For all of you Shakespeare fans, beware the ides of March! And for us riders who are ready to put winter behind us, we were all very happy to receive the omnibus in the mail in February (well done Bonnie Vaden, Stephanie Banks and Alyssa Dragnich!). Granted, planning our show schedules is not as complicated a venture as trying to qualify and compete in the Winter Olympics for those who need to travel to California for the selection trials in June, then to Germany for the Aachen CHIO show in July, and then on to Hong Kong in August. Yet sitting down and making goals for the show season is always a fun and inspiring event.

One thing that is often overlooked when...
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Located minutes from the Wilson bridge, a picturesque dressage facility designed for riders by riders. Stable 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 parklike pastures. Now taking applicants for March. A PDNA schooling show planned in April.

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www.cheshirehorsehills.com
Bayside Chapter Plans Tack Sale, Flea Market and Artisan Fair This Summer

The newly formed Bayside chapter of PVDA, which is based at Breezy Run Farm in Church Hill, Maryland, is planning a tack sale, flea market, and artisan fair for later this summer. Tables/half tables will be available for rent. What a great opportunity to mingle with fellow equestrians and pass on that lovely blanket that doesn’t quite fit your new horse! This promises to be a fun and profitable day for all. Please contact Susan at michlib@yahoo.com or (410) 353-5640 for more information about the sale. There will be more specifics in the April newsletter.

Thank You to Horse Expo Volunteers!

PVDA thanks all the dedicated volunteers manning the PVDA booth at the Horse World Expo 2008.

Order Your Region 1 Omnibus

The Omnibus for USDF Region 1 2008 can be ordered now. The annual directory contains prize lists for licensed shows and several special shows in Region 1 as well as info about qualifying for championship shows, Jr/YR information, etc. The 2008 booklets are $10. Due to an increase in production costs the 2009 booklets are $15. Checks are payable to Region 1 Omnibus. Send your mailing info (name, address, city, state, zip) and check to: USDF Region 1 Omnibus, 38595 Purple Martin Lane, Hamilton, VA 20158. Contact Melissa Murray at melissamurray@msn.com with questions. Please specify Omnibus year (2008 or 2009) you are ordering.

Clinic With Scott Hassler

A clinic with Scott Hassler will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2008, 1-4:30 pm. at Riveredge West, the current training center for Hassler Dressage. The cost is $35/person. Scott Hassler will direct the training clinic using several of the area’s
young horse trainers as they school young horses through the levels up to and including Prix St. Georges and Intermediaire I. He will clarify each horse's needs for further development during each training session. Spectators will be invited to interact with questions and comments. Be sure to come dressed for the weather as spectators will be seated on a raised viewing platform located at the short-end of the covered arena. Riders will include Teresa Butta, Brooke Doss, Susanne Hassler, Kelly McGinn, Ulla Peterson, and Lauren Spieser. To register online visit www.hasslerdressage.com or call the office at 410-886-3824.

Concept of Dressage Qualification Standards Supported by The USEF Board; Action Postponed Until 2009

By Joanie Morris

USEF NEWS, Lexington, KY. On January 13, the final day of the USEF Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors considered rule change proposals for all breeds and disciplines. Included in this review was the much-discussed “performance standards” proposal from the Dressage Committee, which would establish a qualification process for competing at certain levels at USEF-Licensed Dressage Competitions. After extensive discussion, the Board voted to officially table the proposal until the next USEF Annual Meeting in January 2009, but also included in their motion to specifically note its support of the concept and charged the Dressage Committee to bring back a detailed proposal for final approval.

“There was overwhelming support from the USEF Board for this concept of performance standards for dressage,” said USEF President David O’Connor. “This was an important first step. We look forward to seeing the specific proposals as they are further developed.”

The Dressage Committee will further develop the specifics of the “performance standards” proposal over the coming months, with a possible implementation in stages by dressage level. Current plans are to have the proposal ready for distribution to the membership in the summer of 2008, and feedback will be collected from potentially affected affiliates. In particular, the United States Dressage Federation (USDF), the national affiliate for dressage, will develop a communication network through its Group Member Organization (GMO) delegates and USDF Participating Member (PM) delegates this summer, which will allow for a more efficient system of communication and feedback to the Dressage Committee. Opportunities for further discussion of the proposal will be scheduled during the 2008 USDF Annual Convention in Denver, Colorado.

“We are pleased to have the support of the USEF Board of Directors for the concept of qualification standards for certain levels of dressage competition,” said Marianne Ludwig, chair of the USEF Dressage Committee. “The Committee appreciates all of the feedback received from members, and we welcome the opportunity to bring a detailed proposal back to the Board for next year’s Annual Meeting.”

For more information about USEF dressage programs, please visit the Federation website at www.usef.org or contact Jennifer Keeler, USEF National Director of Dressage, jkeeler@usef.org or (859) 225-2024.
Christine Smith
USDF Registered Clinician
Saturday, April 5, 2008

Christine’s format will be two sessions and you may choose the morning or the afternoon session. Each session will open with a short lecture followed by a pre-scheduled 20-minute individual session with you, your horse, and Christine. Topics include:
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- Effective presentation of the walk and trot
- Methods for maximizing scores and placing

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For information, registration forms and Individual Session times contact Linda Denniston: crqhf@aol.com or (301) 447-6240 or www.cedarrowe.com

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Shore Dressage

We are moving forward with good impulsion! We held our annual January Planning Meeting on the 27th at the beautiful home of Tammy Kinnamon, who also had a display of food fit for Dressage Queens! Our first order of business was to set up show dates for 2008. They are: May 17 at Sunset Bay Farm in Onancock, Va.; June 22 at Still Meadow Farm in Salisbury, Md.; Sept. 13 at Still Meadow or possibly a location in the Easton area; and Oct. 5 at Sunset Bay Farm.

On April 6 Deri Jeffers will conduct a “Learning to Scribe and Score Schooling Shows” at Still Meadow Farm. Riders will ride a test, which Deri will Judge out loud (and make verbal comments if time allows) and others can practice scribing and scoring. On April 27 we will host an educational event at Sunset Bay Farm that will consist of a Demonstration on Lunging the horse and rider. This will be followed with lunch and a question and answer session.

We also are looking forward to clinics with Richard Williams and Jim Armstrong in the summer. On April 6 Deri Jeffers will conduct a “Learning to Scribe and Score Schooling Shows” at Still Meadow Farm. Riders will ride a test, which Deri will Judge out loud (and make verbal comments if time allows) and others can practice scribing and scoring. On April 27 we will host an educational event at Sunset Bay Farm that will consist of a Demonstration on Lunging the horse and rider. This will be followed with lunch and a question and answer session.

We also are looking forward to clinics with Richard Williams and Jim Armstrong in the summer. Deri will be conducting “Custom Designed Clinics to Suit Busy Schedules.”

We are looking forward to a positive, fun and educational 2008. For more details go to our Web site: http://shoredressage.tripod.com

Catoctin

The Catoctin Chapter of Frederick, Md., met on January 13, 2008, at Diane McCarthy’s house. As always, Diane hosted our annual planning meeting with a warm atmosphere and a wonderful fare. At the meeting we renewed memberships; so far, we have 11 members. We welcome new members of any skill level at any time. Contact Stephanie at sjruffian@aol.com. We had a very successful blanket wash in 2007 and plan a repeat for 2008. If anyone wants to have their blankets professionally cleaned and repaired, we will schedule a pick-up in June 2008. Contact Leslie at RAULINL@yahoo.com for more information.

In conjunction with the Blue Ridge Arabian Horse Association, the Catoctin Chapter will again sponsor a Dressage Schooling Show at Plantation Valley Farm, Middletown, Md., on Saturday, May 10, 2008. There will be both dressage classes and sport horse in-hand classes. The show will provide time to get pointers from the judge. For information, contact Debbie at DebbieLomb@hotmail.com. As an annual donation, we unanimously voted to give $100 to Days End Farm. At our February 13 meeting Debbie Lomb will provide a session on bitting (types, sizing, purposes, etc.). Members can bring various types of bits for discussion and a trade/tryout period. We invite other PVDA members to attend; contact Leslie at RAULINL@yahoo.com.

A number of the chapter members will be auditing the Jane Savoie Clinic at Hilltop Farm, March 29-30, 2008. We plan a “sleepover” at a local hotel and are looking forward to fun and learning. Other activities being planned for 2008 include attending the rodeo in Westminster, Md.; auditing the Manolo Mendez Clinic at Wildfire Farm in Va.; and a long lining demonstration.

Bayside

The newly formed Bayside chapter of PVDA meets every second Friday at 7 p.m. at Breezy Run Farm in Church Hill, Md. We are growing daily as we discover dressage enthusiasts looking for opportunities to share their passion. This past meeting we planned for an upcoming tack sale, flea market, and artisan fair for later this summer (details to follow). We also are working on a clinic for this year and helping Breezy Run Farm with their dressage schooling shows. Our April meeting will feature a video review of the 2008 stallion approvals in Denmark, and a discussion lead by Jackie Kinney—a popcorn and movie meeting night. Come out and join us!

The Bayside Chapter held its second dressage schooling show on February 2 at BreezyRun Farm in Church Hill. Similar to our very first (ever) January show, this day saw sunshine with warm temps and a full day of tests. Judging for the day was Aviva Nebesky (L). Her comments to each rider were very much appreciated. High score for the a.m. was Larissa Barilar with 76% and for the p.m. was Kristen Ortt with 80%. Our third show will be March 2 with Judge Jane Conlon (R). Tempi Design Studio will award series prizes at the March show, along with a display table for viewing of this unique line. The 120 square feet of glass viewing alongside the indoor arena make this a spectator favorite for watching rides and for our future specialized clinics. Stay tuned!
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by Janet Geyer

Let’s first identify those extra pounds before we talk about the hidden dangers and how to deal with them.

The Normal Horse: Weight and Body Condition

The Henneke Body Scoring Condition Chart is a great way to assess your horse’s body condition, and it is also used by law enforcement agencies as a method of scoring a horse’s condition in abuse cases. The system ranges from 1 to 9—a score between 5 and 7 is best for most horses. Overweight horses score from 7 to 9 and the diagram above shows the areas that should be checked for fat.

7. FLESHY: There may be a crease down the back. Ribs can be felt, but not easily. Fat can be felt between ribs. Soft fat around tailhead. Fat can be seen around withers, neck, and behind shoulders.

8. FAT: There is a crease down the back. Ribs are hard to feel. All along withers is filled with fat. Fat around tailhead is soft. Fat can be seen on the withers and behind shoulders. Some fat is deposited along the inner buttocks.

9. EXTREMELY FAT: Deep crease down back. Fat is deposited in patches over the ribs. Bulging fat around tailhead, withers, neck, and shoulders. Inner buttocks rub together. Flank is filled in.

Other signs of overweight horses are cresty neck, fat lumps and ripples on the neck, missing shoulder bone (i.e. not easily seen shoulder), and fat pads under saddle. If you are worried that your horse is an 8 or 9 on the scale, then maybe it is time to get out a weight tape and call your vet. Overweight horses and ponies can be prone to laminitis and founder. In many cases their immune systems have been compromised due to the lack of nutrition in their diets—this results in many disease conditions including metabolic shut down and insulin resistance.

The tradition in the dressage community is to overfeed your horse to produce fat that mimics muscle. But there is no substitution for muscle that comes from preparative work. This was the tune sung over and over by the vets during the recent Horse Health Conference sponsored by the USDF Convention in Orlando.

Okay, so you are worried...now what do you do? A program of commitment, exercise, and control on your part is the best way to go. And just like in humans, you should do this under the watchful eye of your equine physician. I suggest the following:

1. Take photos of your horse or pony today.
2. Get out a weight tape and record your measurement along with the photos.
3. Talk with your veterinarian about the right diet.
4. Muzzle your horse on grass or put them on a dry lot.
5. Get them into a regular exercise program.
6. Don’t stress out your horse in the process or this can cause ulcers and other problems.

“I don’t feed my horse anything but a handful!” Unfortunately, this is a phrase heard over and over again. Most people really don’t know what to feed a horse that is overweight. Concentrated feeds are designed to be fed at the prescribed level on the package. I would bet that most owners just choose a feed and then scoop based on their desired effect. With overweight horses, the typical action is to feed the “handful.” Unfortunately, when grain is fed like this, the horse doesn’t get what they need in the way of vitamins, minerals and amino acids. All would be fine if the hay contained the needed nutrition. Three hundred years ago this might have been the case. However, hay is no longer a complete nutrition source and typical near-infrared analysis leads to check only for protein and sugars. This leaves the

Is Your Horse Too Fat? continued on next page
mother load of nutrition factors in the dark.

Most overweight horses suffer from malnutrition and in addition to their other problems have a bloated belly that is indicative of their condition. The National Research Council in its most recent publication reviews the vitamin and mineral requirements for horses. They have increased the levels for sport horses, and recognize the balance that must occur within and between the many vitamins and minerals. Look at your feed tag and see if there are vitamins and minerals listed on the label. If you find only a few of each, then maybe you should rethink your current program.

This doesn’t mean to overdo it on the supplement end. Too many supplements can completely throw your horse out of balance as well as your checkbook. Is it okay to feed too much selenium? Calcium? Phosphorus? Zinc? You would need a full time job in nutrition to figure it all out.

Foods to avoid for heavy horses are high fat diets, high carbohydrate foods such as sweet feeds or pellets with corn, concentrates, oats and foods that absorb throughout the gut such as beet pulp. Many hays contain a lot of sugars from stressed pastures and should be soaked to remove the sugars for horses that are on a diet. For treats, anything in small amounts is fine, but bags of high carbohydrate carrots and lots of sugar cubes should certainly be avoided.

What is the right diet? Hay or grass or fiber is needed to keep the horse gut active. Without a constant influx of fiber, the scilia in the gut can stop functioning and die. So the perfect food for a dieting horse is one where they get the nutrition they need, but they burn more calories than they are consuming. You will probably be shocked, but this food stuff is nice clean wheat or oat straw that is coated with all of the vitamins, minerals and amino acids that they need to survive. This is not found in nature, but needs to be made by a feed mill. The second most effective food would be Timothy Hay laced with all of the vitamins, minerals and amino acids needed for performance.

A good diet is one that separates the nutrition part from the calories. Most feed combines the two and it is hard to find something that is different. It is also a myth that horses crave what they need. Just like with kids and vegetables, most horses will eat what tastes the best and push the peas to the side of the plate.

Morgans, ponies, drafts, quarterhorses, and warmbloods all seem to suffer from problems ensuing from feeding a “handful” of grain. Their bodies don’t get the nutrition that is needed and yet we keep riding and showing, wondering why our equine partners are unable to perform the next year or wondering why they suffer from sore feet or start shutting down metabolically. In an effort to kindly regulate food intake, we have created even more problems.
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 BomboSportproof Your Horse Clinic with Rick Pelicano in 12/07! For more info and photos, see www.chesapeakedressage.com, Cheryl Wylie, 443-220-4556 or email: Trainer@ChesapeakeDressage.com

✦ 1) '03 imp. & branded Olden, bay geld. by Donnerschwee by Donnerhall o/o Little Star also a prem. foal, was prem. foal/stallion prosp. Prem. trained, beautiful movement with a matching tail. Eager to please, loving. Quiet temp. to perform well in the dressage ring, very eye catching with 4 white socks. Overall ability to perform at higher levels. 2) '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 BomboSportproof Your Horse Clinic with Rick Pelicano in 12/07! For more info and photos, see www.chesapeakedressage.com, Cheryl Wylie, 443-220-4556 or email: Trainer@ChesapeakeDressage.com

✦ Welsh pony sorrel geld. 5 yrs, 12H, blaze & 3 white socks, w/flaxen mane & tail. Bred for the hunter ring and started off. Trots and canters sm. gymnastics and courses and has been a trusted lead line pony for children ages 2-7. Super cute, perf. Manners, no vices or health/soundness problems. Loc. 2 hours north of Chicago, IL, $2,500neg. to a good home. See www.golightlysporthorses.com or email: Cerie at cheriechauvin@hotmail.com

Horses for Lease

✦ 3rd level blk. TB geld., 17 yrs, looks and moves like a WB warmblood! Avail. for lease/lessons to a training/1st. level rider wanting to learn lateral movements. Boarded in Harwood, MD, Lisa Gruen, 410-991-3711 or email: lisagruen@comcast.net

Equipment for Sale

✦ 1) Sz. 9 blk. Konig Grandgester tall, narrow, stiff dressage boot. Well broken in but still show-worthy. Purchased in Europe for >$900, will sell for $200/obo 2) Sz. 9 Ariat blk. Heritage field boots, tall, narrow, worn 2x, sell for $239 new, asking $200/obo 3) Sz. 9 brn. Ariat slog clog accented with a silvertone bit, hardly worn, sell new for $115, asking $80/obo 4) Sz. 9 blk. Ariat Artic Lace winter paddock boot, lined w/Thinsulate, super-warm and comfy, barely worn, sell for $110 new, asking $75/obo. Call or email for measurements or more info., Kyrie Garretson, 301-898-0374 or email: kyrieg@earthlink.net

Keep Me Posted

*April 2008 Issue DEAD
For Rent

horses avail. Exc. facility for training w/ind. arena, 2 outside rings and plenty of area to hack. Exc. care prov. w/exp. from young stock to stallions. Owner/mgr living on site. Quality hay and feed w/sched. veterinary & farrier care, individual turnout and climate controlled tack room, Bonnie Thomas, 410-763-7292 or email: coverley@dishmail.net or 410-763-7292

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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.

The PVDA Trophy Fund Needs Your Donation!

Would you like to know more about the committees of the PVDA? This is the first in a series featuring different committees — what they do for you, who manages them and how you can help them meet their goals.

The PVDA Trophy Fund committee was established to raise and disburse funds for show trophies, both the everyday trophies that you may be familiar with from schooling shows and the special or perpetual trophies that are awarded at licensed shows.

Chaired in 2008 by Shari Packard and Dona Haske, the Trophy Fund committee raises money for trophies and works with the Awards Committee to procure and distribute trophies. The principal sources of funding are donations from the PVDA members via checking the box on the membership application or by making a special donation in honor of a loved one, special horse, inspirational trainer, etc. One recent suggestion made to the Board is to remember the late Sigrid Thomas by endowing a perpetual trophy in her honor.

The PVDA Trophy Fund committee is working to build the fund to realize this idea and others; at present the fund is approximately $200. But even if you have submitted your membership application for 2008, it is not too late to benefit the fund by sending any amount, even $1-5, to Shari Packard. If each member sent in $1 to the Trophy Fund, we would have approximately $1000 to use for the above purposes. With a larger donation, you may be able to specify the purpose and design of your trophy.

Any questions about the Trophy Fund may be directed to Shari Packard at 301-498-3972 or membership@pvda.org. Donations can be sent to Shari Packard at 16105 Bond Mill Road, Laurel MD 20707. I challenge each PVDA member to contribute $1 and one idea for a new trophy in 2008!
planning the competition season is planning your “volunteer season.” Volunteering, whether for experienced veterans or “newbies,” is a great way to get involved with PVDA to learn or refresh skills and “make a difference.” There are jobs for all levels of expertise and interests whether at schooling shows, licensed shows or at community events. If you have not volunteered before, don’t be shy, you will be welcomed with open arms. To that end, please check out the updated www.pvda.org Web site for the latest calendar, news and contact information.

For 2008, I have set a goal to try to outreach to more of our members and chapters to hear your ideas. Some of you have already e-mailed me and I look forward to many more members sending their thoughts and ideas on how PVDA and the Board can better serve you. Are you aware, for example, that PVDA offers a variety of scholarships to its members, chapter benefits such as subsidized shows, clinics, projects, etc., that are available to any chapter that applies before May 1, and a subsidized book and video library and free classifieds for its members?

As many of you already know, USEF decided in the January meeting to send the performance standards back to the Dressage Committee for further review, however, the USEF did issue a statement expressing their support for performance standards (see press release on page 4). We are very happy that the decision was taken to provide additional time to study the nature of the performance standards, and that the standards would need to be presented in detail at the 2009 meeting for a yes or no vote.

We have provided views for and against these performance standards in our newsletter and despite the short time between the USDF meeting in December 2007 and the USEF meeting in January 2008, we did receive quite a bit of feedback and reactions on the issue. However, many of our members have yet to voice an opinion. We would therefore like to conduct a referendum to receive feedback from a higher percentage of our membership base regarding whether each member is “for” or “against” performance standards, and to the extent that the performance standards move ahead, as USEF seems to support, what do you think would be reasonable performance standards that would be fair to our general membership? For those of you who normally do not get involved, this is a great opportunity for you to weigh in and make your opinion known!

To facilitate this referendum (which is the first time that we would be trying to do something of this magnitude) we would like to set up an online voting link on our Web site where members can key in their membership number, vote and e-mail commentary. Please watch for more information in our e-news and in the April newsletter. It is important that as many people as possible get involved to give feedback so that we can make a formal PVDA GMO recommendation to the Dressage Committee and continue our activism.

As you plan activities in March, try to attend (if you can) either the Region 1 clinic and meeting on March 15-16 at the new Riveredge Farm in Chesapeake City, Md. (www.hasslerdressage.com) or the Janet Brown-Foy Clinic on March 14 and L program session on March 15 and 16 at Wyndham Oaks, Boyds, Md. (www.wyndham-oaks.com). Alison Head, our USDF Region 1 Director, will be discussing a number of issues at the Region 1 meeting, including the pending performance standards and the locations for the 2009 Region 1 championships shows. The L program session will be on Gaits and Paces, Movements and Figures conducted by Janet Brown-Foy, a well-known FEI I- and USEF S-rated dressage judge, trainer and competitor from Colorado.

The schooling show season starts in April so we will hope that even if March comes in like a lion, it leaves like a lamb in order to give us a warm welcome to the 2008 show season. We look forward to seeing you out at our wonderful show facilities. In the April newsletter I will showcase some of our new facilities for you, as well as update you on the Ride for Life show and Saturday night’s Dancing Horse Challenge.

I would like to give a big thank you to Pat Artimovich and all those who helped organize and instruct at our inaugural “Tea for Training” session February 17. It was greatly over-subscribed and there is already demand to do another session. Way to go Pat and the team!

Likewise, PVDA and the Ride for Life committee would like to give another big thank you to Alison May who developed a super logo for the PVDA Ride for Life show. Check it out at www.pvdarideforlife.org. Way to go Alison!

Have a great month!

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

Janet Brown-Foy

March 14, 2008
Paradise Stables, Mt. Airy, Maryland

Janet Brown-Foy is an FEI "I" judge and USEF "S" judge. She is a member of the USDF "L" Program Faculty and the USEF Dressage Committee. She has earned her USDF Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medals, and has ridden horses to Horse of the Year Awards from Training Level to Grand Prix.

We will accept 10 riders for 45-minute private sessions. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The fee is $100 per session. Auditors are welcome.

Auditors are also encouraged to see Ms. Brown-Foy teach the USDF "L" Education Program at Wyndham Oaks in Boyds the following weekend, March 15-16.

To apply, please contact Alyssa Dragnich at adragnich@verizon.net or 301-570-1603.

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Web: www.chesapeakeedressage.com
Email: marketing@chesapeakeedressage.com
### 2008 PVDA Show Schedule*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Show</th>
<th>Opening</th>
<th>Closing</th>
<th>Manager</th>
<th>Mgr Phone</th>
<th>Judge</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>Cheshire Horse Hills</td>
<td>3/10</td>
<td>3/21</td>
<td>Kathleen Avillion</td>
<td>301/372-6302</td>
<td>Celia Vornholt (r)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/20</td>
<td>Schooley Mill, Adult</td>
<td>3/24</td>
<td>4/4</td>
<td>Carolyn Del Grosso</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/26</td>
<td>Windsor Stables</td>
<td>3/31</td>
<td>4/11</td>
<td>Lou Giles</td>
<td>410/859-0781</td>
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<td>5/4</td>
<td>Sugarloaf</td>
<td>4/7</td>
<td>4/18</td>
<td>Leslie Hubbell</td>
<td>301/515-9075</td>
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<td>Chesapeake Dress. Inst.</td>
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<td>4/18</td>
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<td>4/14</td>
<td>4/25</td>
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<td>5/18</td>
<td>By Chance</td>
<td>4/21</td>
<td>5/2</td>
<td>Michelle Wellman</td>
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<td>5/24-25</td>
<td>Morven Park</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Shanon Pedlar</td>
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<td>6/1</td>
<td>Tewksbury Manor</td>
<td>3/17</td>
<td>4/17</td>
<td>Kimberly Beldam</td>
<td>301/905-8542</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5/12</td>
<td>5/23</td>
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<td>6/22</td>
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<td>5/27</td>
<td>6/6</td>
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<td>6/22</td>
<td>Exalt Farm</td>
<td>5/27</td>
<td>6/6</td>
<td>Ruth Popek/Lori</td>
<td>410/729-1408</td>
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<td>6/28-29</td>
<td>PGEC Ride for Life Licensed Show</td>
<td>4/28</td>
<td>5/28</td>
<td>Jan Denno</td>
<td>301/888-1314</td>
<td>See Prize List</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/13</td>
<td>Potomac Riverside</td>
<td>6/16</td>
<td>6/27</td>
<td>Ana Slaysman</td>
<td>301/972-8187</td>
<td>Jocelyn Pearson (L)</td>
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<td>Windsor Stables</td>
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<td>Chimney Hill</td>
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<td>7/5</td>
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<td>301/262-5143</td>
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<td>7/11</td>
<td>Heather Fay</td>
<td>571/276-9985</td>
<td>Betty Thorpe (r)</td>
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<td>7/7</td>
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<td>Oak Ridge Park</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Beverly Fields (r)</td>
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<td>Marjorie Davis (r)</td>
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<td>Carol Kosary/</td>
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<td>Linda Speer</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
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*2008 Show Schedule subject to change. Prepared by Bonnie Vaden. See Omnibus for exact locations of the farms.
March 2008
2 Dressage Schooling Show, Breezy Run Farm, Church Hill, Md. Judge: Janice Conlon, “R”. For more information, visit www.breezyrunfarm.com or call 410-556-6614.
3 PVDA Board Meeting, 7 p.m. Linda Speer's Farm, Clarksville, Md. Contact Betty Thorpe, 301-562-0798.
9 Schooling Show at Columbia Horse Center. Judge: Sarah Duclos. Contact Kate Miska, www.columbiahorsecenter.com
12 & 26 Dressage Clinic Series with Jean Paul Pare at Wind Horse Offering, Earleville (Upper Eastern Shore), Md. Contact Jeanne Davis at 610-291-9550 or windhorse02@siteone.net or visit our Web site at www.windhorseoffering.com. Auditors welcome.
14 PVDA's Janet Brown-Foy Clinic at Paradise Stables, Mt. Airy. Contact Alyssa Dragnich, adragnich@verizon.net or 301-570-1603.
14-16 Clinic with Manolo Mendez at Wildfire Farm. Contact Mary Flood to ride or audit at maryflood@aol.com or www.wildfirefarm.com
14-16 DVCTA “Equicord Freestyle Symposium,” USDF University Accredited Musical Freestyle Clinic at New Bolton Center & Laurel Hill Farm, Kennett Square, Pa. Contact Gail Bowden, 610-932-7896, glmbowden@aol.com or Fiona Gowers, fgowers@kennett.net, 610-255-0163
15 Todd Bryan Clinic at Tenacity Stables sponsored by PVDA Sugarloaf Chapter. All levels welcome. Contact MaryBeth at mblewawodski@starpower.net
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
16 Dressage Schooling Show at Equilibrium Horse Center, Gambrills, Md. Contact Sandy McGuire, 410-721-0885 or MorganEQ@aol.com. Visit our Web site at www.equilibriumhorse.net.
29-30 Jane Savoie, USDF Adult Clinic at Hilltop Farm.

April
2-6 Erik Herbermann Dressage Clinic at Equilibrium Horse Center, Gambrills, Md. Contact Karen Poxon, 410-721-0196 or kpoxon@verizon.net. Visit our Web site at www.equilibriumhorse.net.
3-4 Cesar Parra Clinic at Chimney Hill Farm, Upper Marlboro. Contact Sharon Myers, 301-627-8873
6 Reddemeade Dressage Schooling Show and Combined Test. Judge: Jocelyn Pearson. Contact jane@reddemeade.com or check the Web site, www.reddemeade.com
6 Schooling Show at Columbia Horse Center. Judge: Ingrid Gentry. Contact Kate Miska, www.columbiahorsecenter.com
7 PVDA Board Meeting, 7 p.m. Linda Speer’s Farm, Clarksville, Md. Contact Deanna Beal, 410-833-3321.
9 & 23 Dressage Clinic Series with Jean Paul Pare at Wind Horse Offering, Earleville (Upper Eastern Shore), Md. Contact Jeanne Davis at 610-291-9550 or windhorse02@siteone.net or visit our Web site at www.windhorseoffering.com. Auditors welcome.
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
12-13 VADA/Nova Spring Competition at Morven Park. See www.vadanova.org
20 Dressage Schooling Show at Equilibrium Horse Center, Gambrills, Md. Contact Sandy McGuire, 410-721-0885 or MorganEQ@aol.com. Visit our Web site at www.equilibriumhorse.net.
27 Schooling Show at Begin Again Farm in Leonardtown, Md. Contact Michele at BeginAgainFarm@aol.com or 301-475-5013
29-30 Walter Zettl clinic at Reddemeade. For information contact jane@reddemeade.com.

May
3-4 CDCTA Dressage at Morven Park. See www.cdcta.com.
4 Schooling Show at Columbia Horse Center. Judge: Aviva Nebesky. Contact Kate Miska, www.columbiahorsecenter.com
5 PVDA Board Meeting, 7 p.m. Linda Speer’s Farm, Clarksville, Md. Contact Jen Funk, 410-521-0121.
13-14 Cesar Parra Clinic at Chimney Hill Farm, Upper Marlboro. Contact Sharon Myers, 301-627-8873
17-18 EEMI Too Hot to Trot Breed Show at Morven Park. Contact Shannon Pedlar, 703-777-2890
24-25 PVDA Annual Competition at Morven Park
29-June 2 Erik Herbermann Dressage Clinic at Equilibrium Horse Center, Gambrills, Md. Contact Karen Poxon, 410-721-0196 or kpoxon@verizon.net. Visit www.equilibriumhorse.net.

June
2 PVDA Board Meeting, 7 p.m. Linda Speer’s Farm, Clarksville, Md. Contact Leslie Rainlin, 301-620-2172.
21-22/28-29 U.S. Olympic Dressage Selection Trials/USEF Grand Prix Grand Prix Championship
22 Schooling Show at Begin Again Farm in Leonardtown, Md. Contact Michele at BeginAgainFarm@aol.com or 301-475-5013
28-29 PVDA Ride for Life at PGEC

July
14 PVDA Board Meeting, 7 p.m. Linda Speer’s Farm, Clarksville, Md. Contact Shari Packard, 240-353-6739.
14-17 Cesar Parra Clinic at Chimney Hill Farm, Upper Marlboro. Contact Sharon Myers, 301-627-8873
20 Schooling Show at Begin Again Farm in Leonardtown, Md. Contact Michele at BeginAgainFarm@aol.com or 301-475-5013
program participants were able to have personal discussions with the “who’s who” of the dressage world—Carol Lavell, Lisa Wilcox, George Williams, Courtney King and Pamela Goodrich, to name a few.

I was able to attend this weekend thanks to the generous sponsorship of the PVDA, support of my clients and help of my trainer and boss, Barbara Strawson.

This is Part One of what I learned from this experience, with additional articles to follow in upcoming newsletters.

Five Questions to Ask Your Trainer

I have combined the notes that I took from the following people: Carol Lavell, Lisa Wilcox, Pamela Goodrich, George Williams, Todd Flettrich, Jennifer Baumert and Courtney King. Over the course of the weekend these speakers shared anecdotes and lessons learned about searching for a trainer and becoming better instructors themselves.

Many of the speakers agreed with the idea that once you have started a program with a trainer and confirmed that it is working over the course of the first few weeks, it is best to stay with that trainer for no less than one to two years.

If you leave at the lowest point in your training, when nothing seems to be working, you risk walking away just before you are about to make a breakthrough. Committing to a trainer is like any relationship in that the ups and downs make you stronger. Think of other trainers and clinicians as the “other man,”—sometimes it is best to move on, but don’t forget that although the grass may appear greener on the other side, the roots may not be as strong.

Before asking the following questions, you should first determine if you are looking for an instructor or a mentor. What do you want from your trainer?

1. “What is your background/resume?”

It is your business, as a paying client and the keeper of your horse, to know:

• How many years/days/hours your trainer has worked in dressage
• Who they have worked with and for how long

2. “How are you still learning?”

• A trainer should not be afraid to be seen as a learner. Why are so many trainers never seen at the Symposium or working as a student under their trainer (not clinician)? Is their lifetime already up?

• Remember that the desire to learn is the greatest gift a trainer and a student can have.

• Who is your trainer? Who would you clinic with and why is their training style similar/different to yours?

3. “What are your goals?”

• Are they teaching to make money? Expand the sport?

• Solidify their students’ knowledge of dressage? Pass on what they are doing to train their horse?

• Will they be around as much as you need them to be? Ask yourself, “If my trainer teaches clinics every month, goes to Florida for the winter or to the Olympics for months, is that okay with me?” Are they available to come with you to shows? Can you meet with them for goal setting?

4. “How will you help me achieve my goals?”

• Once you pick your goals, find your opportunities.

• Pick a trainer that does what you want to do.

If you want to go to the Olympics, it helps if your trainer has gone to the Olympics or sent a student there. If you have a young horse, how many young horses have they successfully brought to the point where you want your young horse to go?

• Regardless of who/what your trainer is, do they drill the basics and establish them?

You can’t move on to tempi changes and a double bridle until you have perfected riding the canter in a snaffle!

5. “How are we going to stay on the same page about my horse’s training?”

Once you have settled on your trainer, do not be afraid to ask for updates via phone, e-mail or a note if you are unable to go to the barn to watch your horse being worked.

No trainer is “too busy” to keep you involved with your horse’s program.
Todd Bryan Clinic
(Todd Bryan on Winchester)
March 15, 2008

Todd Bryan’s objectives are to develop horses and riders to their peak performance levels, to be internationally competitive, while still promoting classical dressage, and to preserve the health and spirit of the equine athlete in order to create a harmonious partnership.

When Todd was seven years old he informed his parents that he was quitting Little League to focus solely on dressage. That same focus is still evident to any visitor of Todd’s own FEI dressage training facility, The Bryan Center, LLC. A rider with more than 20 years of credentials, Todd is dedicated to his goal of riding for the United States Equestrian Team. He is equally enthusiastic about bringing horses and riders of all levels to a heightened understanding of dressage.

For Rider Participation and Auditing:
MaryBeth Lewandowski
301-349-5346 or mblewandowski@starpower.net

Goodbye Stalin
by Sigrid von Bremen Thomas
Questions? www.goodbyestalin.com
Available from Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com

USDF "L" Education Program
Sponsored by the Potomac Valley Dressage Association

Auditor Application Program

Name: ____________________________
Address: _______________________
City/State/Zip: __________________________
Phone: (H) _____________________(W) _______________________ 
Cell: ___________ Which number is best to call? ___________
Fax: _______________ E-mail: _______________

I would like to attend: (check all that apply, you may send one application for all sessions or individual applications for each session.)

Session B: (register by March 7) __Saturday, March 15 __Sunday, March 16
Session C: (register by April 4) __Saturday, April 12 __Sunday, April 13

Lunch will be provided at all sessions.
Indicate if you would like a vegetarian lunch __Yes __No
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: APRIL 2008; DEADLINE: March 10; DISTRIBUTION: early April 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 or shari.glickman@comcast.net (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

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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>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>1 year</th>
<th>2 year</th>
<th>Life</th>
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<td>Junior Affiliate (under 18)</td>
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<td>Young Adult (18-21)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult*</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family (priced for two)*</td>
<td>$65</td>
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*Each add. family member (over two) is $10 each extra (1 yr. USDF) or $20 each (2 yrs. USDF)

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>$65</td>
<td>$115</td>
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<td>Business Affiliate</td>
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<td>$165</td>
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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.
### FEBRUARY PVDA BOARD MEETING

**Date:** February 4, 2008; Meeting #463  
**Location:** Linda Speer’s Farm, Clarksville, Md.  
Marne Martin-Tucker called meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

#### ATTENDANCE

**Board Members Present:**  
Carolyn Del Grosso, Bonnie Vaden, Cathy Jeary, Linda Speer, Marne Martin-Tucker, Pat Artimovich, Shari Packard, Lori Parkins, Deanna Beal, Leslie Raulin, Karen Jacob, Liz Erwin  
**Board Members Absent:** Jocelyn Pearson, Betty Thorpe, Lori Parkins, Jennifer Funk

**Association Members Present:** Ingrid Gentry, Angie Voss

### TREASURER’S REPORT

**General Fund:** $11,864.54  
**Schooling Shows:** $11,065.16  
**Chapter Fund:** $7,777.19  
**Money Market:** $17,593.64  
**RFL-CCH:** $15,599.82  
**Total:** $70,175.34

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Education:
(Lori Parkins) Working on a freestyle clinic with Cynthia Collins.  
**Judges Liaison:** (Betty Thorpe) All contracts have been returned. Future contracts for USDF are ready for signature. Will create a committee with Betty Thorpe as the chair for picking judges for all shows—three for recognized shows and two for schooling shows.  
**Junior/Young Rider:** (Linda Speer, Deanna Beal) Have Becky Langwost Barlow clinic in newsletter. Maybe PVDA can donate profits from the April Young Rider show to Days End. Will table until next month.

#### Membership:

**Omnibus:** (Bonnie Vaden and Stephanie Banks)  
Proof copy is out and tomorrow it will be approved to start printing.

#### Trophies and Ribbons:
(Linda Speer/Leslie Raulin) Will look into new glass and pewter trophies for shows this year.

**Vendors:** (Samantha Smith/Karen Jacob) Need a volunteer coordinator for the Spring show.

**Web Site:** The new share point info is going well. Working on sprucing up the front page of Ride for Life. Looking for new content. Discussed a memorial page for Sigrid Thomas.

### NEXT MEETING:
March 3 at 7 p.m. (all board meetings now at 7 p.m.), Linda Speer’s Farm, Clarksville, Md. For info: Betty Thorpe, 301-562-0798.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.
CEDAR ROWE LUSITANOS
Is proud to bring from Germany
Isabelle von Neumann-Cosel
To present a Three day Mounted Clinic

YOUR CLASSICAL SEAT
April 25 - April 27, 2008

- Isabelle is a German Judge; An "A" rated instructor
- An accomplished journalist on riding skills having published many books
  on the subject, including participating in the book "Balance in Movement."

Isabelle will be offering a unique and totally new approach to confirming
your harmony with the horse through your seat. The first day will be
mounted lunging on Cedar Rowe’s experienced lunge horses or your own
for a complete assessment of your present form. The following days will
be a mix of further lunge work or horse/rider instruction.

FEES: $125 per session/$250 two days/$310 three days
AUDIT: $15 half day/$25 day (lunch included)

More information/registration form may be
downloaded from www.cedarowe.com or
contact Linda Denniston at (301) 447-6240.