Spring Show Season is Here!

PVDA scholarship recipient and USDF Bronze Medalist Katie Straton competing in Florida on Remy. Photo by Richard Mahn gren.

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Calendar of Events

April

5-6  VADAnova Spring Licensed Show at Morven Park. Visit www.vadanova.org
6-5  Jan Brons Clinic at Chesapeake Dressage Institute, Annapolis, Md. Visit our website at www.ChesapeakeDressage.com or call 410-267-7174
11-13 Instructor/Trainee Final Exam hosted by Hilltop Farm in Colora, Md. Contact Holly Fisher at holly@hilltopfarm.com
12  FADS Schooling Show at Loch Moy Farm, Adamstown, Md. See www.frederickdressage.org
12  Schooling Show at Breezy Run Farm, Church Hill, Md. 410-849-8436(eve). Register at www.breezyrunfarm.com
12-13 Jeanne McDonald Clinic/Fix-A-Test at Wood’s Lane Farm, Mt. Airy, Md. Contact Esther Noiles at 301-829-6354 or info@WoodsLaneFarm.com
12-13  USDF REGION 1 ADULT CLINIC WITH HILDA GURNEY hosted by PVDA. For information see www.usdfregion1.org - also lots of information can be found at www.usdf.org - click on Education and Adult clinics. The clinic will be held at Wyndham Oaks Farm, Boyds, Md., generously sponsored by Wood’s Lane Farm.
19  Fix a Test with Hillary Moore Hebert at Dark Horse Stables, Rocky Ridge, Md. Low key/affordable and friendly. Contact Jocelyn Pearson with questions. Volunteers welcome! jpearson@erols.com 703-771-3231
19  PVDA Southern Maryland Chapter Fix-a-Test Clinic at Exalt Farm in Harwood, Md., with Judge Marija Trieschman. Contact Melissa Harlinski at mharlinski@yahoo.com or to register go to http://pvdasouthernmarylandmaryland.com
26  FADS Schooling Show at Blue Horse Farm, Jefferson, Md. Benefit for the Frederick County 4H Therapeutic Riding Program. See www.frederickdressage.org
27  Schooling Show Series at Lucky Cricket Farm. Judge Jessie Ginsburg. See www.luckycricketfarm.com or contact Mary Russell at 410-610-8489
27  Schooling Show Series at Begin Again Farm, Leonardtown, Md. Contact Michele Alexander at beginagainfarm1@aol.com

May

3-4  CDCTA Licensed Show at Morven Park, Leesburg, Va. See www.cdcta.com
3-4  Dressage at The Meadow. See usdfregion1.org
10-11  Jan Brons Clinic at Chesapeake Dressage Institute, Annapolis, Md. Visit our website at www.ChesapeakeDressage.com or call 410-267-7174
11  Bayside Chapter Schooling Show, Judged by Danny Toscano, held at Worthmore Equestrian Center, Worton. USDF, USEF, Western Dressage, Lineage and Prix Caprilli offered. Contact Anne Thibo at baysidechapter@yahoo.com
17-18  PVDA Annual Spring Show at Morven Park, Leesburg, Va. See www.pixcta.com
19-20  Hope Floats Equestrian Dressage Show Series, Show 1. See show info and registration at www.hopefloatsequestrian.com
19-20  Hope Floats Equestrian Dressage Show Series, Show 2. See show info and registration at www.hopefloatsequestrian.com
19-20  Hope Floats Equestrian Dressage Show Series, Show 3. See show info and registration at www.hopefloatsequestrian.com
19-20  AYJC in Lexington, Ky. www.usd.org
26  WindCrest Farm Schooling Show, Clarksburg, Md. An evening schooling show in a friendly and fun setting. Avoid the July sun, join us for dressage with wine and cheese. Contact Dede Bierbrauer, 301-972-5102 or windcrestii@aol.com
26  Hope Floats Equestrian Dressage Show Series, Show 4. See www.hopefloatsequestrian.com
26  Hope Floats Equestrian Dressage Show Series, Show 5. See www.hopefloatsequestrian.com
26  Hope Floats Equestrian Dressage Show Series, Show 6. See www.hopefloatsequestrian.com

June

6-8  VADAnova Licensed Show at Morven Park, Leesburg, Va. See www.vadanova.org
12-15  Festival of Champions, at USEF Headquarters, Gladstone, N.J.
14  VADAnova Schooling Show at Frying Pan Park, Herndon, Va. See www.vadanova.org
15  Schooling Show at Begin Again Farm, Leonardtown, Md. Contact Michele Alexander at beginagainfarm1@aol.com
22  FADS Schooling Show at Looking Glass Farm, Hamilton, Va. See www.frederickdressage.org
28  FADS Schooling Show at Blue Horse Farm, Jefferson, Md. See www.frederickdressage.org
29  Bayside Chapter Schooling Show. Includes USEF, USEF, Western Dressage, Lineage and Prix Caprilli, judged by Becky Langwost. Contact Anne Thibo for location. baysidechapter@yahoo.com

Send your 2014 Calendar Items to calendar@pvda.org.

MAY 2014 Deadline: April 10
Calendar Editor: Jocelyn Pearson
www.pvda.org for complete calendar

PVDA Schooling Shows on separate calendar

July

12  Hope Floats Equestrian Dressage Show Series, Show 1. See show info and registration at www.hopefloatsequestrian.com
12-13  Jan Brons Clinic at Chesapeake Dressage Institute, Annapolis, Md. Visit our website at www.ChesapeakeDressage.com or call 410-267-7174
15-20  NAJYRC in Lexington, Ky. www.usd.org
19  WindCrest Farm Schooling Show, Clarksburg, Md. An evening schooling show in a friendly and fun setting. Avoid the July sun, join us for dressage with wine and cheese. Contact Dede Bierbrauer, 301-972-5102 or windcrestii@aol.com
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26  Hope Floats Equestrian Dressage Show Series, Show 5. See www.hopefloatsequestrian.com
26  Hope Floats Equestrian Dressage Show Series, Show 6. See www.hopefloatsequestrian.com

August

9-10  Jan Brons Clinic at Chesapeake Dressage Institute, Annapolis, Md. Visit our website at www.ChesapeakeDressage.com or call 410-267-7174
24  Schooling Show at Begin Again Farm, Leonardtown, Md. Contact Michele Alexander at beginagainfarm1@aol.com
30  Region 1 Youth Team Competition South, Raleigh, N.C. www.usdfregion1.org

September

13-14  Jan Brons Clinic at Chesapeake Dressage Institute, Annapolis, Md. Visit our website at www.ChesapeakeDressage.com or call 410-267-7174
13-14  VADAnova Autumn Licensed Shows, I and II, Morven Park, Leesburg, Va. See www.vadanova.org

October

2-5  USEF/GAIG Regional Championships, Williamson, N.C.
We have plenty of exciting news this month! We welcome two new board members, Claire Lacy and Mimi Mack. Both are veteran PVDA members who have been involved with the organization on many levels. Claire will be coordinating volunteers for both of the one-day Loch Moy recognized shows and Mimi will join our education and marketing committees.

In addition to growing our Board, this spring we are also launching a new Lesson Lottery Program thanks to the good efforts of Betty Thorpe. Fifteen instructors have donated a lesson to PVDA. These lessons are available to PVDA adult amateurs for $50 or juniors for $45. Members have until April 15 to put their name in the lottery, then the lucky winners will be drawn. Visit our website to see how it works, to learn about participating instructors, and to sign up. What a great chance to ride with these talented professionals at a great price.

What a crummy winter! To offset the winter blues consider showing in our early spring schooling shows to get a jump on the season. We are offering 25 schooling shows this year. Something for everyone. If riding is not an option we would love to have you volunteer. There are plenty of ways to stay involved with your club!

Happy Spring!

Mary Sue
410-979-7744
Bayside

By Anne Thibo

In order to beat the winter blues, the Bayside Chapter invited Courtney Molino to do a demo and lecture for our members and friends. Thank you to Mary Schimpf and Julie Slakum for the warm welcome, the heated tack room, and the use of the beautiful indoor at “Crab Alley Farm”. Food and drinks were provided, and “Merlot” our flea-bitten OTTB was the lucky “guinea-pig” demo horse…he thoroughly enjoyed it.

Courtney’s Powerpoint presentation was very explicit, and her handouts were of great help for everyone to follow along and take notes. After going through some disclaimers, she explained the differences between “Myofascial Release” and a “Sports Massage”, two of the most favored techniques used on competitive dressage horses, as well as other disciplines. When muscles or connective tissues are damaged, they restrict/limit the horse’s range of motion. Over extended periods of time and with continued strain, this can lead to a variety of physical and mental issues such as: sore back, girthiness, lack of forward impulsion, lead issues, head tossing, lameness, or overall crankiness.

Equine Bodywork can reduce stiffness, enhance athletic performance, increase flexibility, joint mobility and range of motion, increase blood circulation, release endorphins, reduce stress, reduce formation of scar tissue, and build confidence and trust between you and your equine partner. However, Bodywork should not be used in lieu of calling a veterinarian, nor should it be used if your horse shows elevated vital signs, undiagnosed lameness, skin disease, cancer, or areas of heat or swelling.
Courtney picked three muscle groups that are typical areas of concern for most dressage horses:

1. The Spinalis (just behind the shoulders, where the withers tie into the back)
   
   Exercise: rest your hand in the “wither pocket”, then “shampoo curry” for 1 minute, then use “upward palmar” compression for 1-2 minutes, then “rake” with your finger pads across fibers, and finish off with a topline stretch.

2. The Trapezius (one portion begins behind the shoulder where the withers tie into the back and the other section reaches halfway up the crest) Exercise: rest your palms on either side of the scapular spine, and think of leaving a hand print. Once you feel you have sunk into the tissue, then glide upwards in line with the muscles, taking several minutes to reach the top. When the horse leans in, you know he is ready for more pressure. Don’t forget to stretch the topline again.

Both exercises and many others can help with: unwillingness to lift the back, or lower the head, neck stiffness, choppy strides, or girthiness.

3. The Gluteus and Hamstring Stretching

   Exercise: To relax the “butt” muscles, make a fist and proceed to tap “percussion” lightly on the gluteus to soften the tissue. You can then proceed to stretch out the hamstring by asking for the hind leg, then bringing it forward in line with the front leg and at least 8 inches above the ground. Gently hold the stretch for no more than 10 seconds at first, and remember to keep some flexion in the fetlock and hock joints. Don’t play “tug of war” but rather allow your hands to move with the horse. Never stretch a cold muscle, do not overstretch, and listen to the horse, as it will tell you when the pressure is too much or not enough!

Peninsula

By Allison Turner

The Peninsula Dressage chapter holds its meetings on the first Thursday of each month at various locations in the mid-Shore area. We try to arrange educational programs for most of our meetings, and guests are always welcome to join in the fun!

Our first meeting of the year was held at Kim Briele’s Horsebridge Farm in Salisbury. After enjoying a pot luck meal and horsey conversation, we confirmed dates for five shows and several clinics for 2014. The first clinic of the year will be with Kathy Rowse at Horsebridge Farm, March 15th and 16th, and will be subsidized by PVDA. We’ll have a Ride-A-Test clinic with Kim Briele at Diane Bloxham’s WinAway Farm on April 19th, and we’ll set up additional clinic dates as we get into the spring and summer. We had our February meeting at Back Street Grill in Salisbury, and for March, we arranged to have member Jo-Ann Lewis do a Yoga/Pilates for riders demonstration at PRMC Avery Hall Center. We did exercises to strengthen the abs and core and improve flexibility for riding. We have a riding demonstration planned for the April meeting, topic TBD, at Horsebridge Farm. Schooling shows are scheduled for May 3 (Wicomico Equestrian Center), June 14 (Renaissance Stable), July 12 (WinAway Farm), September 6 (WEC), October 4 (WAF). Come join us at any of our events this year!

Chapter News continued on next page
we’re planning another clinic on the 18th and our final show October 25th.

Special year-end awards were presented to: Intro Champion - B.J. Martin on Annie and Reserve to Alex Dagostino on Augustus. Training Champion went to Christian Flournoy on Bells and Whistles and Reserve Champion went to Christian and Sum Kinda Wonderful! High point awards for the year were: 1st place to Christian Flournoy and Bells and Whistles; 2nd place to B.J. Martin and Annie; 3rd place to Christian Flournoy and Sum Kinda Wonderful; and 4th to Alex Dagostino and Augustus! These riders, as well as all our other competitors, rode beautifully throughout the year and enjoyed the positive atmosphere at the shows! Congratulations to all!

Special recognition and awards were presented to our wonderful volunteers, without whom our clinics and shows could not take place! These special volunteers are: Cynthia Walton, Stacy Speth, Mary Dahkle, April Thornton, Valerie Pedersen, Kaitlin Woods, Kathleen Kurgan, Tammy Parks, Laura Flournoy, B.J. Martin, Maureen Lawrence, and Allison Turner. We’re looking forward to another fun, positive, and exciting year with Shore Dressage in 2014!

4/12–4/13 USDF Region 1 Hilda Gurney Clinic at Wyndham Oaks, Boyds, Md.

**2014 PVDA Schooling Show Schedule**

- 3/23/2014 Morgan Run Show Stables
- 3/29/2014 Mountain View Farm
- 4/6/2014 Schooley Mill Park (Open)
- 4/5/2014 Schooley Mill Park (Jr/YR)
- 4/27/2014 Celebration Farm
- 5/4/2014 Lucky Cricket Farm
- 5/11/2014 By Chance Farm
- 5/17-18/2014 PVDA Spring Show (2-day Recognized Show)
- 5/31/2014 Bluebird Farm
- 6/1/2014 Potomac Riverside Farm
- 6/7/2014 Schooley Mill Park (Open)
- 6/8/2014 Schooley Mill Park (Jr/YR)
- 6/14/2014 Sugarloaf Equestrian Center
- 6/21-22/2014 PVDA Ride For Life Show (2-day Recognized Show)
- 7/13/2014 Lucky Cricket Farm
- 7/20/2014 Chesapeake Dressage Institute
- 8/2/2014 Exalt Farm
- 8/10/2014 Morgan Run Show Stables
- 8/16/2014 Schooley Mill Park (Jr/YR)
- 8/17/2014 Schooley Mill Park (Open)
- 8/30/2014 PVDA @ Loch Moy #1 (1-day Recognized Show)
- 8/31/2014 PVDA @ Loch Moy #2 (1-day Recognized Show)
- 9/6/2014 LKM at Chaney’s Promise
- 9/7/2014 Potomac Riverside Farm
- 9/14/2014 Lucky Cricket Farm
- 9/21/2014 By Chance Farm
- 10/4/2014 Schooley Mill Park (Jr/YR)
- 10/5/2014 Schooley Mill Park (Open)
- 10/19/2014 Celebration Farm
USDF Region One Spring Meeting - March 16, 2014

By Betty Thorpe

Representatives from 10 of the Group Member Organizations in Region 1 met to discuss the developments in this very busy region at the annual spring meeting at Hassler’s Riveredge. It’s always fun to visit this premier facility and to compare notes on GMO activities face-to-face with other GMO members. It is helpful to bring a two-year calendar to keep up with the plans for dressage activities in Region 1. The way to keep on top of the activities is to subscribe to the digital Region 1 newsletter, which is easy to do on the www.usdfregion1.org. Look at the upper-right corner of the home page under the Twitter sign and click “Sign up for our email list.” This is also where you find information on the shows in the region that was formerly in the show Omnibus. We have 16,000 members in Region 1 and only 1,000 have signed up for these useful updates.

The first successful National Championship is behind us. Tina Longaker said she heard Akiko Yamazaki, the famous owner of Ravel who competed and won at Grand Prix and who enjoyed the whole experience, say the Californians should get a couple of semis and ship their horses as a group to this wonderful show at the Kentucky Horse Park. After two years, this National Championship will move further west, and Akiko’s idea for transporting horses could work for our region as well. Emmet Turner, CDCTA, also mentioned that the Eventing people debated about having a national championship, which has been successful now in several different locations in this big country. But getting competitors to travel the miles is always an expense and risk.

Another group from our region going to Lexington, KY will be the FEI Junior and Young Rider teams. Deb Del Giorno, head of this committee for Region 1, said we have a good number of riders who have, or plan to, declare for our Region 1 team so she is looking forward to two full teams of four. She is looking for a chef d’equipe for the teams, someone who is familiar with the FEI rules and can assist with arrangements. Their competition is July 16-20.

Another indication of the dressage interest in this region: there were 37 applications to ride in the Hilda Gurney USDF Adult Clinic April 12 and 13 that PVDA is hosting at Wyndham Oaks in Boyds. The chosen riders are from across the region, on all breeds, showing all levels from Training to Grand Prix.

There are two competitions for the Youth teams in our region. We are familiar with the show dedicated to juniors at Morven Park on July 26 and 27. There is a second competition for junior teams in Raleigh August 30 and 31 with their annual Labor Day show. In addition, there is a Youth Clinic with George Williams at Hilltop Farm on November 22 and 23. This is open to riders under 25 working at Second or Third Level up to those working at the Brentina Cup level. They need to apply and send a video by October 15.

There are no L Programs in the next year, but there will be Instructor Certification program sessions at Hilltop Farm. One session was scheduled for March 15 and 16 and the final exam is April 11-13.

Anyone who is interested in serving as a Participating Member delegate at the next USDF meeting can get their name on the ballot before April 15. They will be able to vote at the meeting in Cambridge, Massachusetts this December 3-7. Next year the USDF meeting will be in Las Vegas from December 2-6, 2015. Someone noted that the World Cup for jumping and dressage will also be in Las Vegas in 2015 although not connected to this meeting. The Spring meeting next year will be March 15, 2015.

Get ready for show season!

PVDA Southern Maryland Chapter is hosting a Fix-a-Test Clinic

April 20th at Exalt Farm in Harwood, MD
Cost is $30

Judge: Marija Trieschman

Contact Melissa Harlinski mharlinski@yahoo.com or go to our website to register: http://pvdasouthernmaryland.com/
Tea is for Training

By Jaclyn Sicoli

On March 2nd PVDA hosted its annual volunteer-training event, Tea is for Training, at Karmic Run Farm in Mount Airy, Maryland. The attendance was record-breaking at over 60 people and it was a challenge keeping the group volume to a dull whisper. After a long winter of isolation and hibernation, everyone was giddy to be together, their spirits willing show-season to come soon. Joining us were veteran board members, PVDA-newbies, a few young riders, and thankfully, many, many people looking to lend a hand this season.

A new resident of Maryland in 2010, I volunteered to help organize PVDA’s Tea is for Training and the event drew me into this organization. I guess it was love at first sight, as I now serve on the board of directors as Chairperson and also chair of the Education Committee. I can thank the initial Tea is for Training experience for compelling me to get involved. Each year the Tea promises scrumptious snacks and desserts, job-oriented learning, and the opportunity to meet dressage enthusiasts from all over Maryland. Additionally, each of our sessions, including several show- and dressage-related rules and helpful hints for volunteers, are detailed in PVDA’s “Tea is for Training” manual, just one of several take-home gifts for each Tea participant.

This year, as in past years, Tea participants benefitted from the skills and experience of our board and members. Board members Carolyn Del Grosso and Valerie Mallard taught the Show Manager/Show Secretary session and introduced the new online system, Equestrian Entries, for both recognized and schooling shows. Member Mimi Mack explained the roles and rules involved for equipment checks, runners, and ring stewards, making it interesting with personal anecdotes and stories from years of competing here and in the UK. Member Claire Lacey shared her tricks of the trade for operating the triangulator and measuring tape to build a correctly shaped and sized dressage arena. Board member Betty Thorpe used her many years of experience as an “r” judge to teach scribing. And finally, board member Linda Speer ensured that our volunteers could accurately tabulate a dressage score using the rules, score sheet, and calculator.

Rebekah Lusk Esq. and Jane Seilger, President of the Maryland Horse Council, presented informative bonus seminars. Rebekah shared her professional expertise as a lawyer with an interactive crowd during her one hour presentation, in which she fielded many questions related to equine law, including contracts and risk assumption. Jane Seilger’s talk “Trailering Today and Other Issues Affecting Horse People” stressed the need for proper documentation, tagging, and health certificates while hauling horses this sea-
son. Jane explained that the laws governing truck and trailer weight and animal transportation have not have changed, but enforcement of the rules may affect our routines. For example, traveling to Morven Park and any out-of-state show may require us horse people to take a few extra steps to remain within the law. Check the Maryland and Federal DOT websites for more information on tags, weigh stations, and health certification laws.

Having watched and listened to each one of the learning sessions at this year’s Tea, I can confidently say that our volunteers are ready to deliver a season full of exciting activities. PVDA is staffing 4 recognized shows, 25 schooling shows, and at least 2 additional educational events. PVDA’s Annual Ride for Life Benefit Show includes a silent auction and dynamic fundraising efforts. These events broaden the scope of equestrian activities in the region and give you more fun things to do with your horse. None of these events are possible without the help of volunteers.

Thanks to everyone who donated their skills to help make our 2014 Tea fantastic. Whether you brought cookies, soup, your professional expertise, or your time, we appreciate it! Thanks to each one of our participants for joining in the fun. Special thanks to Meghan and Steve Truppner who donated their facility for the event.

Sorry you missed our Tea this year? Reserve the date on your calendar and join us next year, everyone is welcome!
**Post It with PVDA**

**Horses for Sale**

1) '01 Ukrainian dk. brn. geld., 16H, PSG, cute and the horse of a lifetime, a total gas to ride, serious inquiries. 2) '11 Han/Trak dk. brn. geld., 16.1H, gently started, kind and trusting. Will be a top prospect, $18,000 3) '06 really cute QH geld. suitable for dressage or anything $6,000. Janna Dyer, 301-271-1961 or email Janna@darkhorsestables.com

1) Reg. Lusitano blk. geld., by Jalifa o/o Renata, 2 yrs, three quality gaits w/plenty of “air time.” Very smart, friendly and well handled, asking $4,000 2) Reg. Half-Andalusian blk. geld. by Jalifa o/o reg. QH mare, Penny Lane, 2 yrs, three quality gaits with plenty of “air time.” Very smart, friendly and handled, asking $3,000 3) Reg. Half-Andalusian steel gray filly by Jalifa o/o reg. QH mare, Penny Lane, 4 yrs, three quality gaits with plenty of “air time.” Training successfully at First Choice Farm w/Corinne Foxley. Has been trailered to sev. parks for trail riding and is confident and not spooky, asking $8,000. Further info on all of the horses at www.cedarrope.com Linda Denniston, 301-447-6240 or email: crqhf@aol.com

For sale or lease: DaWB bay geld., 14 yrs, 16.3H, beautiful, well-mannered, w/3 comf. gaits and a lovely uphill canter. Has the exp. and training to school 3rd level dressage. In prof. training in Mt. Airy, MD. Motiv. owner, good home essential, $15,000, Mimi Mack, 301-748-6844

**Equipment**

1) 18.5” Trilogy Debby MacDonald MW dressage saddle. (runs a bit narrow), in very good used cond. with just minor stirrup rubs. Very comfy deep seat with supportive knee rolls, $2,800 2) 18” County Connection dressage saddle, med-narrow, $2,800 3) 18” County Stabilizer XTR jumping saddle, med. tree, long flap. Skid Row panels.

**Horses for Lease**

Sz. Med. white Eskadron Pikosoft bell boots, new with tags and still in plastic, (they run small), purchased for $63 but will sell for $35/obo. These will fit a pony. Shari Glickman, 301-351-5530 or email: shari.glickman@comcast.net

Ride a well-schooled confidence-builder, equally at home in the dressage arena and on the trails. Dover Glory, 16.2H, is avail. 1-3x/vk. at Windsor Manor in Sandy Spring, MD. Work your way thru 1st Level, higher movements, and flying lead changes. About as "bomb proof" a horse as they come! Ind/and outdoor rings, and fields to ride in. Dressage lessons w/Vanessa Schwartz and clinics on-site with internationally known judge, Linda Zang & Danish Olympian, Bent Jensen, $100-300/mo. Dana Scanlon, 301-575-4914 or email: dana4homes@yahoo.com

**Boarding**

New barn in New Market, MD, 2 mi. off I-70, w/3 dry stalls avail. for rent. Self-care; chore networking/ cross coverage possibilities. Owner lives on premises. Morton-built barn, clean and neat, 12X12 matted stalls, w/windows, 1/H wash stall, attached oversize ind. arena with lots of light, full bath, kitchen, tack room, clinics once a month, outdoor arena, trails. English, dressage and trail riders w/horses on site. $275/stall. Other stalls may be avail., trainers welcome, Betsy Smith, 301-865-0643 or email: Hallschoice@verizon.net

**The Classifieds is available to PVDA members.**

Advertisements (unboxed ads) are accepted by PVDA via e-mail. Type or print your submission ad, email classifieds@pvda.org or shari.glickman@comcast.net. Email classifieds@pvda.org or shari.glickman, 301-865-0643 or email: Hallschoice@verizon.net

GoodNess Ridge Farm, 13979 Unionville Rd., 13979 Unionville Rd., Mt. Airy, MD 21771. Email Smith, 301-865-0643 or email: Hallschoice@verizon.net

*MAY 2014 ISSUE CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE IS APRIL 10, 2014* 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 website, please omit it from your printed ad submission for The PVDA Newsletter.

Betty Thorpe teaches volunteers how to scribe at the Tea is for Training

Photo by Mary Sue McCarthy.
The Classifieds is available to PVDA members only, at no charge, as a membership benefit. Classified advertisements (unboxed ads) are accepted by post or e-mail. Items submitted by e-mail are confirmed and include your 2014 PVDA membership number. (The newsletter will not print any classifieds that are submitted without a membership number.) Classifieds must be received by the 10th* of the month to be distributed the following month.

Email classifieds@pvda.org or send to Shari Glickman, GoodNess Ridge Farm, 13979 Unionville Rd., Mt. Airy, MD 21771.

*CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE IS APRIL 10, 2014
The PVDA Newsletter

Scholarship Report—A Foray to Florida

By Katie Straton

Last winter, through the help of a PVDA scholarship, I was able to go on an incredible trip to train and compete in Wellington, Florida. I booked my flight with excitement, sent in my show entry, and finalized the details. This was more than an escape from the cold and snow. I had a goal to meet; earn the second score at Third Level needed for my USDF Bronze Medal. I would have to work hard, learn, and make the most out of this trip. My excitement was turning to trepidation. Would I be able to do it?

I arrived safely in Wellington on a Tuesday evening, narrowly missing one of the many snowstorms we had here in Maryland, and just in time for the Charles de Kunffy clinic the next day at Yellowbird Farm, the winter base of my trainer, JJ Tate. I had come to Florida to train with JJ on Remy, a wonderful Oldenburg gelding who I had the opportunity to ride and compete last fall in Maryland, earning one of my Third Level scores.

On my way to the barn the next morning I was in awe of the beautifully manicured landscape and exquisite barns, which could easily be mistaken for homes. When I pulled into Yellowbird I couldn’t believe that I would be spending my time at this beautiful, lush, tropical paradise. It was like the resort vacation I had been wanting, but with amazing horses, facilities, and training! I almost felt like I was at the beach as I sat beside the arena soaking up the warmth.

On my second day I spent the morning watching the clinic, and then went for my first ride on Remy at a lovely barn nearby. I was a bit nervous, as it had been a few months since I last rode Remy. I also hadn’t been riding much back home due to the polar vortex, and the celebrity atmosphere of Wellington was proving to be intimidating. Boy, did we need to get re-acquainted before our show the next weekend! Luckily, Remy’s owner and host extraordinaire, Sophie, gave me some great tips and insight.

After the final day of the de Kunffy clinic, I stuck around to watch JJ and her assistant trainer, Ashley, teach. Then, with a plethora of notes, along with all of the motivation and inspiration I had absorbed, I went for a ride. On my own, I played with unlocking Remy and finding the amazing feeling he can give. He’s such a great match for me because, as I’ve been told, I look pretty on a horse, but I need to be more effective; and with Remy, you have to really ride.

I spent the next six days working alongside JJ’s amazing crew at Yellowbird, watching, learning, riding, and preparing for the big show. I had a great lesson with Ashley focusing on asking all of the right questions early on to get the most out of our warm-up and the best quality for our test. In my first lesson with JJ, she said that I was riding Remy the best she’d seen—hallelujah! We focused on canter work with some great exercises to improve the movements in our test. Every ride got better and better as we worked on my weaknesses with huge improvements from our rides together last year.

On Friday, we headed over to the White Fences Equestrian Center for the show. After getting our stall set-up, we schooled with JJ. Fortunately, Remy is very calm and quiet at shows, but we really had to focus our ride on keeping his back loose. After lots of walking, lateral work, and cantering, he was feeling amazing and ready for our test on Saturday.

Of course my ride was late in the afternoon on Saturday, giving me all day to wish, hope, and pray that I’d just get a darn 60%! It wasn’t a perfect ride, but we got a 64.6%. I had my Third Level scores! Now for those Second Level test scores I still needed. I hadn’t planned it, but since I’d already met my goal, I decided to seize the opportunity for a chance to earn those scores as well. So, I changed my rides on Sunday to Second Level tests and studied up.

On Saturday evening after my ride, JJ and I had a chance to chat and I got some really great advice. Even though I had accomplished my goal, I hadn’t ridden my best. Why? I realized that it’s because I was afraid of failing, afraid to make a mistake. So, I played it safe, hoping that it would be good enough. I needed to really RIDE! That is what all of our lessons had been about! So, why not?

When I got in the ring on Sunday, sure, there were still mistakes, but I put myself out there, and we did it. I earned the final scores needed for my USDF Bronze medal! While it felt like Remy had gotten more and more rideable each time we went down centerline, I realized that it was because I was riding better and better. What I gained most from this experience is the confidence to ride my best, and my best will only improve from here.

I look forward to applying all the knowledge and experience I brought back with me, and sharing the inspiration and confidence I gained. It’s through the generosity of many people that I was able to experience this incredible learning opportunity and ended up fulfilling a dream. Many thanks to PVDA, JJ Tate, and to Sophie for allowing me to ride and compete Remy.
The PVDA Book Library

By Marla Stoner

If you have not checked the list of books available for loan through PVDA’s Book Library on the new web site, you are not aware of many interesting books that for some reason never were listed on the old web site. The majority of books are about training you and/or your horse for dressage, but there are also books on other horse related topics including horse care and enjoyment. Goodbye Stalin, by former PVDA member Sigrid Thomas, is available through the book library. Do you know that some of the books, such as Riding Through by Debbie McDonald have been autographed by the author? Debbie graciously autographed her book when she came for the Dancing Horse Challenge.

Up to two books can be borrowed for four weeks at the same time by a PVDA member. This loan period can be extended if other people do not request the same book. When you find one or two books that you want to borrow, you should contact the PVDA Book Librarian. Arrangements can be made to pick up the book(s) in person or for them to be mailed. A deposit check of $50 per book will be needed and if you want the book(s) to be mailed. The Book Librarian will determine what the mailing cost will be, since books range in size and weight, and a separate check for the shipping costs will also be needed. When the book(s) are returned the deposit check will be returned or shredded.

This winter, with its extremely cold temperatures and large amount of snow, are a perfect time to curl up with a good dressage or other horse related book. Take a look online and see which books you would enjoy, will expand your education, or just satisfy your “horse fix” while you can’t get to the barn.
Meet a Board Member

Valerie Mallder

What is your name and hometown?

My name is Valerie Mallder, and my roots are here in Maryland. I grew up in Annapolis. Annapolis is known for being the sailing capital of the world, but I never learned to sail. I just wasn’t interested. And, even though I went to a private school, I never dated a Naval Academy Midshipman. I wasn’t interested in that either! I had a great childhood though, and still have many friends from there.

What do you do for a living?

I work at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (in Laurel, MD) as a Deputy Mission System Engineer for a NASA Mission called “New Horizons”. “New Horizons” is a spacecraft (small satellite) that is flying to Pluto, and when it gets there, it will collect science data and send it back to Earth. The spacecraft was launched in 2006 and the trip takes 9.5 years. So, we are looking forward to July 2015 when the science data and images of Pluto will be transmitted back to us.

What are your favorite hobbies (besides horses)?

I enjoy traveling, taking my little dog out on road trips and adventures, bike riding, hiking, running, doing genealogy research, and writing computer software.

What is one skill (anything!) that you still want to learn?

I really wish I could sing. I can sing at the top of my lungs when I’m all alone or driving in the car all alone. But, you sure wouldn’t want to hear me!

How did you get into horses and dressage?

Like most of us, as a child, I always wanted to learn to ride a horse. But, my family could not afford to let me do it. Then, when I was in my mid 30’s, I experienced a life-changing event that reminded me just how short life truly is. So, I decided to take some horseback riding lessons. It turned out that I signed up for lessons at an eventing barn and that exposed me to both jumping and dressage. I didn’t even know what “eventing” was at the time. It was clear to me right away that I had found my calling. I have always been an animal lover, but I became completely addicted. A year later, I bought my first horse, Cory. And, we did a few baby novice horse trials together. After a few years, I realized that I enjoy the dressage much more than jumping so that’s what I do now.

What is your favorite horse (that you’ve ridden) and why?

Answering this question is like trying to choose a favorite between your two children. I have a second horse now. Her name is Soleil. Both Cory and Soleil are both my favorites. I love Cory for all the things he has taught me, and I love Soleil for all the things she is teaching me. I have never ridden any other horse that I have liked better than these two.

What was your greatest riding or dressage moment and why?

I wouldn’t say that I have had any “greatest” dressage moments. I have been doing dressage for a long time, but I am a very slow learner. Any moment when the “light bulb” really goes on in my head, or when either of my horse’s show me that they trust me and truly give me their heart, is a great moment for me.

What was your worst riding or dressage moment and why?

Ugh. At the end of the first test of the second morning of the 2013 Ride For Life, my worst dressage moment was trying to get Soleil to halt so that I could salute the judge. Soleil decided she would rather piaffe than stand still. So, I tried and tried my hardest to get her to stand still, but she would have nothing to do with it and she even reared up in protest! The judge gave us a “2” for that halt. And I thought that was very generous.

What is the best piece of horse advice than you’ve ever received?

The best piece of advice I have ever received is to always wear a helmet. We have all heard this many times, but it
never hurts to be reminded of it. Another piece of advice I have always appreciated is “ride the horse you have today, not the horse you wish you have tomorrow”.

**What dressage (or other discipline) rider, clinician, or judge (dead or alive) would you most like to meet and why?**

I would like to meet Shannon Peters, Steffen Peter’s wife. It would be nice to meet Steffen too, but it is his wife Shannon that I would really like to engage and share experiences with. Based on the articles I have read about Shannon and her journey to transition some of her dressage horses to be barefoot, I believe she and I have a lot in common and would have some really terrific conversations about our horses.

**What is your greatest accomplishment so far as a director?**

I am working on several things, but I think the 2013 Membership Directory turned out pretty well, as did the online Service Directory. I also successfully lobbied to have the Intro Level test scores from Recognized shows included in the Rider Achievement Awards Program. I am hoping this will help to encourage more riders to ride at the Introductory level at recognized shows.

**What is one thing that you would like to change about PVDA?**

It can sometimes be hard to attract volunteers to help out with shows and events, and to work on committees. I realize everyone is busy and it can be hard to find time to give. But, having more volunteers working on a job makes everyone’s job a lot easier.

**What is your favorite thing about PVDA?**

I really like having the opportunity to attend schooling shows. I also like being part of a community of horse lovers, and I like working with the women on the board who have dedicated so much of their lives to this organization.

**What PVDA committees are you on or responsible for?**

I’m on the Awards committee, and responsible for the Year-End High Score Awards and Rider Achievement Awards. I’m on the Publications Committee, and responsible for developing the Membership and Service Directories. I am on the Shows committee and helping the Schooling Shows Manager get ready for the upcoming schooling show season. And, I am chairing the new Website Committee.
The PVDA Lesson Lottery program is a new pilot program fashioned after the popular New England Dressage Association Flextime Program. It gives PVDA members who are Adult Amateurs and JR/YRs a chance to take one lesson and sample an instructor in our area. The cost to Adults is $50 and to JR/YR is $45. The list of 15 instructors who have agreed to participate and donate a lesson for this first program is below with their biography. The proceeds from this program will go to support other PVDA educational opportunities.

If you are interested in entering the lottery, send in an application with your check. You can apply for up to three instructors and indicate your order of preference.

**Applications will be accepted until April 15.** Matches will be made then, or if there are numerous applications for the same instructor, a name will be drawn out of a hat. The lessons are to be taken between May and November of the current year.

Once there is a winner of a lottery with one of the instructors, it is up to the winner to contact the instructor and set up a time. Remember these are busy professionals so give them plenty of leeway. It is up to the winner to travel to the instructor.

Send a separate check for each lesson you apply for payable to PVDA. Send checks, application, and signed release to: Betty Thorpe, 2208 Washington Avenue #101A, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Checks for lessons that are not used will be sent back or shredded.

Any instructors who are interested in donating a lesson for next year should contact Betty Thorpe.

**Instructor Biographies**

**Michael Bragdell:** Michael joined Hilltop Farm in 1995, where he now holds the position of trainer and professional handler. Seven of the youngsters that Michael has started at Hilltop have gone on to top finishes in the USEF/Markel Young Horse National Championships. Michael is a USDF Bronze and Silver Medalist, as well as a USDF Certified Instructor through Second Level.

**Janna Dyer:** Janna is a USDF Gold Medalist who has studied with Georg Heyser, Jessica Ransehausen and Robert Dover. She received a USEF/Asmis grant to study at Dr. Reiner Klimke's stable, having competed heavily and successfully on several different horses at CDI-W's at all FEI levels.

**Jeralyn Finn:** Jeralyn is a USDF Gold, Silver, and Bronze medalist, and a graduate with distinction of the USDF "L" judge program. In 2012 she also earned her USDF Gold Bar for musical freestyles. Jeralyn is a trainer at Wyndham Oaks dressage facility in Boyds, Maryland. Jeralyn trains her own horses and a few select full training horses at her Shepherd's Run Farm in Poolesville, MD.

**Scott Hassler:** Scott has actively campaigned several horses through Grand Prix, earning many year-end USDF Championship titles. In 1996, Scott was short listed with two horses for the Pan American Games. Scott was instrumental in creating our pipeline of national programs that ensure talented horses and riders are properly recognized and developed. He also recently co-conducted the 2013 USDF National Trainers Conference with Steffen Peters.

**Suzanne Hassler:** Suzanne twice won the USEF Markel East Coast Young Horse Selection Trials and represented the US twice at the FEI World Championships for Young Horses in Verden, Germany. Suzanne has earned her USDF Bronze, Silver, and Gold medals. She participated three times in the NAJYRC, winning the individual Gold Medal her final year in 1986.

**Chris Hickey:** Chris qualified for the 1994 Olympic Festival and the selection trials for the 1995 Pan American Games. During the 2007 season he won the U.S. Intermediaire I Championship and the Pan American Games Dressage team and individual gold medals. Chris is on the Faculty for the USDF Instructor Certification Program, is Co-Chair of the USDF Trainers Council.

**Silva Martin:** Silva passed her Bereiters exam at the German Riding School in Warendorf with an "excellent" mark and worked for noted horsemen Paul Beck, Rudolf Zeilinger and Hubertus Schmidt. Since moving to the US Silva has enjoyed continuing competitive success at major shows In 2011 Silva and Faye Woolf's young horse Aesthete were named to the Developing Horse/Rider list.

**Felicitas von Neumann-Cosel:** Felicitas placed first in her native Germany when completing her "Reitlehrer" (federally certified instructor) certification. She also graduated with the highest score ever awarded up to that time. Felicitas has also served as a USDF examiner for the Instructor's Certification Program here in the United States. Since 1984, Felicitas has managed First Choice Farm and trained many horses to Grand Prix level.

**Lauren Spreiser:** Lauren is a USDF Gold, Silver, and Bronze medalist. She is also a NAJYRC Gold Medalist and USEF Developing Listed rider. Based in northern Virginia,
Lauren runs Sprieser Sporthorse at Clearwater Farm. Lauren is a blogger for The Chronicle Of The Horse, and writes regularly for magazines like Dressage Today and Practical Horseman.

**Pierre St Jacques:** Pierre and his longtime partner, Lucky Tiger, were members of the Gold Medal Winning US Dressage Team at the 2003 Pan American Games. Pierre and Lucky Tiger have had great success at the Grand Prix level over the past few years, including 2009 National Grand Prix Reserve Champions at the Festival of Champions in Gladstone, NJ.

**Barbara Strawson:** Barbara Strawson is a USDF Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medalist and has trained and competed horses from USDF Training Level through FEI Grand Prix. From 2001 to the end of 2004, Barbara trained in Germany with Nicole Uphoff, 4-time Olympic Gold Medalist. Barbara brings over 20 years of experience to her business, which she began in 2005.

**Erin Sweeney:** Erin began her dressage career at November Hill and Hilton Farms working for several years under German certified Reitlehrer Gerd Zuther. Over the years dressage horses Erin has shown have achieved scores as high as 80% in USEF tests, FEI/USEF young horse classes, and Materiale classes.

**JJ Tate:** Jessica Jo (JJ) has earned her USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold medals. She was a member of the USDF Region 2 NAYRC Dressage Team in 1996, 1997, and 1999. JJ represented the United States in the World Breeding Championships for Young Dressage Horses in Verden, Germany in 2007, where she finished seventh in the Small Final, the highest of all U.S. riders.

**Fred Weber:** Fred completed his Bereiter studies at the Westf. Reit. und Fahrschule with Mr. Paul Stecken in Germany. He has earned Bronze, Silver and Gold medals here in the US. Fred has trained eight horses to FEI, including the stallions Wertherson and Weltbekannt. He has earned numerous USDF year-end awards including reserve champion in 2004 at the FEI Intermediare II Horse of the Year with Weltbekannt.

**Linda Zang:** Linda is an FEI “O” Judge, FEI Technical Delegate, and clinician. Linda was a member of the U.S. team at the 1980 alternate Olympics in Goodwood, England, and the 1979 Pan American Games in Puerto Rico, and competed at the 1978 World Championships in Goodwood. She is also a USDF Bronze, Silver, and Gold medalist.

**Lesson Lottery Program Release**

I, ____________________________, do acknowledge that horseback riding poses potentially serious risks of injuries to participants and bystanders. I understand that persons or property may be injured as a result of my negligence, the negligence of others, or through no fault of myself or anyone else, because of the nature of the activity in which I am going to be engaged. I understand that horses may be unpredictable and difficult to control. With this knowledge, and as an inducement for the landowners and organizers to allow me to ride on the grounds, I agree to waive any and all rights that I or my family may have to make a claim against the Potomac Valley Dressage Association, landowners, farms, their agents, employees, organizers, members, or officers arising from any damages, injury, or death which I might sustain or which might occur to any horse that I am riding. I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless all the foregoing from any claims which I might make or which may be made on my behalf by others, or which may be made against me and/or the Potomac Valley Dressage Association by others, arising from riding, or due to my presence, on the premises, on the meeting grounds, private lands, or public roads used by the PVDA function. THIS RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY CLAIM HAS BEEN READ CAREFULLY AND CLEARLY REPRESENTS MY INTENT WHEN SIGNING IT.

Print Rider's Name:_____________________________ Date:_____________________________

Rider's Signature:______________________________
**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: MAY 2014; DEADLINE: APRIL 10; DISTRIBUTION: early MAY 2014**

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.

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**Send your submissions to the appropriate editor:**

- **Display Ads, Chapter News & Photos:** pvdanewsletter@gmail.com
- **News/Articles/Flying Changes:** pvdanewsletter@gmail.com
- **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
- **Calendar of Events:** calendar@pvda.org (Jocelyn Pearson, Calendar Editor)
- **Change of Address/Membership Renewal & Information:** membership@pvda.org
  (Michele Wellman, Membership Coordinator, 9205 Bessie Clemson Rd., Union Bridge, MD 21791; 301-873-3496)
- **PVDA Web Site:** www.pvda.org

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**Potomac Valley Dressage Association Membership Application 2014**

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.**

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Phone ____________________________ Email ____________________________
I have been a PVDA member Yes No USDF # __________
Primary GMO __________  Do Not Snail Mail me a Newsletter

*Birthdates are REQUIRED for Junior, Young Adult and Senior Memberships

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Linda Speer
Betty Thorpe
Deanna Williford

MARCH PVDA BOARD MEETING
Date: March 10, 2014; Meeting #536
Location: Linda Speer’s Farm in Clarksville, Md.

ATTENDANCE
Board Members Present: Betty Thorpe, Carolyn Del Grosso, Rebekah Lusk, Linda Speer, Deanna Williford, Jaclyn Sicoli, Valerie Mallder, Mary Sue McCarthy, Moea Goron-Liccione, Mimi Mack, Claire Lacey

Members Absent: Christina Dale
Assoc. Members Present: Wendy Emblin, Ingrid Gentry

Old Business:
New Business:

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Awards: Valerie presented proposals to the Year End High Score Awards, and after discussion, it was voted not to change the minimum number of tests required at 7 for Intro through First Level, Beginner Novice through Training Level eventing, 5 tests for Second through Fourth Level, and Preliminary through Advanced, 3 tests for USDF freestyles, pas de deux, and quadrille, and 3 for the FEI levels; and to keep as is the required tests within a level as two for Intro to Fourth Level, and Beginner Novice through Advanced eventing. Eliminated is the required number of shows. Not allowed are repeat first place winners, horse and rider pair, at any level. Volunteer hours remain at 8 hours and must be earned by the rider or the rider’s immediate family, but added is the option to pay a $100 sponsor-ship to cover this requirement. Due to lack of riders, the USEA classes will be combined for awards and the FEI levels will also be combined. Dessage Seat Equitation will be changed from 2 to 3 for the minimum number of PVDA shows and also to 3 for test scores.

Education: The Tea for Training on March 2 had almost 60 participants and Jane Seigler’s talk on trailering and health certificate requirements was well received. The Lesson Lottery has been popular with 14 members signed up so far.

Funding/Marketing/Sponsorship: Rebekah led discussion about the new levels for sponsorship. The names of the levels will be Platinum $500 and above, Gold $200-$499, Silver $100-$199, Bronze $50-$99, and Brass for $25-$49. Each level has perks.

Membership: There was a clear spike in membership requests before the Tea for Training which was free to members. Total membership is 713. Adult-445; Business-3; Family Primary-59; Family Supporting-64; Junior-42; Life-18; Patron-4; Senior-60; Young Adult-18.

Ride for Life: This is the last year for the contract with Johns Hopkins so we should also discuss what our future plans are.

Shows: Recognized-Katie Stratton will manage Sunday for Loch Moy, but we still need a Saturday manager

Volunteers: All licensed shows have volunteer coordinators: Camilla Cornwell and Ninja Nissan will do the Spring Show, Mary Sue the Ride for Life, and Claire Lacey the two Loch Moy days. Mary Sue has selected volunteer gifts, logo mugs for schooling shows and monogrammed hand towels for recognized shows. Volunteers can now sign up for shows on the website, and there is also a page for tracking volunteer hours.

Website: There are several new features added to the website for the show season.
Attention Junior and Young Riders!

PVDA wants you for the Region 1 Youth Competition July 26 - 27, 2014 at Morven Park in Leesburg, VA

PVDA will send a team in every division, starting with USDF Introductory Level
PVDA will pay for team tests and stabling

Requirements

1. Must be a PVDA member.
2. Send three tests judged by two different judges from any licensed show or any PVDA schooling show at the level you would like to show.
3. Volunteer one day at any PVDA event.

Deadline for application is June 23, 2014

For more information contact:
Linda Speer, 410-531-6641
wlspeer@verizon.net
Hilary Moore Hebert, 703-400-9108,
info@mooredressage.com

Candidate Application

If you would like to be considered for the Youth Competition, fill out this application and send it with your 3 tests to:
Linda Speer, 6300 Guilford Road, Clarksville, MD 21029
This is NOT an entry!

NAME: __________________________ AGE: ___

ADDRESS: __________________________

EMAIL: __________________________

PHONE: __________________________

RIDING LEVEL: __________________________