Happy New Year to all of us at PVDA! It is hard to believe that 2008 is upon us, but here we are recovering from the holiday cheer dreaming of Spring and the new show season. November and December were busy and productive months for PVDA, although we continue to mourn the loss of Sigrid. Looking back, I would like to give a huge congratulations and pat on the back to all those who helped inspire, volunteered for, rode and raised donations for the 2007 Ride for Life. We are extremely proud to say that PVDA raised $45,000 for the Avon Foundation Johns Hopkins Breast Center, a 50% increase in funds raised compared to 2006. We are organizing already for the 2008

Continued on page 14

Lendon Gray Clinic Gets Back to Basics

By Alyssa Dragnich

Fifty auditors braved the chilly winter temperatures for a two-day clinic with two-time Olympian Lendon Gray. She was a stickler for correct basics all weekend. And a recurring theme was that the horse must be obedient to the leg and to the hand. When the rider asks for a transition from walk to trot, the horse should trot immediately—not take four or more strides to move into trot. The same holds true for downward transitions. For example, when asked to transition to walk, the horse should promptly obey the aid and respond in one stride. Lendon noted that many riders insist on prompt upward transitions, but are much sloppier about their downward transitions.

Lendon insisted that riders not nag their horses, either with their legs or their
**PVDA Elects New Board of Directors and Officers for 2008**

The new PVDA Board officers for 2008 are:
- Chairperson—Jocelyn Pearson, President—Marne Martin-Tucker, Vice President—Betty Thorpe, Secretary—Carolyn Del Grosso, and Treasurer—Cathy Jeary.

Other members of the 2008 Board are Pat Artimovich, Deanna Beal, Alyssa Dragнич, Jennifer Funk, Karen Jacob, Shari Packard, Lori Parkins, Leslie Raulin, Linda Speer and Bonnie Vaden.

Please contact any of our Board officers and/or board members if you have questions or want to get involved with PVDA activities.

**PVDA One-Year Memberships Expired on December 31, 2007. Renew Now!**

Renew your PVDA membership now for a new year of educational activities, shows, and this monthly newsletter. To ensure that you continue to receive your newsletter without any interruption, send us your 2008 renewal form by January 31, 2008.

See page 22 for the 2008 PVDA Membership Form. Mail your check, payable to PVDA, and the completed form to Shari Packard, PVDA Membership Coordinator, 16105 Bond Mill Rd., Laurel, MD 20707. For more information please contact Shari Packard at membership@pvda.org.

If you volunteered this year, you should have a form that may be used for credit toward your membership (in $10 increments). For more information about these forms contact volunteers@pvda.org

**New Bayside Chapter to Begin in 2008**

The Chesapeake Area will begin 2008 with a new PVDA chapter called Bayside. Meetings will commence the second Friday each month, 7 p.m., at BreezyRun Farm in Church Hill, Md. The Farm is 12 miles from the Outlet Center at the Rt. 50 and 301 split. Meetings begin with a potluck and your input. We are working on our calendar and it promises to be a fun and educational group. Join us,
Flying Changes continued from previous page

or call for more information. Contact Eileen Johnson, email: johnson@netzero.com, 703-209-5654 or call BreezyRun Farm at 410-556-6614.

Johns Hopkins Receives PVDA Donation of $45,000 for Ride for Life 2007

Pat Artimovich, Betty Thorpe and Carolyn Del Grosso presented Lily Schockney of the Johns Hopkins Breast Center with a check for $45,000 from the proceeds from the 2007 Ride for Life. This brings to $84,000, the amount that riders have brought in over four years with donations, silent auctions, and other activities that are associated with the Ride for Life.

Local Trainers Meet at CDI to Discuss Resource Sharing and Trainer Training

A group of local riding professionals met in November at Chesapeake Dressage Institute to discuss organizing a club that would develop clinics and seminars for Training the Trainers as well as a forum to communicate ideas. CDI is now working on a connection to this group through its Web site at www.chesapeakedressage.com. If you have any suggestions for seminars, mounted or unmounted, that would appeal to trainers or a suggestion for a name for the club, e-mail CDI at marketing@chesapeakedressage.com.

Tea Is for Training

Enjoy a real English High Tea...and there will be party favors! Learn new show skills and the latest rules!

Date: 2/17/08 (Snow Date: 2/23/08)
Place: Stonebrook Farm (Linda Speer’s Farm, Clarksville, Maryland)
Time: 1-4 p.m.
Contact: Pat Artimovich, 410-381-7684 or nartimovich@comcast.net for information/to register

Congrats Caitlyn!

PVDA member Caitlyn Keyes on Navigator at the BLM finals where she was champion Jr/ YR Third Level, and also was chosen as the recipient of “The Most Elegant Rider” Award.

Do you have exciting news to share? Tell us your personal news in “BITS & PIECES.” E-mail Karen Jacob at chapters@pvda.org with your submissions. Items should be brief and must be submitted by the 10th of the month for publication in the following month’s newsletter.

The PVDA Newsletter is produced by the Potomac Valley Dressage Association, a USDF Group Member Organization. www.pvda.org. • Copyright 2008
Shore Dressage

At our November meeting held at Carlene Schiavo’s beautiful home in Princess Anne, we elected officers for 2008. Co-chairs are Deri Jeffers and Leslie Passano; Treasurer—Carlene Schiavo; Secretary—Donna Ford and Tammy Kinnmon.

Maureen Lawrence will continue to be our webmaster, and Allison Turner will be our Year End Points tabulator. We are in the process of forming different Committees for education, hospitality, social events, shows, clinics, etc. It’s exciting to see some members who are new to dressage getting involved. We look forward to a fun and educational year.

Our next big event is our Annual Holiday Awards luncheon to be held at the lovely home of Tammy Kinnmon on December 9. A lot of beautiful trophies and special awards will be presented to those who’ve competed successfully throughout the year and to the volunteers who have given so much to make our chapter the success that it is. In my next report the names of these special people will be revealed!

After the Election of Officers we watched the DVD of the 2006 World Equestrian Games in Aachen, Germany, which was a special treat to see the “creme de la creme” of dressage!

For more information about the Shore Dressage chapter we welcome you to visit our Web site: http://shoredressage.tripod.com/.

PVDA Member Updates

If you have a change of address, e-mail, or name that you would like published in the newsletter, send it to Elice Shelton by the 5th of the month for the following month’s newsletter. E-mail: pegasustd@verizon.net or leave message, 410-266-7805.

New E-mail Address: Shari Glickman shari.glickman@comcast.net
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Cheshire Horse Hills

Located minutes from the Wilson Bridge. A picturesque dressage facility designed for riders by riders. Staff and indoor arena under one roof along with other amenities that include heated bathroom and lounge, tack room and much more. The facility also features an outdoor dressage arena, trails and park-like pastures. APR/NOA schooling show planned in April.

When you go for a ride, do you spend more time in your car than on your horse?

Free Educational Seminar

Join ARCP Level 5 and Centered Riding certified instructor, Kathleen Daniel-Adilion, on January 22nd, for the first in a series of FREE educational seminars. "Lunging & Lunging Proper techniques and how to solve your horses lunging problems. Lunging is limited lunging is not. Call Kathy or Mike at 502-377-6500, or email thefulphamures@aol.com

Where your horse is not just cared for, but cared about.

www.geocities.com/cheshirehorsehills
Chesapeake Dressage Institute

What's Been Happening at CDI?

On December 2, 2007, CDI was pleased to welcome and host a horse and handlers clinic, “Bombproofing Your Horse,” with Sergeant Rick Pelicano. Rick travels across the country to teach his “comfort zone” method. Rick and his team set up obstacles for horse and rider to negotiate including helium balloons, a carpet of empty plastic water bottles, mattresses, smoking flares, gun shots, smoke bombs, etc. With Rick’s supervision, eventually the horse learns to trust their rider to keep them safe. Instruction was initially with the horse under lead and then graduated to under saddle. Customized audio such as traffic noises, children playing, dogs barking and show style noises created the scenario and a bombproof acceptance to whatever noises could arise.

Visit CDI’s website for more pictures and information about upcoming clinics, farm events and available horse boarding.
I would like to thank the membership of our organization for giving me the opportunity to represent PVDA as a delegate to the USDF convention in Orlando, Fla., from November 26 to December 2, 2007. It was a wonderful experience. What I learned at the convention will help me be a better show manager in the future, as well as a better competitor and a better horse owner.

I was asked to follow the discussions that centered on the rules and rules changes. I approached this thinking that the discussions were centered on the USEF’s tome that is entitled PROPOSED RULE CHANGES. This oversized pamphlet landed in my mailbox in mid-October. I read through the 130 plus pages with an eye to what seemed to be important for dressage and what did not. It gave me an understanding of some of the rules changes, but it did not prepare me for the reality of a convention. All kinds of things happen at a convention that will underscore which of the rules changes is really important. Another thing that can occur only at a convention is that unexpected rule changes can come to the fore and overshadow the ones in the USEF document. This is exactly what happened.

The most discussed rule change came from the USEF Dressage Committee—a Performance Standards Proposal. Janet Foy, who chairs the Performance Standards Subcommittee, is accepting comments on this proposal. The proposal is not written in stone and she welcomes comment on it. Janet’s e-mail is dressagejanet@att.net.

The committee would like to implement a system of rider qualifications that would apply to riders competing at Third Level and above. The rider levels would be named Basic, Medium, Advanced, and International. Scores would accumulate points.

60%-62.99%: One point
63%-65.99%: Two points
66%-68.99%: Three points
69% and above: Four points

In order for the qualifying points to be recorded, the rider must be a USDF Participating Member and a USEF Member at the time the points are earned. The rider must receive verification of Membership with a membership numbers and card from USDF/USEF before points can be accumulated. If the rider has been grandfathered into the system and plans to ride Third Level or above at a licensed show (USDF, USEF or FEI) they must be a USDF Participating Member and a USEF Member in order to compete at those levels. A rider will need no qualification for Training through Second Level. To move from Second Level to Third/Fourth Level a rider will need 20 points from three different USEF judges. There will be no limit on points a rider can receive from any panel of 2, 3 or 5 judges. At least two of the tests used for points must be from Second Level Test Four. The remainder of the points may be from any Second Level Test. To move from Third/Fourth (Medium Level) to Prix St. Georges/Intermediaire I (Advanced Level), a rider will need 10 points from three different judges. A panel of judges will count as one judge. Finally to move from Advanced Level to International Level, eight points from three different judges will be required. There are provisions for foreign riders.

There is an extensive grandfathering program. Judges are grandfathered, medalists who receive their medals before 2009 are grandfathered. There are many ways to be grandfathered but they will end November 30, 2009. So be aware of that date to ascertain grandfathered status.

The implementation timeline would begin if this plan is approved at the USEF Annual Meeting in Kentucky this January. So get your opinions in to Janet Foy and let your voice and ideas be heard!

There was a lot of discussion. People that like this proposal see it as a good thing for horses. They think that this change would keep a double bridle out of the hands of riders who do not know how to ride well enough to utilize a double.

USDF Convention continued on next page
USDF Convention continued from previous page

Others welcome the standards to strengthen the quality of the sport. They see it as a way of growing the spectator aspect of the sport by requiring better riding. Many judges and trainers saw this change as a way of protecting horses.

Some of those in opposition said that the areas with large geographic challenges would be adversely affected. The requirement for Participating Membership in USDF was vehemently opposed by several individuals in leadership positions in Group Member Organizations (PVDA is a GMO). Some GMO members opined that the Participating Membership requirement is an attack on the GMOs because it would hurt membership in the grassroots organizations. Many competitors thought that the number of points needed was too high. If you have an opinion you need to e-mail Janet Foy now. The USEF Annual Meeting is only one month away. The initial proposal contained stilted and unclear language. It is being revised.

There were a lot of other rules that could affect us. They were not the lightning rods that this proposed rule change proved to be. However, I will list a few important ones. Any USEF rule change can be commented on by using the Web site www.USEF.org. The Board of Governors agreed to oppose rule change GR 1212.5A that would require two EMTs at a USEF licensed show. GR 119 is about exhibition classes or demonstrations. This rule change says that USEF dressage judges must be the judges for dressage exhibition classes. GR 203.7 says at a dressage competition a person who joins is a member as soon as the show secretary signs and dates the application for membership. GR 215 says that in the case of multiple competitions under the same licensee a separate policy number is not required for each competition.

One sweeping change to dressage rules is for DR 120. This would alter the length of a whip from 110 cm to 120cm. This would increase the allowable length from 43.3 inches to 47.2 inches. DR 120.8 allows spurs to have arms with rubber covers. DR 125.15—All Para-equestrian tests may be ridden in a standard arena. Finally, there is a proposed change to the score needed for musical freestyle participation. It is going up to 62% from the previous 58% and the freestyle committee supports this change. This change is DR 128.9. In the show manager’s committee report there was discussion about rule change DR134. This change says that only a vet can determine a pony’s height if that pony’s height is challenged. The show management has to pay for that vet’s services.

There are a number of changes in rules that could have an impact on our showing, our managing, and our equipment. There are avenues for you to make your opinion known so let people know if you have an opinion! There is a lot of interesting discussion on the bulletin boards. While this may be an outlet for frustration and a place to hone debate skills, the place where you need to have your voice heard is at the two contact points given in this article. Get involved!

USDF Rider Awards

Some of our Rider Achievement Award winners from past years have now gone on to get their USDF awards, which is great to see. The USDF awards represent the real top riders in the U.S. in dressage, with only about 10% of USDF members ever earning a Bronze Medal, about 5% earning a Silver and less than 2% attaining a Gold Medal. Congratulations to everyone who shows, persists and eventually reaches their goal, whatever it may be!

—Jo Ellen Hayden

Gold Medalist
Marija Trieschman

Silver Medalists
Hallie Ahrensbrak
Yvonne A. Atwood
Christine Betz
Jaralyn Gibson-Finn
Marne Martin-Tucker
Thora B. Pollak
Jenna Schuster

Bronze Medalists
Hallie Ahrensbrak
Debra Ann Marie Behre
Christine Betz
Trisha L. DeRosa
Barbara Hairfield
Heather L. Patton
Sandra Zakaluzny
PVDA Judge’s Education “L” Program Off to a Great Start
by Jocelyn Pearson

PVDA has done it again! Thanks to Board Member Alyssa Dragnich we have started up a new “L” Program. Saturday and Sunday, December 8 and 9, we all met in the conference center at the Homewood Suites Hotel in Columbia, Md. When I say “we” I mean 55 dressage aficionados, including 10 wanna-be “L” graduate participants.

We were treated to plenty of coffee in a comfortable room. Luckily, we had the ultimate USDF “L” faculty expert on biomechanics, J. Ashton Moore, visiting from California. How can a person be laid back, hilarious and serious about horses all at one time? Well, he was! He had a talent for bringing us “dressage types” down to earth, while also emphasizing to the participants what’s important to notice and learn.

Did you know that the “L” Program was dreamed up on a train ride through Europe? Mr. Moore (Jeff) told us how he and his business partner, fellow judge Elizabeth Searle, were traveling on a train trip when they decided to submit the idea for an “L” Program to the USDF. Prior to that time, judges were trained by the USEF in a slightly disorganized way, there was no structured program. The two realized they had to develop the entire package for the idea to fly, not just submit an idea. They developed the outline for the program and submitted it. USDF said that they would accept it, “as long as it doesn’t cost us any money.” The rest is history!

We spent the first day of our “A” session reviewing the USEF Rule Book, General Rules and the Dressage Section. Jeff was considerate with us, trying to keep it interesting, hoping it would not be too boring. A free flow of questions and answers was encouraged at all times. The second day we delved more into biomechanics—observing the horse as a machine, what he can and can’t do due to his makeup. In the afternoon we went to Linda and Wil Speer’s Stonebrook Farm in Clarksville, Md., a fabulous indoor facility, decked out with beautiful decorations. We then got to observe many wonderful demonstration riders to compare gaits and way of going for the potential judge candidates. There was plenty of seating—it was a comfortable and nice learning environment. Jeff was crystal clear in his observations of the horses and helping us understand what we were seeing.

The “L” Program has evolved into not only a judges’ program, but a first class learning situation for riders and anyone who wants to try to figure out what on earth the judges are looking for. PVDA put on a first class weekend. The next part of the course will be on March 15 and 16, 2008. Contact PVDA’s Alyssa Dragnich for information. Remember if you receive the comment, “against the mechanics of the canter,” that means that you are holding your hands still at the canter!
Scholarship Report

My Trip to Verden to the World Championships 2007

by Jessica Jo (JJ) Tate

I moved to Maryland in April and have a training business that I run out of Shari Glickman’s GoodNess Ridge Farm, in Mount Airy. I am a USDF Gold medalist, but have had the delight to get involved with the young horse program in the last few years. I have always had my sights on riding for the U.S. Team, but have found much pleasure and passion in preparing my young horses for these challenging classes. I never thought that my first experience of riding at the World Championships would come on the back of my six year old, and what a wonderful experience it was!

My mom and I were in Aachen, Germany, three years ago for the big show in July. I had stopped to talk to a friend of mine, David Dewispleare, and told him I was looking for a nice young horse to bring along. He told me about a three year old who was at the show for the auction. On the last day I rode Donnermuth, aka Petri, and it was the strongest three year old I had ever ridden. We offered a price, which they accepted, and he was ours!

We have been very successful coming up the levels, but it was this year, as a six year old, that he really started to shine. We competed in the Morven Park spring show and got our qualifying scores for the Eastern Selection trials. We attended Raleigh and had an interesting time there.

Raleigh is the last of three selection trials in the nation. So we knew what our scores needed to be to get a bid to the World Championships. On the first day, we didn’t go so well. Nothing went terribly wrong, he was just a bit too tight in his back in canter (one of our issues!) and the walk was not round enough. We ended up tied for fourth with UB40 from Iron Springs. Not a bad place to be as Alex does a great job with the beautiful stallion. So I had figured now I was out of the running for a spot to the World Championships, but my best friend (and PVDA member), Teresa Butta, was in second so the day was still good. On the final day, I had nothing to lose and went into the ring and Petri went superb. Never before were we able to keep that balance and swing through all his gaits, I was so proud of him, and we won over some of the best six year olds in the country. With that score we learned that we would be packing and getting ready to head to Germany to represent the U.S. at the World Championships!

It was a dream come true. Everyone on Team Tate was so excited and the real work started. The riders were told that in order to go to Germany, we would have to fund the whole trip privately because the USEF was over budget due to the Pan Am Games. They had told us it would cost about $30,000 in total. Now I was getting nervous. How was I going to come up with that kind of money? We all brainstormed and devised a plan. Not only would we ask for donations from my clients all over the country (I teach clinics in North and South Carolina, Wisconsin, Illinois, Canada, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania), but we would have a fund raising party, as well.

We held the party at GoodNess Ridge in the indoor arena. It was huge success! Everyone was so generous and gave me a great start toward the goal amount. The party raised nearly $10,000. What was so special was to have everyone attend and show their encouragement, support and kindness. We had a super silent auction—a really fun time. PVDA also generously donated $1,000 to my trip fund.

The planning continued with the assistance of my support team—all PVDA members, too. Kelley Wachter, my manager assisted me with the necessary paper work and equipment. I had my horse massage therapist, Courtney Molino, come out and get Petri ready to take on the best young horses in the world. His acupuncturist (and mine!), Rebecca Douglass, also treated him and showed me how to put some important needles in, in case he needed an extra special treatment while we were there.

Tim Porter took us to the airport on July 20 and our adventure began. I had never flown with my horses before, even though I had lived and trained in Europe. The airlines had always had grooms to look after the horses. Not that anything bad happened, but I will forever forward be with my horses during flights. I think the stress of the travel takes a lot out of them, and for them to be able to recognize their person settles them a little. Petri is a super traveler, but I could tell he didn’t really know what to think during take-off. The look on his face was so cute as he wondered what he was feeling. We arrived at Michael Klimke’s stable on Sunday the 22nd, a full week and a half before the show.

Petri traveled well, but I could tell during those first couple

Verden continued on next page
of days riding that he was tired from all the stress. I think it is important to give horses ample time to recover from travel because it can cause such internal stress. By that Thursday, he was feeling like he was ready to go. It was perfect timing because Scott Hassler, the young horse coach, arrived in time to teach me on Friday. I had lessons from Scott (and sometimes Michael, too!) every day leading up to the show.

It was so much fun to be in Muenster at the Klimke stable. Michael is a wonderful horseman, and it was inspirational to be at the same place that the “Father of Dressage” had trained all of his horses. The town is quaint and everyone rides bikes everywhere. It made it all very easy for me because the stable was a 10 minute bike ride through the city park. I loved watching Michael work his horses in the morning, and I had some quiet time to reflect on what we had accomplished.

I have worked with Scott for the last year. He has been very helpful with this particular horse, which is not the easiest horse to ride. Scott is a very good coach; he can give a rider what they need at the right moment. For me, it was very helpful to have him there the week before the show, as well as at the show itself. I have never felt so prepared for a show.

Two other American riders, David Blake and Lars Holmberg, arrived at Michael’s a few days before the departure for the show. We all had a wonderful time getting to know each other and hanging out at the stable and at the hotel. Chris Hickey, the other American rider, was at Ulla Salzgeber’s stable, and we would all meet up in Verden.

Verden is such an exciting place. The quality of the horses there was overwhelming. I made a big effort to convince myself that we belonged there with these top horses and riders. I had waited all my life to be in the warm up with this caliber of riders. We arrived on a Wednesday, and the show would start the next day. We did our vet jogs, but even before the vet jogs, the U.S. contingency had a let down. David Blake’s horse acted up on a hand walk and as David tried to hang on, he was pulled off his feet, and broke his collar bone and was sent to the ER. But like any real rider, he pulled himself together and rode later that day. Thank God for pain killers!

Petri was fresh and a whole new horse from what I was used to riding. I loved it, but I was not sure how to handle this new found energy. He is by nature a quiet, calm horse. He was snorting and all full of himself. I was delighted to meet his breeders who were there even on warm-up day. They were so proud. It was a terrific environment. To be around such super horses and talented riders, proud breeders, and capable trainers was an inspiration.

On the first day, Petri was unbelievable in the trot, very good in walk, and tense in the canter. They really liked what we presented and gave us an overall 8. It was all positive, and even though I was disappointed with the canter, I was very proud of my boy. We held our own with the best in the world. We ended up 17th on the first day. Not enough to make it to the Final, but I still had one more shot the next day in the Small Final.

The next day, we had more of the same. Trot and walk very high quality, but canter and the changes were tense and had mistakes. We finished 7th in that class, and 18th overall. We were the best placing Americans, and best of all was that his breeders were happy and proud. They treated my Mom and me to some champagne. Even though I had wanted to make the top 15, I was still thrilled to be in the top 20 in the world.

It was such a special experience, and I want to thank everyone who helped make it happen. Without a terrific team behind me, this couldn’t have happened. We, as trainers, sometimes think it is all about our great training, and, yes, it is important to train well, but it is the people behind the scenes that really create the glue that makes success happen.

Special thanks go to my sponsors The Equine Source, Back on Track, Thinline, Buckeye Feeds, MacKinnon Ice Horse, MDC Stirrups, and to PVDA and all its members who helped make my dream come true. Looking forward to seeing you at the spring shows! To view my rides from Verden you can go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtxZtIcpRZM.
Horses for Sale

✦ '92 DuWB grey geld., 16.1H, in '07 competed successfully at I-I w/scores to 68% and qualif. For Dressage at Devon. Curr. in prof. training. Sound, no vices, was even the "star pupil" in Bombproofing Your Horse Clinic with Rick Pelicano in 12/07! For more info and photos, see www.chesapeakeedressage.com, Cheryl Wyllie, 443-220-4556 or email: Trainer@ChesapeakeDressage.com
✦ SWB bay geld. (Pommerky-Madonna) 16.2H, 1st level dressage, schooling 2nd level, beautiful, powerful gaits, talented hunter/feventer shown, loves shows, handsome, sound, no vices, $20,000 Dotty Chaney, 410-991-6500 or email: dchaney@verizon.net
✦ SWB bay mare by L.A. Baltic Inspiration o/o an Electron granddau. 7 yrs, 16H. Floaty gaits, unbelievable walk. Exc. for an AA or YR. Loves her job, willing, dependable, is the same horse every day! Great on trails, winning 1st level, schooling higher incl. changes, pics/video on website, Valerie Vizcarrondo, 410-353-3813 or email: val@bluecluvceventing.com
✦ Reg. Morgan ches. geld., 15.1H, white marking’s a real looker. Nice movement, great temp., correct for any discipline. Has had 5 mos prof. training. Easy keeper, ready to move up the levels, $5,500, Dianna Baker, 443-277-5308 or email: hideawayacres@comcast.net
✦ Fabulous FEI pony prosp., 7 yrs, 14H lg. bodied ches. geld. Curr. rider is 5’5”. Showing 1st level, schooling 2nd/3rd level with potential to do FEI, counter canter, half-pass, started flying changes. Incredible mover w/a fantastic mind. Very easy to ride and very safe. Xrays avail., Melenda Bauerlien, 410-651-5907 or email: mel_haltatx@yahoo.com
✦ 1) Purebred Andalusian dk. grey geld., 4 yrs, 16H. Reg. Morgan ches. geld., 15.1H, white marking’s a real looker. Nice movement, great temp., correct for any discipline. Has had 5 mos prof. training. Easy keeper, ready to move up the levels, $5,500, Dianna Baker, 443-277-5308 or email: hideawayacres@comcast.net

Horses for Lease

✦ TB geld. for 1/2 lease. Curr. boarded in Clarksville, MD with ind. arena. Schooling 1st level. Sweet natured and handsome but determined so best suited for an exp. rider. Terms neg. depending on the situation. Pam Deem Heragan, 443-386-1536 or email: pdeemheragan@comcast.net

Equipment for Sale

✦ 1) Ladies’ Sz. 10 dress boots w/zippers (runs lg), XW calf, in nearly new cond., not broken in yet! Stiff for dressage, fully lined, high cut to outside, $125/obo 2) Brand New Never Worn – Custom Dehner dress boots. TOP OF THE LINE, high outside, Goodyear wels. Can email pic, I’ve “outgrown” them, pd.$500 for these, asking $550 3) Millers Ladies White Full Seat dressage breeches. BNWT. Has some dirt marks from being tossed on floor but will wash out. Marked 36R but fit like 32. High waist, side zip. Perfect for showing, asking $60. 4) Sz. 34L beige On Course Cotton Naturals, almost full seat (leather goes up the leg, but doesn’t cover the rear), stretchy, in very good cond. asking $30 5) On Course Cotton Naturals, full seat. Charcoal, 36L (runs sm 34/32), very comfy and in very good cond., asking $40. 6) Ladies’ Sz. 15 blk. Devon Aire show coat in nearly new cond. asking $25.00. Fair cash offers considered, can take MC/Visa via Paypal. Karen Jacob, 410-489-6083
✦ 16.75” Karl Niedersass Symphony dressage saddle medium tree, black, long billets, gusseted panels, short flaps, exc. condition. Retails $1895, asking $1100. Contact Kathy DeMarco, 410-465-1927 or 443-285-2409 or email: kmdemarco@comcast.net
✦ 1) 17.5” Passier Grand Gilbert saddle, med/wide tree, in exc. cond., $1,200 2) 17.5” Passier Nicole saddle, med/wide tree, in exc. cond., $1,000 3) 17.5” Kieffer blk. leather dressage girth w/HS RR buckles. Leather flap snaps over buckles to conceal them. Great quality leather, in like new cond., asking $90 5) Cottage Craft blk. cotton dressage girths in sz. 24” & 26” in good cond., asking $20 ea 6) A/P square saddle pad. Navy blue w/navy & dk grn braided piping. Used 4-5x, clean, no stains, billet/girth straps still attached, asking $20 7) 78” medium weight t/o blanket, “Open Range” (not brand name). Navy, Worn 2x, no tears/snags, all chest/leg closures in perfect working order. Prof laundered. Pd. $115, asking $60 8) Set of 4 turquoise pony wraps. Brand new and never opened! Set of 4, $10. 9) Set of 4 fuchsia polo wraps. used 1x, prof. laundered. $8. Fair cash offers considered, can take MC/Visa via Paypal. Karen Jacob, 410-489-6083

Keep Me Posted

*February 2008 Issue DEA
CAIR close contact saddle, brand new with 2 sets of adj. gullets, excellent cond., $300, Julie Baker, 301-596-9579 or email: thegbakers@comcast.net

18” Albion SLK blk. dressage saddle, med. tree, in exc. cond., Marsha Mason Thies, 301-898-3128 or email: Marsha.Mason-Thies@aopa.org

✦ 1) 18” Courbette Luxor blk. dressage saddle, 31 cm (med. tree) very nice German-made saddle. In exc. cond. Gently used & well cared for w/double grain leather, padded flaps, small knee rolls, well balanced, asking $750. 2) 17” Crosby Lexington TC w/reg. spring tree. In fair cond. w/little wear on seat/flaps but there is minor surface cracking underneath panels (should not need repair). Asking $450 incl. leathers & irons 3) 17” Wintec blk. A/P w/adj. gullet and CAIR. BNWT & Warranty. Never been on horse! Comes w/Wintec cover & med gullet installed, can change to another size. Will toss in new sq. pad, asking $400 4) 18” Wintec 500 blk. dressage saddle incl. webbers w/adj gullet, wool panels (not CAIR). Gently used, med. gullet installed, can change to another size, asking $375 5) 14” A/P children’s saddle. Great starter saddle w/suede knee-rolls and med/wide tree that will fit most ponies. Seat has minor scratches from barn kittens, but will not affect safety! Billets & tree in exc. cond. No fittings, asking $100 Fair cash offers considered, can take MC/Visa via Paypal. Karen Jacob, 410-489-6083

Boarding
✦ Stall avail. in pvt. barn in Dayton, MD (Howard Co.) w/20m x 60m outdoor arena w/all-weather footing. Ideal for a person who likes a quiet relaxed atmosphere and can ride during the day. “R” judge avail. for dressage instr., Ingrid Gentry, 410-531-2374 or email: Ingrid.gentry@Junocom
✦ Winter boarding (Dec 07–Apr 08) avail. at full care, prof. managed facility in Mt. Airy, MD. Enjoy our indoor and outdoor arenas, groomed daily, climate controlled tack rooms and lounge, feeding and to programs indiv. to your horse, Shari Glickman, 301-351-5530 or see www.goodnessridge.com
✦ Full training and/or board at beautiful classical dressage barn in Mt. Airy. Specializing in Andalusians and Lusitanos, but all breeds accepted. $1,100/mo. for training (incl. board), $650/mo. for board. State-of-the-art facility. Dressage lessons avail., Diana Beuchert, 301-829-5048 or email: dianabeuchert@comcast.net
✦ Board at Periwinkle Farm, located in SE Mont. Co., bordered by Silver Spring, Burtonsville, Olney and Ashton. Set in beautiful surroundings and meticulously maintained, we offer: unlit quality hay and feed, indoor and HUGE outdoor ring, 24/7 hours, Pvt. t/o or sm. group (your choice), owner and manager live on premises, getting horse for vet and farrier, special attention to indiv. needs - all incl. in the board, $625/mo., full board only, LuAnne Levens, 301-421-1252 and/or visit our NEW website: www.periwinklefarmLLC.com

ATTENTION!
Please note that ALL classified ads are placed on PVDA’s Web site at www.pvda.org. If you do not want your e-mail address included on the Web site, please omit it from your printed ad submission for The PVDA Newsletter.

Free to Good Home
✦ Aged TB gelding, super sweet, the perfect babysitter, cannot be ridden, free to approved home, Cathy Meier, 410-867-2868
✦ 16 yr old, 16 H. chest. Holst. geld. Needs rest and then slow return to work after being worked too hard at another barn. Diana Beuchert, 301-829-5048 or email: dianabeuchert@comcast.net or see www.springfever.com

Wanted
✦ Frederick Co. pvt. barn seeking a responsible person to perform light barn work in exc. for a stall. Oppty to participate in breeding, training, showing incl. driving for pleasure and competition is avail. for the right person. Must be able to work independently. Joyce Moxley, 410-775-3001 (barn) or 410-775-1221 (home)
✦ Motiv. apprentice wanted for riding and poss. Showing at farm in Union Bridge, MD. Ideal candidate must be interested in learning all aspects of excellence in horsemanship, Melodye Sweetin-Linn, 410-861-7807 or see www.TheDancingHorse.com
✦ PT working student for classical dressage barn/equestrian theater in Mt. Airy. General barn chores in exc. for board for their horse, or poss. lease of an Andalusians school horse and/or lessons. Oppty to work with Andalusians in exciting musical freestyle/exhibition environ., Diana Beuchert, 301-829-5048 or email: dianabeuchert@comcast.net or see www.theartofdressage.com

Congratulations to Our Volunteers!
The following volunteers received $50 gift certificates to Everything Equestrian for their Year-End Volunteer gifts at the 2007 Annual Awards Dinner: Zoe Witte, Lori Parkins, Cindy Marquardt, Jill Windsor, Mardee Rochelle, Kimberley Beldam, Melodye Linn and Karyn Spertzel. The certificates were awarded to volunteers who had given at least 32 hours of service to PVDA from 10/1/06 to 10/1/07 and who applied with a copy of their volunteer certificates.
event with a group of very talented people managing the various committees. Watch in the coming months for more details and ways to get involved!

In November, the Lendon Gray clinic and Lendon’s speech at the annual dinner were a great success. We were all inspired to hear of her tales training and showing horses that were of non-warmblood breeds, even ponies! She also gave great insight to the clinic riders, which due to the volume of interested PVDA members were only able to ride one day each with her. We look forward to having Lendon back another time, and as a quick preview, mark on your calendars that Charles de Kunffy is coming for the November 2008 clinic.

December celebrated the inaugural session of the “L” (Learner) Dressage program. Alyssa Dragnich and her talented volunteers did a wonderful job organizing it, and Jeff Moore, the A Session clinician, stole the show. He was extremely knowledgeable of the material, riding, and judging, and kept us at the edge of our seats engrossed with his stories and funny quips. There was so much interest that on Sunday the event had to be moved to a larger venue! Watch the calendar for the March and April sessions since auditors are welcome.

Here in January, we are printing the schooling and licensed show schedule for 2008. We expect the omnibus to come out this month or early next month, well in time for all of you to plan your showing endeavors. We look forward to seeing you out and about at our tried-and-true and new show venues.

Let me also introduce the new corporate officers. As you might have guessed, I am starting my first term as President. I hope that I can count on all of you to be in touch and let me know what areas and issues you think should be my top priority. We on the Board also are looking for ideas and suggestions. Fortunately, I have a “pro” mentor as the Vice President in Betty Thorpe, who has done a wonderful job as President the last two years. Likewise, we have the long-standing PVDA presence, Jocelyn Pearson, as our Chairman of the Board and Carolyn Del Grosso and Cathy Jeary again both graciously offered to serve as Secretary and Treasurer. The PVDA Web site is updated with the new Board members and Committee chairs, so please do look on the Web site or in the Newsletter for areas that you are interested in and get involved. We look forward to seeing you this year at one of our exciting activities. Happy New Year!

Marne

Marne Martin-Tucker • PVDA president • president@pvda.org

Send Your 2008 Calendar Items to calendar@pvda.org.
February Deadline: JANUARY 10 Calendar Editor: Jocelyn Pearson
www.pvda.org for complete calendar

### Calendar of EVENTS

**January 2008**

2 Dressage Clinic Series with Jean Paul Pare at Wind Horse Offering, Earleville, Md. Auditors and new riders welcome. Call Jeanne Davis, 610-291-9550 or windhorse02@siteone.net

6 Dressage Schooling Show, Breezy Run Farm, Church Hill, Md. Judge: Aviva Nebesky, "L" graduate. For more info, call 410-556-6614 or visit www.breezyrunfarm.com.

7 PVDA Board Meeting, 8. p.m., Linda Speer’s farm, Clarksville. Contact Carolyn Del Grosso, 301-774-0794 (6-8 p.m).

16 & 30 Dressage Clinic Series with Jean Paul Pare at Wind Horse Offering.

**February**

2 Dressage Schooling Show, Breezy Run Farm, Church Hill, Md. Judge: Aviva Nebesky, “L” graduate. For more info, call 410-556-6614 or visit www.breezyrunfarm.com.

**March**

2 Dressage Schooling Show, Breezy Run Farm, Church Hill, Md. For more info, visit www.breezyrunfarm.com or call 410-556-6614.

15-16 PVDA hosts “L” Education program. Auditors welcome. Session B, “Gaits and Paces, Movements and Figures.” Contact Alyssa Dragnich at adragnich@verizon.net or 301-570-1603

**April**

12-13 PVDA hosts “L” Education program. Auditors welcome. Session C, “Collective Marks, Equitation, Rider Biomechanics, Basics and Musical Freestyle.” Contact Alyssa Dragnich at adragnich@verizon.net or 301-570-1603
USDF Introductory Level – Junior under 10 years
1. Midnight/Jill Greenwald/64.00%
2. Sham's Oh So Petite/Shannon Lock/60.25%

USDF Introductory Level – Junior/Young Rider
1. Tolkien/Holly Anderson/68.50%
2. Patrick Murphy/Tory Trovillion/66.80%
3. Bask's Red Bear/Cameron Baumgardner/59.55%

USDF Introductory Level – Senior
1. Ralpal/Deanna Beal/59.66%
2. WS Rebel Spirit/Sue Hildebrand/57.00%

Training Level – Junior/Young Rider
1. W.S. Rio Roca/Lucy Larner/65.39%
2. Summer Finale/Erica Greenwald/62.22%
3. Love Bug/Casey Minar/64.15%
4. Amanda Rae/Emily Long/63.99%
5. Equishare Robert Redford/Olivia Maky/63.01%
6. Summer Finale/Erica Greenwald/62.22%
7. Midnight Dream/Michaela Bass/62.17%
8. Crimson Joker/Ekatrina Wehrle/61.88%

Training Level – Senior
1. Ralpal/Candace Snell/68.20%
2. Renoir/Sue Hassall/67.95%
3. Hemingway/Leisl Raulin/67.40%
4. Irish Decor/Julie Kingsbury/66.84%
5. Danny/Judy Whyte/66.63%
6. Dascha/Tracey Trainum/66.56%
8. Wyndsong/Nancy Moseley/66.05%
9. Aurion/Samantha Smith/65.26%
10. Poseidon's Pride/Joanne Emblin/64.38%
11. Melia/Sue Hildebrand/64.16%
12. Thomas/Patty Blanchard/63.96%

First Level – Junior
1. Painted Lady/Katherine Brescia/63.85%

First Level – Senior
1. Peaches in Regalia/ Judy Strohmaier/65.73%
2. Regall/Jessica Katz/63.069%
3. Rampunch/Robert Crawford/62.01%
4. Sauquenay Eve Yukon Jospatriote/Kimberly Beldam-Saylor/61.71%
5. Allie/Carolyn Steppe/60.79%
6. Aurion/Samantha Smith/59.66%

Second Level – Senior
1. Ralpal/Candace Snell/69.56%
2. Summer Finale/Erica Greenwald/65.78%
3. Rockies Specialty/Kimmy McNamee/62.43%

Third Level – Senior
1. Ralpal/Candace Snell/68.20%
2. Renoir/Sue Hassall/67.95%
3. Hemingway/Leisl Raulin/67.40%
4. Irish Decor/Julie Kingsbury/66.84%
5. Danny/Judy Whyte/66.63%
6. Dascha/Tracey Trainum/66.56%
8. Wyndsong/Nancy Moseley/66.05%
9. Aurion/Samantha Smith/65.26%
10. Poseidon's Pride/Joanne Emblin/64.38%
11. Melia/Sue Hildebrand/64.16%
12. Thomas/Patty Blanchard/63.96%

Musical Freestyle
1. Ralpal/Candace Snell/71.60%

Dressage Seat Equitation
1. Barney/Zoe Witte/33 Points
2. Love Bug/Casey Minar/19 Points
3. Midnight Dream/Michaela Bass/16 Points
4. Amanda Rae/Emily Long/7 Points
5. Going Platinum/Morgan Hunt/5 Points
6. Aaron's Top Command/Lindsey Osburnen/5 Points
7. Leaguers Lil Miss/Meredith Hunt/4 Points
8. Ladies Man/Emmy Benton/4 Points
9. Dawn Flight/Emma Morris/4 Points
10. Prince Charming/Sarah Backof/3 Points
11. Marshal/Rebecca Morris/3 Points

2007 Year End High Score Awards Announced at Annual Dinner

This year we had 502 riders and 572 horses riding in 2,117 tests in classes from Intro Level through Fourth Level, Musical Freestyle and Dressage Seat Equitation. This is a slight decline from last year's total of 2, 229 rides. This year the rides were distributed among the levels as follows: 346 rides at Intro Level (16%), 944 rides at Training Level (45%), 404 rides at First Level (19%), 168 rides at Second Level (8%), 106 rides at Third Level (5%), 77 rides at Fourth Level (4%), 39 rides in Musical Freestyle (2%) and 33 rides in Dressage Seat Equitation (2%). And 52 of those riders will receive Year-End High Score awards for 2007. Unfortunately, there were 11 competitors who did not win an award this year because they fulfilled all of the eligibility requirements except the volunteer hours. There was very stiff competition at Training Level this year. Since there were so many riders who met all of the eligibility requirements and all of their average scores were so close to each other, I pinned the class to 12 places rather than eight. And even with 12 placings, the lowest score in the ribbons is an outstanding 63.96%! Our Training Level riders performed exceptionally well this year and I look forward to seeing many of them competing at First Level next year. I wish to thank all of the show managers who sent in their scores and lists of volunteers. Everyone was very kind and very responsive to my requests for volunteers. Receiving the volunteer list directly from the show managers this year made my job significantly easier than last year and I just want to express my sincere appreciation for all of their efforts! I really love this job because I get the pleasure of rewarding everyone's hard work and celebrating in their accomplishments. Congratulations to all of the 2007 Year-End High Score Award Winners!! Valerie Mallder, Year-End High Score Award Committee Chairperson

The 2007 Year End High Score Awards were awarded at the 2007 Annual Awards Dinner. See photos of award winners next two pages.
Letter to the Editor

Don’t Do It! The Proposed USDF Performance Standards Are a Truly Terrible Idea

I am a 56 year old Adult Amateur (AA), who owns 3 warm-blood horses (2 Hanoversians and 1 ISH), and who has been riding for the last 30 years and competing (formerly eventing, now dressage) for the last 18 years. I belong to and regularly volunteer for several breeding and dressage organizations. I also am a busy lawyer who only has the time to participate in dressage shows two or three times each year. I know many other dedicated AAs (many who also own multiple talented horses) who train seriously with their horses and who show even less than I do. Although I have been a USDF and USEF member in the past, I didn’t join this year because I concentrated on starting my older Hanoverian and on learning/teaching flying changes with my older Hanoverian rather than showing either one. I enjoy participating in dressage shows to test how successful my training has been, but I don’t care about the chase for ribbons, points, awards, etc. Based upon my level of involvement in equine activities, I suspect that I may be toward the top of any bell curve representing showing and involvement among AAs in the U.S. So my comments might apply with even greater force for those AAs and juniors less involved than I am.

The proposed “Performance Standards” rule is a TERRIBLE IDEA. From what I have read, the proposed rule, the “mission of Performance Standards,” is to “prepare riders with positive competitive experiences” and to support the “welfare of the horse.” The Proposed Rule advances NEITHER “mission” and also thwarts what ought to be the mission of the USDF. Moreover, it attempts to cure a problem that doesn’t exist.

1. “Preparing riders with positive competitive experiences” will not be achieved
   a. Schooling shows, not a point system for licensed shows, should fulfill the role of preparing riders for decisions about whether to move up a level.
      (1) Judges give comments (unlike licensed shows)
      (2) Schooling shows are less expensive and more numerous
      (3) Example: I tried my first Third Level tests this fall, two times at schooling shows. I benefited from the helpful comments made by both judges, and am now working on the training tips each gave me. One judge was an “R” judge who said that the

   “work is all there” (and I have the video to prove it) as she was awarding me my 56.66% for my Third Level Test 1 second-try (at a VADA/NOVA show at Morven Park) and added “you’ve got to start somewhere!”—which I could NOT do under the proposed Performance Standards rules.
   b. At the proposed point increments and given how infrequently I have time to show, it could take me seven years (two or three shows per year at 1 to 3 points per show) to get to Third Level (where at least one “R” judge says I’m ready to show now). Spending seven years just to move up a level would not be a “positive competitive experience.” It would drive me, and other busy AAs like me, away from the USDF/USEF completely.
   c. The proposed point award schedule is laughably unrealistic. Look for example at the results from just two licensed shows last year at Morven Park (in the very horsy Region 1):

      http://www.vadanova.org/show/results/NovLicensedResults07.pdf
      http://www.vadanova.org/show/results/Nov09-10results.pdf

      These results demonstrate that almost no one achieves scores over 69%, even at Training through Second Level, and even long-time horse professionals (e.g., Fred Weber and Erin Sweeney—current and former “house” riders for some of the best Hanoverian breeding farms in the country (who have access to some of the most talented dressage horses in the country,) rarely score above that level. Most of the scores range from the high 50s through the mid-60s——C+ to B- grades that got most of us through high school and college without being condemned to repeat courses endlessly.
   d. The proposed rule would unfairly crowd lower level classes. The rule, as drafted, is “any test of the level [I assume they mean “Basic,” i.e. Training through Second, as the levels would be re-defined] may be used to accumulate points.... At least two rides must be of the highest test of the level [I assume they mean 2nd 4].” This simply would encourage the rider of a talented horse to rack up points at Training Level (4 or 5 Training Level rides at 4 pts. each), then show at 2nd 4 at above 60% perhaps only twice). Training Level tests are crowded enough already, and the competition by horses who shouldn’t be there would discourage true Training Level riders and horses.
   e. This proposed rule would prevent or discourage AAs from buying talented horses or schoolmasters that they’ll have to wait years to show at an appropriate level. That would be a terrible result for the entire dressage horse business, adversely affecting breeders, trainers and AA buyers.

2. “Welfare of the horse” will suffer

Letter to the Editor continued on next page
Letter to the Editor continued from previous page

a. Point accumulation requirements will harm horses by encouraging over-showing and by stressing horses from intense training and long-distance shipping to achieve maximum points in order to advance.

b. Holding back talented horses just to accumulate points will also hold-back U.S. dressage success by preventing talented horses from advancing as quickly as their talent may otherwise allow.

c. The breeding and selling of talented horses will suffer if the largely AA buyers can’t ride them at an appropriate level in shows.

3. The “mission” of the USDF/USEF should be to expand membership and serve the entire U.S. dressage/equestrian community. But that mission will be thwarted by the proposed “Performance Standards.”

a. The proposal is “un-American.”

(i) It will develop an elitist un-democratic “dressage class system” that is contrary to the American ethic that the U.S. is the land of opportunity and that anyone with talent and hard work can be successful here. By contrast, under USDF/USEF Performance Standards, one can achieve only by bureaucratic waiting until enough “boxes are checked” and by paying-off USDF/USEF for the years it will take until enough of those boxes are checked.

(ii) It will thwart the rapid development of talented young riders and young horses that will hinder the ability of the U.S. to compete successfully in the international dressage community.

b. It will contract, rather than expand, the membership and influence of the USDF/USEF by shutting out many if not most AAs and juniors.

(i) Dressage showing at licensed shows already is terribly expensive. Fewer folks (even lawyers like me) will be inclined to pay the money if they (or their children) must wait years for the chance to advance.

(ii) At least in Region 1 (and in many other Regions also, I’m sure), there already is access to good judging at schooling shows (e.g., PVDA, VADA/NOVA), which makes being a USDF/USEF member and showing at licensed shows unnecessary to most AAs. One needs not be a USDF/USEF member to show at a schooling show, many of which offer upper level classes.

(iii) USDF/USEF dressage shows no longer may attract the best horses, if they are owned by AAs (as many are) who see little benefit in (or cannot afford the time or money to obtain) the organizations’ “Performance Standards” stamp of approval.

(iv) Currently, other than the cache of offering licensed shows and providing awards that few members actually achieve, the USDF/USEF offers very little benefit to AAs. Using myself (an AA who owns, trains and shows multiple talented horses) as an example, I’m hard pressed to think of what benefit USDF/USEF provides that I actually need or want. The magazines are nice, but I had an “R” judge at my last schooling show. USDF/USEF licensed dressage shows do not reliably assure better facilities or judging. I (like most AAs I know) don’t chase ribbons or annual awards. And even if I did, I could do it in a schooling show series. If the organizations want to retain and serve dressage rider members beyond professional horse people, they should be making the organizations more, not less, accessible, and offer more, not fewer, opportunities to AA and junior riders. The Performance Standards plan will have just the opposite effect.

3. Performance Standards appear to be a useless bureaucratic attempt to “cure” a problem that doesn’t exist.

a. Look, for example, at the scores from the Morven Park licensed shows (the links for which are provided, above). Virtually all of the riders are successfully (scoring 50% +, i.e., “sufficient” or better) performing at the levels at which they are showing. So, what problem is the introduction of “performance standards” attempting to cure? Certainly not, by the great weight of evidence, the discouragement of a great number of riders from riding at inappropriate levels!

b. In any event, there is a much more effective way to police any inappropriate riding—simply dismiss the individual from the class (or any further class at that level at that show) if the riding is that bad. It would be easy to implement, effective for both the reputation of the show and the welfare of the horse, and limited to the particular day. Who is to say that the same rider and horse might not perform remarkably better several months from any such dismissal? Certainly, it would be much preferable to “ban” only the targeted poor rides rather than hundreds, if not thousands, of aspiring riders who might have the temerity to try to advance beyond Second Level without the prior blessing of the USDF/USEF.

In summary, the proposed Performance Standards system is a terrible idea. It would be counter-productive and damaging for the USDF/USEF; it would be harmful for AAs, breeders and horse professionals alike; it would be harmful for our dressage horses, and there is a much easier, more effective solution, even assuming that there is in fact a problem (which the available evidence does not support) that needs to be addressed.

Dennis Moore, Washington, D.C., PVDA Member
hands. The horse must keep moving on his own, not from constant leg pressure or repeated nudges from the leg. Junior rider Catherine Baumgardner was helped to activate her 5 year old Friesian, whose natural tendency was to be a bit lazy. His gaits and carriage dramatically improved when she got sufficient activity. Lendon told of her older sister’s advice to her when she was about 11 years old—her sister shouted across the arena, “If it’s comfortable, it’s too slow!” Lendon said she still finds this to be true today. If you are sitting pretty and thinking things are great, check to be sure that you have enough power.

Riders also were not allowed to constantly fiddle with the reins. Lendon would prefer to see the rider give one quick aid instead of continuous nagging or pulling. She would say to a rider “half halt, give,” but then pointed out that this was redundant, since a half halt by definition includes a release. Without a release, it’s not a half halt, it’s pulling. Riders also were to maintain a passive, steady contact with the mouth. It was important that riders NOT let their reins become too loose and drop the contact, and NOT pull or have too strong a contact. Lendon held the reins and played “horse” with many of the riders, demonstrating the feel of correct contact and a following hand.

Liz Hattenburg was especially excited to ride for Lendon, as she purchased her schoolmaster Chopin from a student of Lendon’s. Because Chopin has a conformational tendency toward an overly upright, too short neck, Lendon had Liz work on maintaining a longer neck and stretching to the bit.

Peggy Pariso’s Oldenburg gelding, San Fernando, had the opposite issue and wanted to travel a bit too deep and curled. Lendon had Peggy ride like a “bad show hunter” for a few minutes to get San Fernando opened up. Then Peggy was able to ride him round, but not as deep, and San Fernando’s gaits bloomed.

This theory—err on the side of the opposite of what the horse does naturally—carried over into other areas. For horses with a tendency to be lazy, riders rode a little over tempo. For horses who tended to be quick, riders erred on the side of too slow. For the horse who kept looking to the outside, the rider should overbend to the inside for a while. These corrections were not intended to be permanent, but rather a temporary exaggeration to make a point to horse and rider.

Lendon worked on adjustability of stride with many horses. The horse must accept a half halt and be able to shorten his stride, and he must be able to lengthen his stride when asked. This lesson applied to horses at all levels. Lendon says she uses the words “smaller trot, bigger trot” often to make it clear that she is not asking lower level riders to ride an extension, but she wants them to do something longer than their working trot. This might range from a green horse showing a lengthening in trot to an FEI horse schooling pirouette canter.

Karen Anderson rode her elegant 6 year old gelding, Fhinland. Karen purchased Fhinland as a 4 year old, and Lendon cautioned her against a very common problem, continuing to ride Fhinland as if he were a baby horse. Lendon said that from the time her horses are very young, she starts introducing the concepts of shorter strides, longer strides, baby walk pirouettes, etc. The expectations are much lower, but she likes to introduce these concepts early. Fhinland was working very solidly at First Level, and Lendon told Karen it was time to raise the bar.

Clinic organizer Marne Martin-Tucker filled in for a last-minute cancellation on her FEI horse Escobar. The auditors were able to see what the adjustability of stride work will become as Escobar demonstrated pirouette canter and some pirouettes. They also schooled canter zig zags, incorporating a bit of leg yield to help with straightness before the change.

Endurance rider Grace Janelle Strazheim’s Arab gelding
Lendon Gray continued from previous page

showed perhaps the biggest change over the weekend. He came in very inverted and somewhat tense. Lendon directed Grace to ride him on a 15m circle in posting trot, focusing on keeping him bent to the inside. Lendon says her theory is that horses can travel with their heads up in the air all day, but that traveling with their heads in the air bent sideways is tiring. Eventually, the horse discovers that it’s easier to lower his neck. This is exactly what happened with Grace’s horse. Patience paid off and the horse became softer, lowering his neck and relaxing his poll.

Lendon directed riders to use their corners, saying that every corner is an opportunity to supple and rebalance the horse. Make the most of your corners, don’t cut them.

She explained that while circles are an extremely useful exercise, one must be careful not to spend too much time riding in a circle. This can create a crooked horse. She also encouraged riders to spend more time riding on straight lines, and to make certain that their horses are truly straight. In particular, riders should keep the horse straight on the short sides of the arena, and not ride the short side as a half circle, ride it as a straight line with two proper corners.

Lendon encouraged riders to praise their horses’ efforts, saying, “The horse doesn’t have to be perfect to get a reward, he just has to be ‘less bad.’”

To evaluate a half halt, Lendon looks at the horse’s hind legs. The hind legs should be doing something—staying on the ground a fraction longer, bending the joints more, shifting more weight to them, etc.

Many thanks go to Marne Martin-Tucker for organizing the event, to Lori Larson for the use of the beautiful Wyndham Oaks, and to Lendon Gray for an exceptional clinic and equally wonderful speech at the annual dinner the night before.

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**PVDA Membership Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **How do I ensure that my membership application is processed efficiently?**
   Check the appropriate membership category with the appropriate amount of years. Consider a TWO YEAR membership as it has COST SAVINGS! Also, check the appropriate box indicating whether you have previously been a PVDA member. This saves time when updating the database and prevents duplication errors. Please PRINT all necessary information so that it is easy to read.

2. **When should family members be listed?**
   Family members are listed if applying for a family membership. The primary member in a family membership is recognized by USDF and receives the USDF group membership number. To have additional family members receive the USDF group membership is $10 extra (over the general family membership cost) per additional family member for one year OR $20 per additional family member for two years.

3. **Do I need to include my e-mail address?**
   Your e-mail address is important. PVDA sends out E-News announcements of interest to all members. Please put your ENTIRE web address, including the domain name information (msn.com, aol.com, etc).

4. **Is my USDF number important?**
   If you already have a USDF number, include it in the application. This is how PVDA coordinates information with USDF.

5. **I belong to more that one GMO. Does that matter?**
   If you belong to more than one GMO (USDF Group Member Organization), indicate your primary organization. You can contact USDF directly to obtain a refund for dues that you have paid for as your non-primary GMO. If you want to become a participating member with USDF, you can receive a discount on USDF dues if you are a member of a GMO. See the following link for additional USDF Group Membership information: 

6. **Should I fill out the volunteer information?**
   Yes! As with any successful organization, it is only as good as it’s volunteers! YOU can make a difference. From helping out at a schooling show to becoming a PVDA board member. Plus, with most volunteer positions, you receive a volunteer certificate worth $10 towards your next membership dues or schooling show entry! And volunteering also makes you eligible for the PVDA year-end awards. Volunteering is always a win/win situation!

7. **When should I renew my PVDA membership?**
   The PVDA membership year runs from January 1 thru December 31 of each year. You can renew as early as October and this will avoid any delay with the last minute rush. All renewals are taken in the order received and have a usual turn around time of two weeks plus the time it takes for mailing. BEFORE signing up for a show, please verify that you are a current member. Don’t wait until it’s too late!

8. **If I have concerns about my membership, what do I do?**
   Email correspondence is preferred at membership@pvda.org as there is less room for error when information is written down. If you leave a voice mail, please pronounce your name and phone number clearly, spell your last name, and repeat your phone number. A very brief description of your concern is all that is necessary.
Publication Deadlines

The PVDA Newsletter is published monthly by the Potomac Valley Dressage Association. The deadline for submissions is (usually) the 10th of the month for distribution the following month. NEXT ISSUE: FEBRUARY 2008; DEADLINE: January 10; DISTRIBUTION: early February 2008

Send materials to the appropriate editor below. Late materials may be published in a subsequent newsletter as deemed appropriate. Editors reserve the right to edit all material. All submissions are subject to editorial approval.

Send your submissions to the appropriate editor:

✦ Display Ads (checks payable to PVDA), Chapter News, Photo Gallery: newsletter@pvda.org or michelestinson@earthlink.net (Michele Stinson, PVDA Newsletter Editor, 3409 Farragut Ave., Kensington, MD 20895)
✦ News/Articles/Flying Changes: jpearson@erols.com (Jocelyn Pearson, News Editor)
✦ The Classifieds: classifieds@pvda.org (Shari Glickman, GoodNess Ridge Farm, 13979 Unionville Rd., Mt. Airy, MD 21771; 301-351-5530)
✦ Show Results: showresults@pvda.org (Lindsay Jensen, Show Results Coordinator)
✦ Calendar of Events: calendar@pvda.org (Jocelyn Pearson, Calendar Editor)
✦ Change of Address/Membership Renewal & Information: membership@pvda.org (Shari Packard, Membership Coordinator, 16105 Bond Mill Rd., Laurel, MD 20707; 301-498-4972)
✦ PVDA Web Site: webmaster@pvda.org (Kyrie Garretson, PVDA Webmaster)

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Advertise in the PVDA Newsletter! newsletter@pvda.org for information

Potomac Valley Dressage Association Membership Application 2008

PVDA is a USDF Group Member Organization and PVDA members are automatically USDF Group Members.

THE PVDA MEMBERSHIP YEAR RUNS FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31.

I wish to apply for the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1 year</th>
<th>2 year</th>
<th>Life</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior Affiliate (under 18)</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td>$55</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Adult (18-21)*</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$75</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>$55</td>
<td>$95</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Each additional family member is $10 (1 year USDF) or $20 (2 years USDF)</strong>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior (65 and over)</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td>$55</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patron</td>
<td>$65</td>
<td>$115</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Affiliate</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$165</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I have previously been a member [yes] [no]

Name ___________________________________________

Family PVDA Members ___________________________________________

Street ___________________________________________

City/State/Zip ___________________________________________

Telephone ___________________________________________

E-mail ___________________________________________

USDF Membership No. ___________________________________________

Primary GMO ___________________________________________

* If under 21, give birth date (for special USDF awards) ______________

☐ Do not list my phone no. in the PVDA Membership Directory.

☐ I would like to donate an additional amount for a trophy $ ______

I am interested in volunteering for:

☐ show scribe
☐ show manager
☐ show scorer
☐ show ring steward
☐ show runner
☐ set up/breakdown
☐ show (other)
☐ education projects
☐ computer skills
☐ advertising/marketing
☐ anything

Please check the following that apply:

☐ dressage judge (grade) ______
☐ dressage trainer
☐ USEF technical delegate
☐ dressage instructor (level) ______
☐ breeder (breed) ______

Please complete the entry form and mail with your check payable to PVDA. Regular first class mail only. No certified mail will be accepted.

Send to:

Shari Packard, PVDA Membership Coordinator
16105 Bond Mill Rd., Laurel, MD 20707

For more information about becoming a member, contact Shari Packard at membership@pvda.org or 301-498-4972. For chapter information, contact chapters@pvda.org.
Board Meetings are held the first Monday of each month and are open to all PVDA members.

DECEMBER PVDA BOARD MEETING

Date: December 3, 2007; Meeting #460
Location: Linda Speer’s Farm, Clarksville, Md.
Betty Thorpe called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present: Carolyn Del Grosso, Betty Thorpe, Bonnie Vaden, Cathy Jeary, Linda Speer, Samantha Smith, Marne Martin-Tucker, Pat Artimovich, Alyssa Dragnich, Jocelyn Pearson, Shari Packard, Shari Glickman, Kyrie Garretson, Lori Parksins, Leslie Raulin, Deanna Beal, Jennifer Funk, Karen Jacob
Association Members Present: Liz Erwin, Ingrid Gentry, Mardee Rochelle, Eileen Johnson, Vicki Meyer
Election of Executive Board: See new officers (left)

TREASURER’S REPORT

General Fund: $11,692.36
Schooling Shows: $7,862.01
Chapter Fund: $7,777.19
Money Market: $5,419.76
CDs: $17,573.99
RFL-CCH: $15,599.82
Total: $70,172.78

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education: (Lori Parksins/Alyssa Dragnich, Marne Martin-Tucker, Linda Speer). London Gray went very well. Lori Parksins would like to run a full Instructor Certification program starting in 2009.

Group Chapters: (Karen Jacob) The Chesapeake chapter is back and has been renamed Bayside.

High Score Awards: (Val Mallder) Val did a super job and it went very smoothly.

Membership: (Karen Jacob) Take over the Maryland Horse Council delegate position.

NEXT MEETING: January 7, Linda Speer’s Farm, Clarksville, Md. For info: Carolyn Del Grosso, 301-774-0794 (6-8 p.m.).

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

These minutes prepared and submitted by: Carolyn Del Grosso, Board Secretary
Fred Weber Dressage Clinic

February 24, 2008
Woodvale Farms

Private: $100 • Semi-private: $65
Sign up at www.fredweberdressage.com

Fred Weber is a USDF gold medalist with
two decades of experience at all levels. He
has competed eight horses at the FEI levels
and has numerous USDF year end awards.
He had his formal training in Germany and is
a licensed Bereiter.

Currently stalls available for select horses at
Woodvale Farms. We offer full board and
training programs for all levels. We live on
the premises to watch over your horse at all
times. For photos and more information visit
our website:

www.fredweberdressage.com
or call at 301-788-3581

Potomac Valley Dressage Association, Inc.
www.pvda.org

Managing Editor: Michele Stinson
newsletter@pvda.org

News Editor: Jocelyn Pearson
jpearson@erols.com

See page 22 for publication deadlines
and section editors.

• PVDA Memberships expired on December 31 and are due January 31. Renew your Membership now! See page 22.