.33%	Yes	No
First	Calla Bell	Esculira	69.31%	No	No
	Linda Sommers	Faelan	67.12%	No	No
	Sarah Denham	Dornbusch	66.00%	No	No
	Jan Templeton	Ghalileo RSF	65.90%	Yes	Yes
	Catherine Sutton	Prima Gracie	65.03%	Yes	Yes
	Catherine Sutton	Maki	63.40%	Yes	Yes
Second	Lynn Childers	Poetic Justis	67.13%	Yes	Yes
	Sarah Denham	Dornbusch	62.79%	No	No
	Barbara Goshom	Belvedere	61.85%	Yes	No
Third	Lynn Childers	Poetic Justis	62.24%	Yes	Yes
	Kathy Campbell	Jump Up	61.44%	No	Yes
	Melyni Worth	Xavoy Middelsom	61.19%	Yes	Yes
	Barbara Goshom	Belvedere	60.72%	Yes	Yes
Fourth	Kim Schmidt	O'Susannah	63.25%	Yes	Yes
	Jan Templeton	Waverley	61.51%	Yes	Yes
Prix St Georges	Ame Hellman	Schuberts Ronaldo	64.88%	Yes	No
	Kim Schmidt	Portobello	64.83%	Yes	Yes
Intermediaire 1	Kim Schmidt	Portobello	64.08%	Yes	Yes
Intermediaire 2	Nancy Lowey	Peter	61.27%	Yes	Yes
	Carter Bass	Gossamer	57.34%	Yes	Yes
Grand Prix	Nancy Lowey	Peter	57.01%	Yes	Yes

Members of the Month – Miranda Ottewell-Swartz & Krister Swartz

When did you become a member of VADA Charlottesville?

Miranda: It must have been around the time our son, Tor, was born, in early 2005—I remember carrying him to meetings. It took us that long to even look up and get involved, with all work it took to get the farm going.

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

Krister: We moved here in 2003. We had been living in New York City, in Red Hook, an isolated section of waterfront Brooklyn, where we were renovating a building that we bought as a shell. We loved our atmospheric neighborhood, but at some point we realized we were spending most of our time attempting to garden on a rooftop and battling traffic on the Belt Parkway so we could ride at a stable near JFK Airport. That seemed silly, and since Red Hook was becoming a trendy place to live, selling our share of the building gave us enough to buy a farm. We had always wanted land in Virginia. At first we looked up on the Blue Ridge, as Miranda had a fondness for Floyd County, but the area around Charlottesville seemed to have everything we were looking for, and we fell in love with our farm—we called it Manor Minor because it’s a little house that thinks it’s grand—at first sight.

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

Miranda rode more as a child and teenager, playing around, doing some eventing, and riding green and problem horses for other people, but

we both think of our time in New York and Portugal as when we really began to ride seriously, with a deeper understanding. In particular a trip to Portugal, where we trained with Francisco de Braganca, was a defining moment for us. Even though we’ve found ourselves working with a number of Baroque-type horses, and appreciate the slightly different approach they sometimes need, we don’t consider ourselves in the French or Iberian classical camp. However, we might define ourselves more as classical German, with emphasis on the training scale and an avoidance of fads or shortcuts.

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?

Miranda: When Krister and I first met in Georgia, Krister’s imagination was caught by a chance encounter with a Percheron breeder. Krister then tried to convince me to start a business training horses to drive. This sounded like a good way to make a private passion into a source of stress, and it became one of the conflicts that led to us drifting apart. When we met again ten years later (in a chance encounter in a Lower East Side bar in New York!) I was a freelance copyeditor and Krister was, among other things, a freelance translator—both jobs that were easy to take with us to Virginia and that harmonize well with our horse work. We’ve been gradually evolving our training business alongside our freelance work ever since. Since our “house blend”—although primarily Trakehner/Thoroughbred—includes a dash of Percheron, it looks like Krister won the argument in the end!

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

Without a doubt, that would be the accomplishment of our young horse Absalom, who we bred, raised, started, and trained ourselves, and

who with Krister was overall high score champion of the 2008 VADAF and VADA-CH Twin Shows in September, with nearly 72% in Training 2—a perfect gentleman at the show grounds despite his inexperience. We had only started Sol under saddle in April, since he was slow to mature, and this was only his second time ever off the farm, his first recognized show, and his first time showing training level. We are also very proud of Sol’s older half-brother Crooner (After Six), also trained by us, and sold to Liz Erwin in Maryland—they received the fantastic score of 83.5% for their First Level pas de deux this fall! In general, we have been very happy with all the matches we’ve made for the horses we’ve sold, and we’ve had a lot of good news from owners this year.

What are your ambitions in the sport?

Krister: I’ve been working toward USDF instructor certification, and have been to several of the workshops, and I’m also interested in the L program. This coming year I’m hoping to compete Absalom, and see how far up we can go before he gets sold, and I’ll be bringing his half sister out in competition as well. We haven’t been very focused on competition until recently, mostly because the combination of a young son and the work of developing the farm and the young horses made it a little difficult to get away.

Miranda: I’m excited about a couple of young horses I’m working with—a very talented three-year-old we bred but sold very early and have been training for his owner, and Absalom’s younger full sister Abseil, just being started now—she came out smaller and is going to be a sporty compact edition, so I get to hold on to her a while since she’s a bit small for Krister! I love the early stages of training, when it seems like there’s huge progress every day, and I’d like to keep developing my skills with young horses, but my big ambition

this year is to find a Manor Minor schoolmaster, both to balance out my own riding and to allow Krister's students to experience the feel of a highly trained horse.

Both of us dream of making the barn at Manor Minor a convivial place, a good place to train but also a pleasant place to hang out—we're working on a patio and arbor overlooking the arena where onlookers can sit with a drink, and on gardens around the barn. We're hoping to shift our emphasis a little away from our own young horses, as they grow up and are sold; we'd like to have a balanced barn, with a few young horses in training and a few boarders who'd like to have regular lessons and perhaps participate in clinics every now and then.

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

After years focused solely on developing the farm and developing our young horses, we feel that it's time we got a little more connected to the horse community around us. Now that we're getting a little more competition-minded, it will be fun to work toward chapter year-end awards next year as well!

Krister hopes to be able to give back to the people in VADA-CH by continuing to scribe, and by going through the L and instructor certification programs. We'd both like to offer a friendly, un-snobbish place to board and train, and we hope to start offering clinics again this year.

VADA Year End Awards Banquet Sunday, Feb 8th

The VADA Year End Awards Banquet is scheduled to take **place Sunday, February 9th, 2009 at the Doubletree Hotel on Route 29N in Charlottesville.** A reception will start at 11am followed by a sit-down lunch. This year we are again requesting our chapter members to donate items for the silent auction, which will not only raise money for VADA but also give the donor a chance to have a marketing presence at the event.

Silent Auction Donation Items Needed

Jan Templeton is the designated "drop off" person for those who have donations and cannot join us at the banquet. The form that should accompany each donation is available on www.viriniadressage.org. Each donor should download and complete the form as appropriate and bring it with their donation.

Please contact Jan to arrange to drop off your donation on 540.948.6629 or by emailing her on streatorhill@attglobal.net.

Purple Book Cover to be Auctioned

There will not be a stallion auction this year but if you are considering donating an item that would be best promoted prior to the event, please contact Alison Douglas at adouglas@fasmart.com or (804) 339-7495.

As in past years, the cover of the Purple Book will be auctioned off and could immortalize you and your horse forever....

2008 Board

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State Representatives

Tina Longaker

Vadviraq8@gmail.com

Cindy Aspden
Sara Kern

Fall Schooling Show Results

COMBINED TEST - BABY GREEN (USDF Intro Test B)

Bridle #	Horse	Rider	JR	Points	Place
336	Bit of Fame	Sonia Johnson		22.5	1
390	Mighty Himself	Eileen Kenney		30	2
389	The Full Monty	Kristen Popolaukis		36	3
296	Lil Ricky	April Reedy		34.5	4
311	Freezer	Debbie Eldridge		44.5	5
388	Doc Holiday	Paula Campbell McConnell		41	6
293	Radical Miss	Jill Fagan		32.5	eliminated
397	Hershey	Nancy Jonson		40	scratch

COMBINED TEST - USEA BEGINNER NOVICE - TEST B

Bridle #	Horse	Rider	JR	Points	Place
398	Always A Fox	Anne Schmid		32	1
291	Royal Lad	Nancy Rowe Chasen	JR	35	2
299	Stirling Castle	Beth Marcinko		39	3
383	Red Gold	Lynn Llewellyn		40.5	4
298	Ticket to Ride	Pat Albertson		44.5	5
391	Cartoon Character	Emese Nemeth		47	6
393	Sugar Ray	Hope Reichel		50	
392	Flash	Sandi Nelson		51	
295	Tempest	Jill Fagan		50.5	

COMBINED TEST - NOVICE - TEST B

Bridle #	Horse	Rider	JR	Points	Place
399	Redefined	Lilly Wardell		35.27	1
396	Monopoly	Jennifer Cardoza		52.87	2

USEA BEGINNER NOVICE TEST A (no jump division)

Bridle #	Horse	Rider	JR	Points	Place
295	Tempest	Jill Fagan		30	1

COMBINED TEST - USEA TRAINING TEST B

Bridle #	Horse	Rider	JR	Points	Place
294	Traveller	Jill Fagan		44	1

COMBINED TEST - TADPOLE (USDF Intro A)

Bridle #	Horse	Rider	JR	Points	Place
394	Bluebird Hill's Ellie Mae	Nellie Delaney	JR	<u>26</u>	<u>1</u>
373	Aurelia	Eliza Temeles		<u>30.5</u>	<u>2</u>
374	Faith and Chocolate	Emily Glisson	JR	<u>3.5</u>	<u>3</u>
290	Red October	Alexandra Brenin		<u>36.5</u>	<u>4</u>
386	Charmsley Skye Blue	Katherine Delaney	JR	<u>62</u>	<u>5</u>
320	Razzle	Kathryn Poos	JR	<u>0</u>	<u>elim</u>
385	Mr. MacGregor	Kate Sommers	JR	<u>0</u>	<u>elim</u>

USDF INTRODUCTORY TEST A

Bridle #	Horse	Rider	JR	Score	Place
302	Moonshadow	Sarah Mauro	JR	<u>57.00%</u>	<u>1</u>
394	Salvondi's Flight Home	Olivia Notman	JR	<u>0</u>	<u>elim</u>
300	Ransom	Kim Mauro		<u>0</u>	<u>elim</u>

THIRD LEVEL - TEST 1

Bridle #	Horse	Rider	JR	Score	Place
297	Lars	Sarah Kerns	JR	<u>62.05%</u>	<u>1</u>

USDF INTRODUCTORY TEST B

Bridle #	Horse	Rider	JR	Score	Place
302	Moonshadow	Sarah Mauro	JR	<u>57.50%</u>	<u>1</u>
394	Salvondi's Flight Home	Olivia Notman	JR	<u>53.50%</u>	<u>2</u>
387	Hershey	Kathy Potter		<u>0.00%</u>	<u>scratch</u>

TRAINING LEVEL - TEST 3

Bridle #	Horse	Rider	JR	Score	Place
289	AF Rebel Leader	Sherry Booye		<u>63.20%</u>	<u>1</u>
374	Faith and Chocolate	Emily Glisson	JR	<u>57.60%</u>	<u>2</u>

FIRST LEVEL - TEST 1

Bridle #	Horse	Rider	JR	Score	Place
363	Fiji	Tamara Showalter		<u>58.33%</u>	<u>1</u>

TRAINING LEVEL - TEST 1						
Bridle #	Horse	Rider	JR	Score	Place	
292	Incanto	Sarah Denham		<u>68.10%</u>	<u>1</u>	
364	Roly	Caroline Strohman	JR	<u>57.39%</u>	<u>2</u>	
SECOND LEVEL - TEST 3						
Bridle #	Horse	Rider	JR	Score	Place	
400	Belvedere	Barbara Goshorn		<u>64.42%</u>	<u>1</u>	
FIRST LEVEL - TEST 3						
Bridle #	Horse	Rider	JR	Score	Place	
369	Maki	Catherine Sutton		<u>62.00%</u>	<u>1</u>	
FIRST LEVEL - TEST 2						
Bridle #	Horse	Rider	JR	Score	Place	
363	Fiji	Tamara Showalter		<u>61.67%</u>	<u>1</u>	
351	Oscar	Jennifer Sheltra		<u>59.44%</u>	<u>2</u>	
289	AF Rebel Leader	Sherri Booye		<u>58.89%</u>	<u>3</u>	
TRAINING LEVEL - TEST 2						
Bridle #	Horse	Rider	JR	Points	Score	
292	Incanto	Sarah Denham		<u>69.29%</u>	<u>1</u>	
373	Aurelia	Eliza Temeles		<u>66.79%</u>	<u>2</u>	
350	Payanna	April Reedy		<u>62.86%</u>	<u>3</u>	
	Roly	Caroline Strohman	JR	<u>57.14%</u>	<u>4</u>	
FIRST LEVEL - TEST 4						
Bridle #	Horse	Rider	JR	Points	Score	
369	Maki	Catherine Sutton		<u>62.89%</u>	<u>1</u>	
351	Oscar	Jennifer Sheltra		<u>61.32%</u>	<u>2</u>	
289	AF Rebel Leader	Sherri Booye		<u>50.26%</u>	<u>3</u>	

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 a prelude to
**"Awakening the Relationship between You
 and Your Horse"**

January 25, 2009 from 2-4 PM
**Morven Park Intl Equestrian Center,
 Leesburg VA**

This Demo Seminar will incorporate the use of the latest
 state-of-the-art technology to provide immediate visual
 feedback to the rider on their performance. Attendees will
 have the opportunity to experience the next evolution in
 dressage instruction and learning. This Demo Seminar will
 be followed by a series of clinics at Morven Park open to you
 and your horse starting the 21st of February.

**Make 2009 the year you break through your glass
 ceiling. Please contact Wendy Murdoch at
wendy@wendymurdoch.com or On 540-675-2285 for
 additional information and/or confirm your
 attendance at \$20 per person.**

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



Virginia Dressage Association – Charlottesville Chapter

Monthly Meeting Location

VINNY'S

*In the Target Shopping Center across from Forest Lakes,
Charlottesville*

7 pm on Tuesday, January 13th