

October 2011  
Volume 42 Issue 10

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Virginia Dressage Association, Inc. –  
Charlottesville Chapter

# EXTENSIONS

## President's Message

Hello Members,

I hope you are all enjoying the Fall weather after what was quite a blistering summer. I had the pleasure of going on a nice trail ride this weekend and it was great not to be pestered by all kinds of flies and ticks. Thanks to the rain storms we've had though there was some trail blazing to do, which was a good compliment to arena riding!

Our local competition season is swiftly drawing to a close. The Region 1 BLM's and the GAIG Championships are around the corner. Good luck to everyone who is attending either or both. The BLM's are up in New Jersey this year from the 14<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup> of October and this year's Region 1 Championships are at the Virginia Horse Center from the 20<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October. On behalf of the Horse Center, I'd like to extend a warm invitation to all of our members who are riding in, volunteering at and/or watching the Championships to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> followed by a wine and cheese party to thank VADA for its \$10,000 donation to the Horse Center this year.

It's that time of year to send in your nomination for the Shel Gafford Memorial Award for Excellence in Sportsmanship. As you may remember Sharon Ackley (VADA-F) and I were the lucky recipients of that award in 2010. Please read through the detail about the award in this Chapter and send in your nominations PRIOR TO OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup>!

I wanted to report that all current Board Members for VADA-CH have agreed to put their names on the 2011/2012 Election Ballot. If you'd like to add your name or are very interested to take on some additional responsibilities, please speak up. Now is not the time to be shy and we can always use your enthusiasm and leadership.

This Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, VADA-CH will host a schooling show at Grayson Farm. We look forward to seeing you there!

I'd also like to encourage all of you to attend an educational evening which will be hosted by Linda Sommers at her farm on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm to hear Dr. Julie Bullock will present a fun and enlighten talk on equine dentistry, "Straight from the Horse's Mouth."

**President’s Message, con’t ...**

I’m looking forward to seeing many of you at the GAIGs. As always, any feedback, comments and/or suggestions are welcome. Please send to gardy@gardybloemers.com or give me a call on 434 981 1017.

Best, Gardy

**VADA Board Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, September 14, 2011. Via Teleconference.

Board Members Present: Alison Douglas (Central), Tina Longaker (Charlottesville), Jane Palmer (ShenVADA), Robyn Nunnally (SVDA), Tracey Smith-Oliver (SWAVADA), Jessie Ginsburg (NOVA), Beth Rippel (SVDA), Sherri Booye (Charlottesville), Sandy Johnson (SVDA), Gary Goodale (SWAVDA), Sheli King (NOVA).

Other Members: Dianne Boyd (NOVA)

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. Minutes from the last meeting were read and accepted as submitted.

USDF Annual Meeting

Alison Douglas made a motion that was seconded by Beth Rippel that VADA pay Tina Longaker the \$500 stipend to go the meeting as we had voted last time to send six people. Other reps will be Alison Head, Sheli King, Sandy Johnson and Gardy Bloemers.

Treasurer’s Report

Combined balances in the bank accounts: \$115,113. Jessie will also be ensuring that all the officers are on the signature cards.

Fall Show:

Dianne reported that there has been turnover in personnel at the VHC but it really shouldn’t present a problem for us. We have our 2012 dates. One question will be regarding the storage of our rings.

The Doggie Costumer class will have \$400 in sponsor prizes. Placings will be first thru third and then an additional 5 category winners. There will be a request for donations to support the “Friends of the Homeless Animals” charity.

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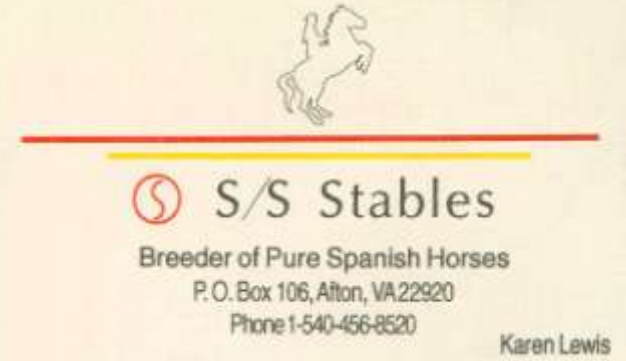
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## Upcoming Events

### October 8

VADA-CH Schooling Show  
 Grayson Farm, Scottsville, VA  
[www.vadach.org](http://www.vadach.org)

### October 14 - 16

Colonel Bengt Ljungquist Memorial Championships  
 and ESDCTA Garden State Classic  
 Horse Park of New Jersey  
[www.cblm.org](http://www.cblm.org)

### October 20 - 23

Great American Insurance Group / USDF Region 1  
 Dressage Championships and VADA Fall Show  
 Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, VA  
[virginiadressage.org](http://virginiadressage.org)

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

The show sponsors would like to use this as an opportunity to have our dogs "help" less fortunate brothers and sisters. The sweatshirts will be purple with a pink/grey/black logo.

### Awards Banquet:

Shenandoah Crossing has been sidelined for a year. There is a concern among the board that if there is bad weather, it'll be very difficult to get to the facility. Alison Douglas will contact The Boar's Head regarding reserving Sunday the 12th of February. Any members with ideas for awards should contact Jessie.

### Adult Team:

Has been cancelled for this year due to low team entries.

### Chapter Updates:

- NOVA: Their licensed show at the 10th and 11th was successful as was the used tack sale they ran at the show.
- Charlottesville: October 8th schooling show that will also have CT/Jumping. Their Nov 15th evening meeting will have a speaker on dentistry.
- ShenVADA: The MFS exhibition at the Shenandoah County Fair on August 28th got rained out by the hurricane. They are having a schooling show Oct 2nd and will be having a membership meeting in November.
- Central: They have a grooming clinic with Molly Sorge-Kirk at Martha Mitchell's farm in Goochland on November 12th. Their October schooling show will be held at the Chesterfield County Fairgrounds on October 8th.
- Southeast: Schooling show in September was full; last one for the year will be October 18th. They will not be having a licensed show next August.
- Southwest: They will be having their Adult Camp and a schooling show in October.
- Fredricksburg: They had a good turnout at their licensed show in September.

The next teleconference will be held on November 2nd at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Alison Douglas

# Hilton Farm Hanoverian Inspection

By Tammi Nagel

On August 15, 2011, I had the pleasure of attending the Hanoverian Inspection at Hilton Farm in Somerset, Virginia. For those of you who aren't aware, Hilton Farm stands several Hanoverian stallions including the Elite Hanoverian stallion Liberty Gold (by Londonderry). Now...in the interest of full disclosure...I must confess: I am a mare owner. I may never breed my mare...but I'm definitely not deaf to the ticking of her "biological clock"! As such, I'm always interested in learning more about different stallions and bloodlines, and ES Liberty Gold is a highly decorated stallion ([www.hiltonfarm.com](http://www.hiltonfarm.com)). Meeting this fine stallion was secretly on my list of wishes for the day.

Generally summarized, the annual Hanoverian inspections, held across the country, provide an opportunity for Hanoverian breeders to present their mares for performance testing and evaluation of breeding quality. Foals are presented for assessment of quality and registration with the American Hanoverian Society (AHS). Branding of the foals typically takes place at the end of the day.

I arrived at the inspection during presentation of the Non-Hanoverian Mares. Three mares were presented in this category and the winner was Linda Sommers' Rhinelander mare named Fila. Fila's sire is Fidermark (LDB Florestan I/Watonga) and her dam is SPS Bonita (Brentano II/SPS Feline).

Of the nine Hanoverian mares inspected, the highest scoring mare was Fontyn, owned by Kate Palmquist. Fontyn's sire is ES Fred Astair (HLP Fabriano/Goldpuppe) and her dam is MS Malena (Maurice/Wonne).

Five mares were performance tested (under saddle and free jumping) and the Mare Performance Test winner was Risque MFM, owned by Marefield Meadows. Risque MFM was ridden by Erin Sweeney. Risque's sire is ES Rienzi (PB Raphael/SPS Bounty) and her dam is EM Kachina (ES Kalypto/EM Guadeloupe).

## Straight from the Horse's Mouth: An Evening with Dr. Julie Bullock, D.M.V

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

You will not believe the things you will find when you get into a horse's mouth: Missing teeth, extra teeth, foreign bodies, injuries, malocclusions, even evidence of performance problems and biting issues.

Veterinary dentistry can shed much LIGHT when it comes to the equine mouth. Find out why "floating" is not the same as veterinary dentistry.

Dr. Bullock will present a fun-filled Powerpoint with many pictures and teeth from actual cases.

This evening will be held at the home of Dr. Linda Sommers, 7pm. RSVP to Melyni Worth [melyni@ntelos.net](mailto:melyni@ntelos.net) no later than November 8.

### **About Dr. Bullock:**

*Julie Bullock, D.V.M. graduated in 1989 from VA MD Regional College Veterinary Medicine. She completed a one year private internship at a Thoroughbred race track practice which included surgical and medical cases. Dr. Bullock has concentrated on equine dentistry (routine and advanced), podiatry, lameness and sports medicine.*

*She is an FEI Veterinarian for Endurance. Dr. Bullock spent 10 years as a team Vet for United States Equestrian Federation for the Endurance Discipline. She was short listed for the 2002 and 2006 WEG. [www.drjuliebullock.com](http://www.drjuliebullock.com)*

### Hilton Farm Hanoverian Inspection, con't ...

Following lunch came presentation of the foals; one of the day's highlights. Foals were shown with their mothers in most cases, and many of the pairs were braided for the occasion. In my opinion, presentation of the foals was very exciting! The AHS judges noted that the majority of the stallions represented had "improved" on the mare. All the foals were beautiful and well turned out. Needless to say, there were many "oohs and ahhs" for this group of big trotting babies! At the end of the day, the title of Best Colt was awarded to Fila's colt by the stallion Roosevelt (Rotspon/Lore). The Best Filly award went to EM Lucy's 2011 filly, known as Laura. The winning filly is owned by Otto Fuchs (Hilton Farm) and sired by ES Liberty Gold (Londonderry/Walida). Filly, dam and sire are shown below.

Congratulations to Hilton Farm and all the other breeders and owners for a wonderful inspection!

In case you're wondering, I did get to meet ES Liberty Gold. During lunch I found this wonderful stallion in his stall. Even though he was surrounded by mares and foals, ES Liberty Gold stood quietly eating hay. He is a gorgeous stallion with a super character. My expectations were definitely exceeded!



Best Filly "EM Lucy 2011" (aka Laura). Photo by [picsofyou.com](http://picsofyou.com).



High Score Hanoverian Mare "Fontyn".  
Photo by [picsofyou.com](http://picsofyou.com)



ES Liberty Gold owned by Hilton Farm.  
Photo courtesy of Hilton Farm

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# A Fitness Tip from Debbie Rodriguez: The Alternate Leg Drop

By Debbie Rodriguez, *Success in the Saddle*

The alternate leg drop is a good move to learn to keep a neutral spine position. It strengthens your abs and encourages hip stability. Start by laying on your back. Put your hands underneath the small of your back, there should be just enough room for your fingers.

If you can fit your whole hand and arm there your back is too hollow. If you can't fit your fingers there your back is too rounded. Put both legs straight up in the air. Draw your belly button to your spine. Then lower one leg keeping the neutral spine position. Raise that leg and lower the other leg keeping your hips stable. Do several reps.

*Debbie Rodriguez is an S dressage judge, eventing judge, certified personal trainer and USDF Gold Medalist, and a rider herself. Success in the Saddle is a core fitness program for equestrians. Through six 20-minute, no equipment, no excuse workouts you will discover the value of core fitness to your own riding. This is functional fitness for riders of all disciplines! Learn more at [www.SuccessintheSaddle.com](http://www.SuccessintheSaddle.com).*



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**Mark your calendars!**  
 The **VADA-CH 2012 Licensed Show** will be April 28 - 29 at Commonwealth Park in Culpeper.

# Saddle Fit Tip: Forward-Facing versus Rear-Facing Tree Points

Ask yourself...

1. Do you know what the skeleton of your saddle tree looks like?
2. Are you aware that the Tree Points could be either forward-facing, straight down, or rear-facing in direction?
3. Do you know which direction is safer and more advantageous and which has proven to be damaging to the horse?

Tree points can be forward-facing, straight (more or less perpendicular to the ground) or rear-facing. Forward-facing tree points have been proven to be extremely detrimental to horse health in that MRIs and fibre optic cameras have shown the chipping of cartilage that can occur on the scapular bone.

Every single extension of the foreleg (during trot, gallop – both at a time when jumping!) will cause contact with these tree points – and can cause eventual damage at the skeletal level. This, to the point that in some countries, the manufacture of saddles using these old traditional trees with the forward-facing tree points has been banned.

Straight or perpendicular tree points are somewhat better, but will still cause contact at the scapula, especially during extended movement of the leg or during jumping – not so much at only the walk. Ideally of course is the tree with the rear-facing tree points, which mimics the scapular angle and allows maximum freedom of movement at the shoulder – which will be upwards and backwards.

You can demonstrate this yourself by lifting the foreleg and doing a ‘pedaling’ motion to see just how far the shoulder blade will rotate. This motion can cause 4-8” of rotation – which is difficult for the horse to do comfortably if every time it moves it hits an immobile, hard edged object.

An analogy might be that every time you walk and lift your knees you bang them against a wooden board (like when you accidentally bump yourself when getting up from the table) – doesn’t really bother you too much at first, but the

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### Saddle Fit Tip, con't ...

results will be cumulative and eventually probably completely wreck your knees.

Our point? Check your tree points! See what angle they are in the saddle you ride in and make the necessary accommodation to ensure your horse's shoulders have room to move without hitting the tree points with every step – sometimes this means you might have to sit the saddle a bit further back (which admittedly can cause many additional problems...) but just be aware of the possible implications of this.

*Saddle Fit Tips is courtesy of Schleese Saddlery Service, USDF sponsor. Saddle Tree Angle 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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## Get Well Soon!

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to VADA-CH member Peta Wyllie, who was injured in a riding accident. Peta, we hope to see you recovered soon!

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April 2011



## The Pure Spanish Horse (Pura Raza Espanola) The Andalusian

## 2011 VADA-CH Year End Award Standings

Awards standing as of September 5, 2011. Submit scores to Amy Gadsden, P.O. Box 111, Rochelle, VA 22738. For questions, call: 434 974-2268.

<i>Level</i>	<i>Rider</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>Avg Score</i>	<i>Vol Rqmt?</i>	<i>All Scores?</i>
Introductory	Jeannette Tuck	Beau Amigo	70.05%	No	Yes
	Hollyn Mangione	U R Not Dy'n	65.06%	Yes	Yes
Training	Gina Sybert	Navigator	68.25%	Yes	Yes
	Sherri Booye	MC Endless Echo	63.34%	Yes	No
	Nancy Sheaffer	My Rickashay	61.87%	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	Erin Sweeney	Risque MFM	71.43%	No	No
	April Schultz	CCS Tinuvel	69.20%	No	Yes
	Kim Schmidt	Roxann	66.05%	No	No
	Sherri Booye	MC Endless Echo	61.00%	Yes	Yes
First	Tamara Showalter	Fiji	69.68%	No	No
	Calla Williamson	Limmerik	67.02%	Yes	No
	April Schultz	CCS Tinuvel	66.52%	No	Yes
	Kelly Farmer	Diaz HGF	65.81%	No	No
	Michael Pendleton	CCS Arwen	65.81%	No	Yes
Second	Kim Schmidt	Cash Advance	65.26%	No	Yes
	Eliza Temeles	Aurelia	60.95%	Yes	Yes
Third	Martha Mellish	Wiseman	67.31%	Yes	Yes
	April Schultz	Cita Normark	65.60%		
	Kim Schmidt	Cash Advance	63.25%	No	Yes
Prix St Georges	Kim Schmidt	O'Susannah	59.34%	No	No
	Melyni Worth	Xavoy Middelsom	59.30%	No	Yes
Freestyle, USDF	Kelly Farmer	Diaz HGF	66.83%	No	No

## Chapter Awards Rules In Brief

1. Must perform 4 hours of volunteer work separate from the Scholarship volunteer hours or have hours donated from another member. List of volunteer options is in the full rules on line.
2. Must submit scores from a show within 45 days of the last day of the show to the Awards Coordinator, Amy Gadsden using the score report form available on the web site or from Amy or the cover sheet from the test with the necessary info as to rider, horse, raw score, and percentage. No score below 50% are used.
3. Schooling shows levels are Introductory through 4th level. Licensed shows are for Training level through Grand Prix and includes Freestyle.
4. For schooling level must submit 4 scores from at least two different judges and 2 different tests of the level (I.e., Tests 1 and 3 from Training level) from any VADA chapter schooling show or the schooling shows of CVACTA or VHT shows which are considered VADA sanctioned shows for award purposes.
5. For licensed shows must submit 5 scores from at least 3 different judges with at least one score from the highest test or next to highest test of the level. Championship shows with multiple judges, only the average of the score is used. For Freestyles 3 scores from at least 2 different judges are required.
6. The same horse and rider must be paired for all scores at a level and the same horse and rider can be submitted for more than one level, but the levels must be successive.

# - Classifieds -

## HORSES

Cedar Creek Stables offers the following horses:

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**Loki**, 3yr old solid bay Knabstrupper (no spots) gelding. By Stavsdahl Lobi out of a TB mare. Super nice pretty good mover, very personable. Correctly started under saddle. WTC and trail ride. Quiet and easy to work around. \$7,500

**CCS Tinuvel**, 4 yr old Knabstrupper X TB mare. Sire Ravaldi. Bay with blanket. Qualified for Region 1 Champs in Tr and 1st level in 2011. Scores in the 70's. Easy elegant ride. Superb temperament, easy to ride and train, be a superb horse for an amateur. \$25,000

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VADA-CH Members can run classifieds and business card ads free of charge. Ads will run for 2 months and 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 VADA-CH and send to Gardy Bloemers at 6486 Hillsboro Lane, Crozet, VA 22932.

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[www.graysonfarm.net](http://www.graysonfarm.net)

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Virginia Dressage Association – Charlottesville Chapter

## Upcoming Monthly Board Meetings

### *November*

Monday, November 7, 7:00 pm  
Topeka's Steakhouse, Pantops

### *December*

Monday, December 5, 7:00 pm  
Timberwood Grill, Rt. 29 North