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Virginia Dressage Association, Inc. –  
Charlottesville Chapter

# EXTENSIONS

## President's Message

Greetings everyone from the WEG!

It's so amazing to be here and it has been even more amazing to see how many dressage fans are filling up the stadium. Going from our shows to this show is certainly a big change but it is exciting to be part of a world-class equine event on our home turf.

As you all know we've got our schooling show at Grayson Farm scheduled on Saturday the 9th of October. We're hoping for some great attendance as we've had in the past given that this is both a Dressage and Combined Training Show. Celia Rafalko will surely welcome any more volunteers, so please contact her if you'd like to come and help (crafalko@gmail.com).

We will soon be electing our 2011 Board so if you are interested in being considered for election, please put yourself forward. Or, if you are curious and would like to know more about a specific role and responsibilities, please get in touch with me.

Due to a number of show scheduling conflicts, we've had to move our VADA-CH licensed show to the weekend of April 30th and May 1s, 2011 at Commonwealth Park in Culpeper. We will hold two separate shows, one on Saturday and one on Sunday, which will enable competitors to have the chance to get their qualifying scores early. We are actively searching for a Volunteer Coordinator for this show, and would love to hear from you if you're interested.

I hope you and your horses are enjoying the cooler weather!

Gardy

Mark your calendar for the

## LAST SHOW in the 2010 VADA-CH Schooling Show Series!

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**October 9 – Grayson Farm**

Bring a young horse, prepare for licensed shows, or come just to have fun! All scores count towards VADA-CH year-end awards. Please also consider volunteering. We still need help at all shows.


**For entry forms and updated prize lists, see [www.vadach.org](http://www.vadach.org)**



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# VADA-CH September Board Meeting Minutes

*Submitted by Ame Hellman*

Attending: Celia Rafalko, Jeanie Burnett, Melyni Worth, Sherri Booye, Jan Templeton, Catherine Kern, Ame Hellman, Gardy Bloemers, Nancy Lowey, Bettina Longaker.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm and August Board minutes were approved by those in attendance.

### Meeting Protocol

After the last meeting, Gardy went home with a headache due to people talking over each other—loudly. This has become a problem that she feels that we need to address. Basic rule: Do not talk over other people. Rule #2, let's follow the meeting agenda and try to stay focused on the issues at hand. Everyone agreed that this was an important issue and one that should be respected.

### Membership/Treasurer's Update

Sherri Booye's treasurer's report reflected that the chapter remains at 105 members; down from 118 as of last year this time. NOVA is down as well and this is apparently due to the poor economy. As of today, we have \$10,290 in the checking account. We still owe some money from the show expenses, but not much. We did not make very much money on the tack sale – \$47.00. Total profit made on the show is approximately \$2,300—again not a whole lot considering the work that went into it.

### 2010/2011 Recognized Show

Discussion ensued around whether we should have a show—or not—in the future, and what the purpose of the show might be. The Horse Center has noted that current research is reflecting that exhibitors are trending towards larger show sizes and venues. Our show did not draw as many people as we had hoped and the numbers would have been even worse had it not been for the Adult team challenge. There were many complaints about the venue but Culpepper is a place that many of the chapter members love and want to go back to. Melyni prefers the smaller shows. Others pointed out that they would rather go to a nicer, larger facility. People are being much more selective about where and when they are showing—largely due to the downturn in the economy and this topic is definitely an important one to keep in mind as we move forward.

The other big issue that the group discussed is the work that it takes to pull off a show. Gardy also raised the issue of how hard a

## Upcoming Events

### October 9

VADA-CH Schooling Dressage Show and CT  
Grayson Farm  
Scottsville, VA

### October 9 - 10

Dressage at Carolina Horse Park Licensed Show  
Raeford, NC

### October 10

VADA-CC Dressage Schooling Show  
Doswell, VA

### October 16

VHT CT and Dressage Schooling Show at Sunrise  
Lexington, VA

### October 21 - 24

VADA Fall Licensed Show  
Lexington, VA

### October 30

CDCTA CT and Schooling Show at Sandstone Farm

### November 7

VHT Horse Trials, Combined Test and Dressage Schooling Show at Cedar Creek  
Staunton, VA

### November 11 - 14

Great American/USDF Region 1 Dressage Championships and NCDCTA Harvest Moon Dressage Licensed Show  
Williamston, NC

### November 13 - 14

VADA/NOVA Licensed Dressage Show  
Morven Park, Leesburg, VA

### November 15

Dressage Schooling Show at Chestnut Oaks  
Doswell, VA

### November 27

CDCTA Dressage Championship

## VADA-CH September Board Meeting Minutes, con't...

“few” people worked for this show. Many didn’t show up, and didn’t honor their volunteer commitments to Nancy. We don’t have the volunteer force as a larger chapter does (NOVA)—and people did not step up as they should have. 25-50 people a half day are needed (4 per ring) and one scorer per ring—clearly a lot for our small chapter.

In addition to these general concerns related to next year’s show, Bettina is quite worried about the dates that were previously selected. May is a terrible month to have the show—2 central Virginia shows are the same weekend and the following weekend (CDCTA and Central chapter is at Morven Park). Plus, Pinehurst is that weekend, a show that some of our chapter members attend. We are currently signed up for May 7th and 8th. The group is highly recommending that we move the date. April 30th and May 1st may be a better date.

A motion was made by Gardy and seconded by Sherri to have Tina try to move the show to the weekend of the 30th. A unanimous vote to move the show to April 30th and May 1st occurred. A motion was made to have one two day licensed show as opposed to two one day licensed shows. The motion passed unanimously.

### Lynn Childer’s Charity Contribution

The chapter was able to make a donation of \$685.00 and another anonymous donor came in at \$450.00 to the Charlottesville Canine Foundation. Next year we should decide on another charitable organization that has a connection to animals, preferably horses. Celia will contact Erin Sweeney for ideas on this topic.

### Arenas

Continue to be a problem. Catherine Sutton has lost the trailer that we were borrowing (electricity went out on the trailer.) VADA is paying \$150 per ring and \$150 for set up. Catherine will be paid for this show arena set up as well. Group would like to pay Catherine a little bit more due to the trailer problem. We agreed unanimously to pay her \$200 for the trailer repair. Sherri is ready to buy an arena, or two (with proceeds from the Ali Brock clinic and show revenue). Total price is approximately \$2800, with letters. Sherri will let us know the final costs and we will decide whether we need one or two rings.

### October Schooling Show

Need volunteers and ring crew for dressage arena and jumps. Things are going well—Celia and Kim are on top of it. Date is October 9; closing date October 2. Marketing the show is best though the newsletter, email blast, flyers in tack shops, Journal etc.

### Linda Zang Clinic

VADA State clinic is April 22 & 23. Contact Allison Head and plan to submit a video.

### Clinics for next year

“Up through the levels” Carter Bass? Nancy? Erin Sweeney has offered organize another Jeannie McDonald clinic. Lendon Grey? Chris Hickey and Sue Blinks not possible now. Michael Barisone too expensive (\$2000 a day). Discuss at Oct meeting.

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# VADA August Board Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Alison Douglas

Members Present: Alison Douglas (Central), Beth Rippel (SVDA), Tina Longaker (VADA-CH), Shelly King (NOVA), Jane Palmer (ShenVADA), Tracey Smith-Oliver (SWAVDA), Robyn Nunnally (SVDA), Catherine Kern (VADA-CH), Anne Draine (Central/NEVADA), Jessie Ginsburg (NOVA), Alison Head (NOVA), Janet Brown (SWAVDA), Angela Stanaway (VADA-NE), Tammy Hryczaniuk (Fredericksburg). Other members present: Sandy Johnson (SVDA) and Robin Dannels (NOVA)

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm.

### Memberships

Several chapters noted slightly decreased membership from last year. Reminder to chapters that USDF fees are going up in 2011. Special note to licensed show secretaries that the non-member fee goes up to \$25 effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, while the rest of the participating membership and horse registrations go up December 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Chapter News

- Central: They hosted a tour of the regional jail and its horse/prisoner rehabilitation program. They also have a schooling show in October.
- Charlottesville: They have 101 members and will be hosting a clinic with Jeanne McDonald.
- NOVA: The youth team, while a little smaller than last year went well. The sport horse versatility clinic with Linda Hoover was very well received.
- SWAVDA: Their August Fix-a-Test clinic was filled and they will be having an October schooling show.
- Southeast: Their licensed show at Carrollton Farms was full with 105 rides.
- ShenVADA: They are having a freestyle exhibition at the fair the last Saturday in August with approx 12 rides. They are having a bomb proofing clinic September 17<sup>th</sup> and will have a schooling show in October.

### BLM Update

The headphones we wanted are not available. Beth to gather more information for alternatives.

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### **VADA August Board Meeting Minutes, con't...**

#### Treasurer's Report

Combined bank balances are \$104,000. The Financial Committee met at the Youth team and are planning another meeting during the Adult Team. They are choosing a strategy for donation recommendations to the board and are looking into a non-profit group that helps other non-profit groups remain fiscally sound.

Jessie proposed that Chapters start to sponsor special awards at the state level. VADA will still coordinate, but for \$75, the Chapter will subsidize it.

The board voted and it was decided that opportunity classes will be counted as licensed show classes for the 2010 competition year. Chapters are to re-visit the topic and a vote on 2011 will take place before the scores for the year start. Chapters do not necessarily have to follow VADA's decision.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m. Next meeting will be held via teleconference September 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:00.

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# BarnQuest: High Point Farm

Standing on the porch, with the smells from the grill wafting over me now and again, I looked out over several fenced pastures and above and beyond them a wonderful view of the rolling tops of the mountains. Catherine Sutton, owner of High Point farm, had given me directions over the phone. "Its just a little south of Charlottesville. When you get to my driveway, just go straight up to the octagonal house."

For years, Catherine and her husband stayed in the small house on the property while they created the pastures, revitalized the old barn and built their beautiful home. A classic example of what two down-to-earth people with a dream can create given a little time. An attitude also that she has brought to her dressage training and lessons, helping the lower level and beginner dressage rider to establish their basics.

Over at the barn, a wall of pictures tells another story of the years, one of Catherine's journey from her first love of horses, her riding in Germany, and her becoming a certified instructor here through the USDF program. Presently she has only her one horse here in the two-stall barn. Several of the paddocks have run-in sheds equipped with water and electricity. So, she is offering either stall or pasture board.

Nestled to one side of a large grass lawn is the dressage arena. The forest line on two sides give shade during the hot summer months and a cozy calm feeling all year round. The footing is sand, but drains well. There is also a 30 minute trail circle from her place as well as trail blazing for the adventurous.

After dinner, we all sat around their fish pond against one side of the porch, the sun setting over the mountains. It is not a large operation, there is no covered arena, but if you are looking to board your horse in a charming location, good grass pastures, a quiet and relaxing arena area, and all run by a certified instructor to boot, you just might want to take the road a little south of Charlottesville, and up the drive all the way to the octagonal house.

Catherine Sutton, High Point Farm  
434.361.1427  
[highpoint@bpl.coop](mailto:highpoint@bpl.coop)

*Occasionally we will be featuring a public barn that is owned and/or operated by one of our members. If you would like your barn to be featured in a future issue, please contact Krister Swartz, [kswartzhsd@earthlink.net](mailto:kswartzhsd@earthlink.net). Hopefully, all this information will one day become a valuable database on our Web site.*



## For Your Information

**Nominations Due for the 2010 Shel Gafford Award for Excellence in Sportsmanship** Once again we ask VADA members to think about those members who have gone out of their way to help their fellow competitors, their clubs, and the sport of Dressage. If you know someone who embodies the spirit of good sportsmanship, please nominate him or her for the 2010 Shel Gafford Award for Excellence in Sportsmanship. By showcasing and rewarding good sportsmanship, we will encourage that quality in our members, and make Dressage more enjoyable for everyone.

Information about the award is on pages 24 & 25 in the 2010 VADA Purple Book. Nominations should be 200 words long (give or take a couple), and must be submitted no later than October 15, 2010. The slate of nominations will appear in each of the VADA chapter newsletters in November. Each chapter must decide how they will collect their chapter's votes, and then submit their chapter's total votes for each nominee by December 15, 2010. Send nominations by email or snail mail (email is better) to: [Lwest101@aol.com](mailto:Lwest101@aol.com) or Louise West, 29400 Secretariat Road, Ruther Glen, VA 22546-4128. Let's make it clear that VADA values good sportsmanship!

**Notice on VADA Year End Awards** New for 2010, licensed shows are now offering Opportunity Classes. Many of you may wonder what this means for year-end awards. The VADA board has decided that all scores earned at Opportunity Classes will count as licensed show scores for year-end awards. Keep in mind that this may be different from what each VADA chapter does. For VADA year-end awards:

- Intro classes – Count as schooling shows if they are earned at schooling shows or at licensed shows
- All other levels – Scores earned at licensed shows (both open classes and opportunity classes) count as licensed show scores.

If you have any questions, please contact year-end awards chairperson: Robin Dannels, [reigndear01@aol.com](mailto:reigndear01@aol.com), 540-439-0994.

**Take It to the Judge** Send your questions to [kswartzhsd@earthlink.net](mailto:kswartzhsd@earthlink.net). We will return soon with our judge's answers.

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## VADA-CH 2010 Board

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### State Representative

Carter Bass

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### State Representative

Catherine Kern

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### Newsletter

Eliza Temeles

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## Our Members Rock!

Congratulations to Heather Merrill who recently received her First Level Rider Performance Award!

Heather also reports that she and her horse Glenhaven Timka (Monty) have qualified for CBLMSs for both training and first level after receiving a score of 72% for Training 3 and a score of 67% for First 3.

Best of luck to Heather and all our VADA-CH members who have qualified for CBLMs and GAIGs this year!

## Saddle Fit Tip: Saddle Length

Ask yourself... Does your horse have a "4-beat" canter? ....Does your horse have tense back muscles with impaired movement?

Many of us are familiar with the term "short-backed" to describe a horse, but few of us are aware that a horse with a back that appears to be of normal length may actually have a very short saddle-support area. The length of the saddle-support area (the area where the saddle must sit) is what saddle makers and saddle fitters are concerned with, since this will determine how long the panels of this particular horse's saddle must be.

Breeds that commonly have a short saddle-support area are Friesians; Baroque horses such as Andalusians, Lusitanos, PREs, and Lipizzaners; Arabians; and frequently, "modern-type" Warmbloods. One common saddle fitting issue faced by these breeds is that the panels on dressage saddles often are too long for their backs. In order that these horses may develop to their fullest potential, and work willingly, happily and without pain, it is crucial that they have a saddle with panels that are the correct length for them.

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**Saddle Fit Tip: Saddle Length, con't...**

In order to identify your horse's saddle-support area – the area where the saddle must sit – do the following:

1. With a piece of chalk, outline the edge of your horse's shoulder blade (pictures #4 and #5)
2. Locate your horse's last floating rib (picture #3). To do this, find where his hairlines come together in the area of his flank and draw a line straight up to his spine.



The above pictures help demonstrate some of the important aspects of saddle length:

1. A skeletal diagram showing the proper saddle support area with respect to a horse's rib cage.
2. Jochen points to the last supporting rib on a horse with a saddle that fits properly within the boundaries of the saddle support area for this particular horse.
3. The red lines represent the changing directional pattern of hair on the horse's body relative to the last supportive vertebra (notice the panel of the saddle does not extend past this point).
4. The first chalk line represents the front of the scapula (shoulder blade) whereas the second chalk line again represents the last supportive vertebrae.
5. Jochen's left hand is pointing to just behind the shoulder blade where the saddle ideally should be placed and not extend past the last vertebrae outlined.
6. Jochen is drawing "pain lines" from pinched nerves that appear on some horses when they have an ill fitting saddle.

First, the saddle must sit behind the shoulder. But, and particularly at the canter, a saddle that is too long often will get driven forward into the shoulder. As we learned in Tip 5 – Billet Alignment, this can produce a buildup of scar tissue on the scapula, and over time, the scapula may actually be chipped away by the tree points of the saddle.

Second, the saddle cannot extend past the last floating rib. If a saddle is too long for a particular horse, the rear of the panels will extend past the horse's saddle support area. This is extremely uncomfortable for the horse, as it puts pressure on his lumbar region. A horse ridden in a saddle that is too long will often tighten his lower back muscles; in some cases, you can actually see the horse hollow and drop his back in an attempt to get away from the pressure of

**Saddle Fit Tip: Saddle Length, con't...**

the saddle. (For an example of this, watch the video “How to Tell if Your Saddle Hurts Your Horse” on the Schleese Saddlery Service Educational YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/mjpschleese>). He may buck in an effort to get the weight off his lumbar area. Finally, he may have difficulty moving forward into the canter, or may simply be persistently “off” for no readily apparent reason.

*Saddle Fit Tips is courtesy of Schleese Saddlery Service, USDF sponsor. Saddle Length is one of 36 points analyzed in a Schleese Saddle Fit Session. Let our Certified Saddle Fit Technicians educate and assist you with issues you may be facing. [www.schleese.com](http://www.schleese.com) • [info@schleese.com](mailto:info@schleese.com)*

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**VADA-CH Year End Standings**

Results are as of September 25. Don't forget to submit your scores to Amy Gadsden, P.O. Box 111, Rochelle, VA 22738. Questions? Call Amy at 434 974-2268.

<b>Schooling Division</b>					
<i>Level</i>	<i>Rider</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>Avg Score</i>	<i>Vol Rqmt?</i>	<i>All Scores?</i>
Training	Krister Swartz	Ben	72.15%	Yes	No
	Calla Bell	Limmerik	70.22%	Yes	No
	Kim Aust	Posh Rox	64.84%	No	No
	Beth Marcinko	Stirling Castle	63.96%	No	No
First	Heather Merrill	Glenhaven Timka	65.87%	No	No

<b>Licensed Division</b>					
<i>Level</i>	<i>Rider</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>Avg Score</i>	<i>Vol Rqmt?</i>	<i>All Scores?</i>
Training	Anne Aloï	Ronaldo	74.72%	No	Yes
	April Schultz	Halifax Middelsom	67.76%	No	Yes
	Kim Schmidt	Roxann	63.44%	No	No
First	Anne Aloï	Ronaldo	74.00%	No	No
	Eliza Temeles	Aurelia	63.76%	Yes	Yes
	Melyni Worth	Xafaïre Middelsom	61.64%	No	No
Second	Anne Aloï	DeCaprio	69.17%	No	No
	April Schultz	Cita Normark	67.42%	No	Yes
	Martha Mellish	Wiseman	64.52%	No	No
	Krister Swartz	Absalom	62.57%	Yes	No
Third	Anne Aloï	Doc Holliday	69.44%	No	Yes
Prix St Georges	Melyni Worth	Xavoy Middelsom	54.74%	No	Yes
Intermediaire 2	Kim Schmidt	Portobello	60.88%	No	Yes

# - Classifieds -

## HORSES

**Horse for Sale –Cedar Creek Stables offers a selection of nice quality, well started horses including:**

**CCS Tinuvel**, dob 2007, near leopard spotted Knabstrupper mare, 16.0. By Ravaldi out of Imperial Spice XX, big moving powerful filly, with good gaits and a good mind, well started under saddle, and going nicely, ready to show now, should be seen soon at a schooling show near you! Quiet on trails and very sensible.

**Riki Tiki Tavi**, bay filly by Romantic Star, out of Hannah. Full sister to River Dance who sold at the Sport horse auction at DAL in July. A really nice fancy filly who a lot of potential as either a dressage horse or a hunter. She'll be ready to start in the Fall. Buy her now and get her for far less than you would have to pay if you wait until next year!

For more info, contact Melyni on 540-294-3003 or [www.cedarcreekstables.us](http://www.cedarcreekstables.us)

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## HORSES

**3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Level Schoolmaster for Sale:** Liberty is currently being leased and shown by a young rider who will be taking him to Lexington for the BLM's in October but will be available at the end of October for purchase. He has been scoring consistently this season at 1<sup>st</sup> level in the high 60's and received a 65% at 4<sup>th level</sup>, test 1 this spring prior to his lease. Liberty is 18, a DW gelding and a true "schoolmaster". He stands at 17.2 hands, and is a steady and reliable teacher to young and old alike. Priced reasonably at \$10,000 to the perfect home. Videos of Liberty available on my youtube account:

[Amelia.hellman@wwfus.org](mailto:Amelia.hellman@wwfus.org) Password is Ronaldo11. First right to purchase back as well as permanent retirement home if needed here on our farm in Gordonsville, Va. Serious inquiries only, contact Ame Hellman 540.222.1364

## BOARDING

**STREATOR HILL LLC, a private dressage training facility, has one stall available.**

Specializing in helping the lower level dressage rider, the following is available:

- schooling and massage therapy for your horse
- lessons
- indoor arena with mirrors
- outdoor arena
- 20 meter round pen
- individual turnout
- matted stalls with automatic waterers

• personalized feeding plans  
Reduced board in exchange for barn help is a possibility. Located just off Route 29, south of Madison, Streator Hill is 30 minutes north of Charlottesville. Please contact Jan Templeton (540) 948-6629, [streatorhill@hughes.net](mailto:streatorhill@hughes.net), for more information.

## BOARDING

**High Point Farm**, a private dressage training facility has room for one or two horses.

Our facility provides:

- Stall board with turnout
- Pasture board at a reduced fee
- Out door dressage arena
- 50 acres, with trails
- Large airy barn
- Rubber matted stalls
- Hot water wash stall
- Personalized feeding
- Plenty of trailer parking

Dressage lessons are available from a USDF Certified Instructor, I can also help you with schooling your horse. We are located in beautiful Afton just 20 minutes south of Charlottesville. Stall board w/ turnout \$350.00/month  
Pasture board w/ run-in \$300.00/month  
Call Catherine Sutton 434-361-1427 [highpoint@cville.net](mailto:highpoint@cville.net)

## JOBS

**Now Hiring BARN MANAGER**

Part time or full time, Ashanti Farm, Gordonsville. Please call 540-832-9872 after 7 PM.

### ADVERTISING RATES

<b>Full Page</b>	\$15/ issue \$150/ year
<b>½ Page</b>	\$10/ issue \$100/ year
<b>¼ Page</b>	\$7.50/ issue \$75/ year
<b>Business Card</b>	\$5/ issue \$50/ year
<b>Classified</b>	\$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 [edtemeles@gmail.com](mailto:edtemeles@gmail.com) by the 25<sup>th</sup> 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.**

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



Virginia Dressage Association ~ Charlottesville Chapter

## Monthly Meeting Location

*BOARD MEETING*

*Timberwood Grill*

*Route 29 North*

7 pm on Monday, October 11, 2010