



May 2009
Volume 21, Issue 5

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Virginia Dressage Association, Inc.
Charlottesville Chapter

EXTENSIONS

President's Message

Hi Everyone,

Finally better weather is here...spring has seemed much later this year than normal! However, it does seem to have arrived finally. All our activities are beginning to get going; we have had the first licensed show of the season for this region at Morven Park, and it was great to see such a high turnout of VADA-CH folks up there competing.

Congratulations to Nancy Lowey and Carter Bass for moving up to Grand Prix and getting their scores to enable them to progress their judging careers! Both Nancy and Carter trained their horses up from the lower levels themselves so this achievement is even more impressive. Way to go ladies!!!

I received an email from a lady who was moving to the Charlottesville area and wanted to know if we have any FEI level trainers and riders in our area. In response, I wrote down a list of all the people in the Cville area who have or do compete at FEI level and was struck by how many we have. Even taking into account people who live in our area but who are not members of VADA-CH, It occurred to me that we do seem to have an extraordinarily high number of FEI level riders. I counted 16 and I am sure I have missed someone! 16 people out of a membership of 104, that's 16% of our membership are riding or have ridden FEI. I think that that is unprecedented for any dressage club in the country- I need to check into it to see if any club has a higher percentage than ours.. It does go to show the strength and depth of the riding within our small chapter.

At the Chapter Board meeting we discussed the activities for the summer. It was suggested that we have a pool party and pot luck at Sherri's house in the hot days of August, which I think is a super idea (many thanks Sherri. We also need ideas and input for the 'Evenings with' so if you have an idea of a good subject for us to hear about and who to present it please let me know.

Here's looking forward to a fun show season. Enjoy your riding and I do hope to see you at some of our Chapter events.

Yours truly,

Melyni

Upcoming Events

May 13
 7pm, Topeka's Steakhouse
 Rt. 250 Pantops,
VADA-CH Monthly Meeting
 All members are welcome!

May 16 & 17
PVDA Dressage Morven Park
 Leesburg, VA
Licensed Dressage Show
www.morvenpark.org

May 17
 Chestnut Oak Stable
 Doswell, VA
Dressage Schooling Show
www.chestnutoak.net

May 17
 Touch Point Farm
 Culpepper, VA
VADA-F Schooling Show
www.vadaf.org

May 23
VADA-SW Dressage Show
 Carlton Farms
 Salem, VA
Licensed Dressage Show
www.swvada.org

May 29th – 31st
VAHA Arab/Half-Arab Sport Horse Show with Dressage
 Culpepper, VA
 Commonwealth Park

April Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Gardy Bloemers

Attendees: Melyni Worth, Sherri Booye, Gardy Bloemers, Sarah Kern, Katherine Kern, Debra Bliensner, Lauren Forrestell and Amy Gadsden.

The April Board meeting was held April 14th, 2009 at Topeka's on 250 East in Charlottesville beginning at 7:00p.m.

The March meeting minutes were taken as read from the March 09 Newsletter.

Sherri reported that we currently have \$6,157.24 in our Bank of America checking account and \$244.51 in our Wachovia checking account. We owe \$1,200 in scholarship money for scholarships granted for 2009 and so our net balance is \$5,201.00.

VADA-CH had 106 members as of today's date.

Sherri raised the issue regarding Newsletter cost for those who would like to receive mailed copies. Using the current mailing service the monthly cost is a whopping \$5.21 per person. Sherri will explore the possibility of having Tina Longaker print and mail the hard copies to those members who wish to receive them as an alternative to the service we are currently using.

Gardy reported that we currently have 10 rides booked for the Nicky Vogel clinic scheduled for April 26th at Toad Hollow.

Various members raised their concerns about the possibility of having limited entries at the Schooling Show also scheduled at Toad Hollow. Apparently there are a number of potential conflicts with this show date. However, no further action will be taken at this time to mitigate this possibility.

Deb suggested she would like to arrange a bake sale to raise money for the Adult

Team Competition for the various teams. Currently there is one Training Level Team in place now. Gardy mentioned that Tractor Works offered to assist with setting up the rings and she will refer the contact person to Catherine Sutton.

Regarding Sponsorship & Advertising for the Adult Team Competition, Gardy will contact Alison Head to explore including this in her newsletter.

According to those that attended, the Anne Gribbons Clinic was awesome and wonderful.

As Tina was not present, she will report on State Board Meeting at our next meeting.

Melyni raised the fact that we need to start putting together our "Evenings with," We need to schedule something as this is an attractive offering in our chapter, and one of the drivers of membership. The following subjects were suggested as appropriate:

- Land Preservation and Conservation
- Pastures and Grasses
- Judge's Panel – Moving Up versus just Getting Scores (Elizabeth Lewis, Carter Bass, Nancy Lowey were suggested as judges with a Toad Hollow venue because of their classroom).

Typically "Evenings With" are held on the same nights as our monthly meetings. We concluded that June 9th might be a suitable evening for such an event..

The evening was concluded with a discussion on show venues. There was some concern expressed about the soccer fields planned adjacent to the dressage arenas at Morven Park. Apparently Morven Park's future is not certain and there is a risk that the trustees will need to find a different use for the land. Gardy will contact Shannon Pedlar and obtain information for inclusion in one of our upcoming newsletters.

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 VADACH 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://sponsorusdfadultteamreg1.wordpress.com/>.

2009 SCHOOLING SHOWS

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 - *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.

Horse for Sale - *CCS Chakotay*, grey gelding DOB 08/06. Sire African Dreams (Hol) dam; Annie (grade mare). Big moving, quality youngster, just started under saddle and beginning training. Should mature to 16hh plus. Very athletic. Super willing mind. Looking for a good kid to be his partner! Offers to Melyni Worth at 540-294-3003 or Melyni@ntelos.net.

Horse for Sale - *Sheela von Nordstern*, Knabstrupper filly, DOB 04/05, 15.2h. VERY loudly marked filly, super mover. Needs smaller but ambitious rider. Has the great Knabstrupper mind and work ethic. Offers to good loving home. Possible lease to the right rider. Contact Melyni Worth at 540-294-3003 or Melyni@ntelos.net.

Young Horses for Sale - Selection of nicely bred young warmbloods all well fed and properly raised including weanlings, yearlings up to 2 yr olds. Contact Melyni Worth on 540-294-3003 or on Melyni@ntelos.net.

Exceptional Mare For Sale - *Esculira*, 16.3h imported elite-eligible Hanoverian mare by Escudo I, "Echo" is showing Second Level with average scores of 67% (up to 70%). She is schooling and ready to show Third Level. Her show career began late last

summer, with one show at First Level, average score over 69%. Her gaits are expressive, consistently scoring 8's, and although her movement is big, she is lovely to sit. She was previously with an FEI trainer for seven months, doing 4 and 3 tempis, passage and piaffe in hand. Echo has the talent and training background to move up the levels readily. She has a super work ethic and tries really hard for the rider. She is sensitive to light aids, and is quite pleasantly forward. She is quiet and friendly around the barn, easy to handle. Always in the top two ribbons, she would be a good match for the ambitious rider. Priced at \$35K. Contact Amy Gadsden on 540 672-6390 (H), 434 974-2268 (W), Amy.Gadsden@sperry.ngc.com

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. \$2,300 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.

Breeches for Sale - Gorgeous pair of pre-owned Size 30 Arista w/ high waist, glen plaid with black full leather seat, excellent condition -- no visible wear anywhere. 47% cotton, 47% nylon, 6% lycra. Summer/ warmer weather weight. Should wear like iron and still look fabulous. One front zipper & pocket. Price - \$110 including postage.

Breeches for Sale – Plus Arista Size 28 Tall. Sharp, light gray with blue piping down the leg. These are brand new, mid-rise, 90% cotton, 10% lycra, full leather seat and somewhat heavier weight than the plaid ones. Tag is marked \$319.95. Sell for \$130 including postage. Lauren 540-672-7177 or spyderlake@verizon.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.

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

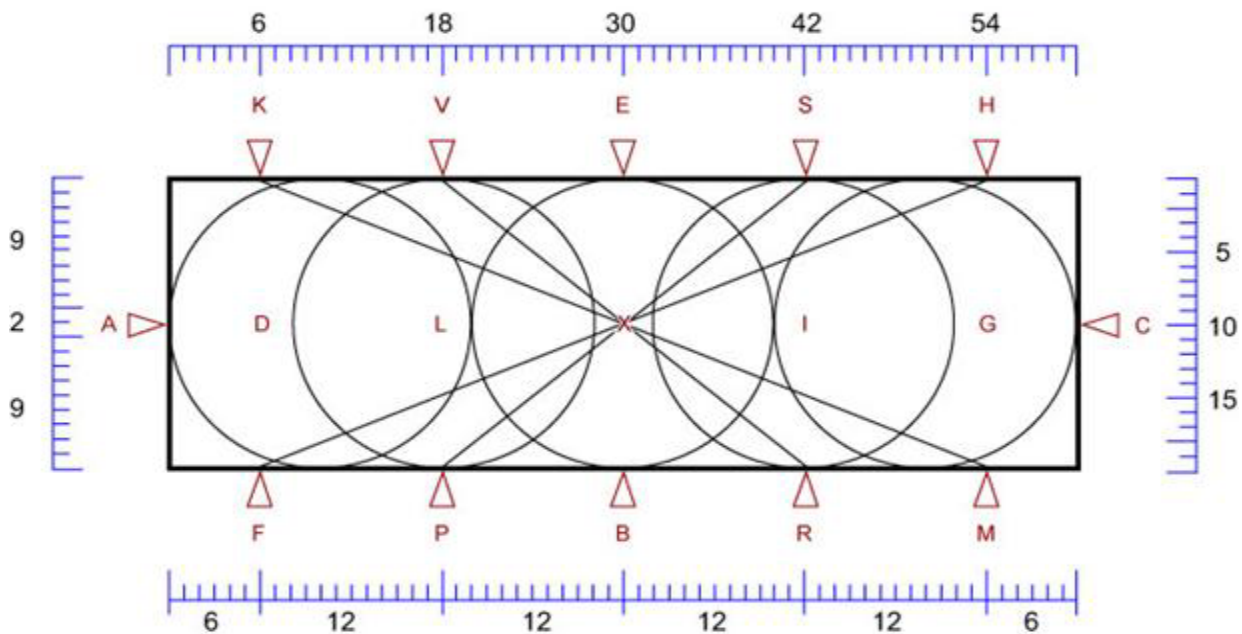
VADA-CH Members can run classifieds and business card ads free of charge. These will run for 2 months and then must be renewed.

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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2009 Year End Award Standings

Please find the award standings as of the 20th of April 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	Sarah Kern	Rubio	69.64%	No	No
	Molly Armentrout	Commander in Chief	67.60%	No	No
First	Calla Bell	Esculira	67.63%	No	No
	Elizabeth Gathright	Maki	61.66%	No	Yes
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	Sarah Kern	Rubio	68.27%	No	No
	April Reedy	Payana	63.50%	No	No
First					
Second	Calla Bell	Esculira	66.65%	No	No
Third					
Fourth	Melyni Worth	Xavoy	58.11%	Yes	No
Prix St Georges	Ame Hellman	Schuberts Ronaldo	64.54%	No	No
	Kim Schmidt	O'Susannah	59.87%	No	No
Intermediaire 1	Ame Hellman	Schuberts Ronaldo	63.95%	No	No
	Kim Schmidt	Portobello	60.72%	No	No
Intermediaire 2	Carter Bass	Gossamer	60.79%	No	No
Grand Prix	Carter Bass	Gossamer	60.91%	No	No
Freestyle, USDF					
Freestyle, FEI					

Member of the Month – Nancy Lowey

When did you become a member of VADA Charlottesville?

Nancy: I became a member of VADA-CH shortly after moving to the Orange, VA area from upstate New York. That year was 1994. After a few years I became a State VADA Rep for the Charlottesville Chapter. I very much enjoyed my job in that capacity. After this experience as a rep, I served 3 years as the VADA State President, which was not a “new” role for me as I had organized and started a GMO in the New York area called the Orange County Dressage Association back in the 1980's and was President of that organization for 6 years. We brought dressage into an area that was very void of any dressage training at that time. By the time I moved in 1993, the club and dressage was flourishing and continues to do so presently.

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

Nancy: I moved to Virginia in 1993 to be closer to my father who was gravely ill and living in the Orange area. My twin sister and I both moved down with our families to be closer to someone who meant so much to us. My sister and I had lived apart in NY by some 7 hours - after moving we are but a few minutes apart as we live on the same farm. My father past away the next year and we stayed in Virginia. Was I surprised by the hot and humid summers!

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

Nancy: I started riding for a short time as a teenager. After a fall at the

canter I chickened out and quit but at 23 I challenged myself again and bought a horse. I fell off 7 times in the first year (he was a bolter!) but something kept getting me back up on him. I never quit again and have ridden almost daily since that time. After marrying and moving to upstate New York I met a crowd of folks that were into Eventing. So I became interested in that sport and before long was taking dressage lessons and of course jumping and X-country lessons as well. I loved the total sport! I bought another wonderful horse more suitable to eventing -he just loved it! Together we spent many years eventing, trail riding and fox hunting (all great loves of mine). He may have been the kindest and fairest horse I have ever owned and ridden. My first 2 horses stayed with me until they passed.

Over time I became a Mom (another great role- maybe my greatest!) and so the time for conditioning, etc. became limited for eventing and my interest was narrowed down to another aspect of riding - dressage. Since then, even with motherhood, I have spent the past many years studying and training to be the best I can be. My son became a Pony Clubber and I became a Pony Club DC. We had many wonderful experiences together as a family through those years.

I have had many horses in my horse career and the one I presently ride has worked hard and is currently mastering the Grand Prix level. I started him as a 3 1/2 year old and took some time to trail ride and fox hunt him first.

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?

Nancy: At 23 when I was becoming re-introduced to horses again I was a flight attendant for an international airline. I moved up the ladder to

Flight Attendant Instructor and Supervisor so I commuted to JFK Airport daily. I would leave the farm at 7am and arrive home at 7pm climbing on board my horse after getting home. I was in a fairly tired state. I realized 2 things; getting home so late was not conducive to happy riding and I was given the gift and love for teaching (while training flight attendants I discovered this). I went back to school and completed my degree in teaching/education. I now hold 2 Master degrees in the field of education. Now I work as a school librarian in a local high school after many years as a Special Education teacher.

I also realized I love the discipline of dressage and teaching it, as well. It has been a pleasure to develop my skills as a dressage rider and transform it into dressage teacher/coach, dressage judge and dressage Technical Delegate. I have also had ample experience in organizing dressage shows and clinics over the years. I have organized multiple licensed dressage shows in the NY, NJ and VA area since the 1980's.

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

Nancy: My greatest achievement overall, I believe, is my ability to support and encourage others in our sport through my judging, coaching and Technical Delegate work.

In the last year my goal has been to bring my horse, Peter, to the Grand Prix level. It has been a difficult and strenuous journey for both of us but he may be beginning to understand this level of training and in time be more of a solid Grand Prix horse. This would be my greatest achievement in the last year.

I am grateful to those helping me on this journey.

What are your ambitions in the sport?

Nancy: My ambition in the sport is to stay with it- in many capacities- coaching, judging, competing and supporting our chapter in its mission to educate and inspire others to join us in our passionate pursuit.

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

Nancy: Camaraderie, good sport and sportsmanship is what I hope to find and get from VADA-CH. I can contribute my time and expertise in the field of dressage as well as my organizational abilities to our chapter and its members. I have supported VADA-CH in many capacities over the years and will continue to do so. We have a wonderful group of dedicated people who love the sport and continue to contribute to the club's efforts. We are open and generous in sharing our passion with all who will join us.



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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>

Nicky Vogel Fix-a-Test Report

After much active recruiting by Catherine Sutton, Renee Shifflett and me, a successful day of fix-a-tests with "R" Judge Nicky Vogel was held on Sunday April 26th at Toad Hollow in White Hall. We had a total of 11 thirty minute rides and one rider booked 2 thirty minute sessions.

The first ride started at 8.30 when the day was still relatively cool. We made sure to keep all of the riders well hydrated as the temperatures soared!! Our first two young riders were sisters, Jordan and Jessie Meeks, both students of Renee's who moved to this area and learned to ride dressage in the Netherlands. I'm hoping they will join our club!! These rides were then followed by Kathy Campbell, Deb Bliesner and Kate Samuels who used the event to prepare her horse Nyls du Teroir for her dressage test at the Jersey Fresh CCI**.

Amanda Lane rode next followed by Karen Lewis on her horse Indiana. Sharon Ackley from VADA-Fredericksburg also jointed the fix-a-test. Karen Lewis rode again, but this time was on her horse Cordobes. She was followed by Kim Aust and then I rode just in time to ride my test in rain, thunder and lightning.

All riders were asked to ride their test first, and then Nicky shared the results with the rider. They then worked on improving specific parts of the test and each rider was given their test sheet to take home with them.

One of the day's riders commented, "I had a lot of fun and got some great feedback." Nicky Vogel did a

fabulous job and we were lucky to have her spend the day with us.

I'd like to take this opportunity to express a big thank you to Anne Sutherland and Renee Shifflett for the set up of the ring and for hosting the event at their wonderful facility. In addition, both Renee and Anne were able to support me throughout the day to make sure the event ran smoothly.

We are lucky to have such generous members in our club!



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Virginia Dressage Association – Charlottesville Chapter

Monthly Meeting Location

TOPEKA'S STEAKHOUSE

*Located on Rt.250, Pantops in front of the new Martha
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7 pm on Wednesday, May 13th, 2009