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

JUNE 2014 Deadline: MAY 10
Calendar Editor: Jocelyn Pearson
www.pvda.org for complete calendar
PVDA Schooling Shows on separate calendar

May
3-4 CDCTA Licensed Show at Morven Park, Leesburg, Va. See www.cdcta.com
3-4 Dressage at The Meadow. See usdfregion1.org
4 Shore Dressage Chapter Dressage Clinic with Deri Jeffers at Sunset Bay Farm, Onancock, Va. Contact deriipa@oal.com or 757-302-0224
6 Afternoon Dressing Clinic with Felicitas Von Neumann Cosel at Equidistance Horse Center. Free auditing and no trailer-in fee for those who want to ride. Contact Ilkim Boyle at vetmail@vettaxi.com
10 Clinic with Jessica Zoskey at Evergreen Farm, Berryville, Va. See http://www.evergreenfarm.info/Events.html
10 Catoctin Chapter Sport Horse and Dressage Show, located at Plantation Valley Stables, Mountain Church Road, Middletown, Md. Contact Debra Peebles, 240-457-3763, or Windwood@aol.com
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, Linealine and Prix Caprilli offered. Contact Anne Thibo at baysidechap@yamahcom
11 C.O.R.E Rider Clinic, Hosted by Playland Farm, Union Bridge, Md. Unmounted and mounted lessons. Auditing Free. Contact Erin at emurphy@arbee.net
17 Clinic with Wendy Murdoch at Evergreen Farm, Berryville, Va. See www.evergreenfarm.com
17-18 PVDA Annual Spring Show at Morven Park, Leesburg, Va. See www.pvda.org or www.usdfregion1.org as the Region 1 Omnibus is now only online. Volunteers please contact volunteers@pvda.org
21-22 Uwe Steiner Clinic (monthly) at Chesapeake Dressage Institute, Annapolis, Md. See www.ChesapeakeDressage.com or call 410-267-7174
25-26 Dressage at Heavenly Waters, Licensed Show. See www.usdfregion1.org
31 June 1 Adult Team Competition South hosted by NCDCTA in Raleigh, N.C. See www.usdfregion1.org
31 -FADS at Sugarloaf Equestrian Center, Boyds, Md. See www.frederickdresage.org

June
6-8 VADAnova Licensed Show at Morven Park, Leesburg, Va. See www.vadanova.org
8 Shore Dressage Chapter Clinic with Susie Cain at Sunset Bay Farm Onancock, Va. Contact deriipa@oal.com or 757-302-0224
12-15 Festival of Champions, at USET Headquarters, Gladstone, N,J.
14 VADAnova Schooling Show at Frying Pan Park, Herndon, Va. See www.vadanova.org
14-15 Virginia Summer Licensed Dressage Competition, See www.usdfregion1.org
15 Schooling Show at Begin Again Farm, Leonardtown, Md. Contact Michele Alexander at beginagainfarm1@aol.com
18 Clinic with Wendy Murdoch at Evergreen Farm, Berryville, Va. See www.evergreenfarm.com
18-19 Uwe Steiner Clinic at Chesapeake Dressage Institute, Annapolis, Md. See www.ChesapeakeDressage.com or call 410-267-7174
21 Shore Dressage Chapter Dressing Show, Sunset Bay Farm, Onancock, Va. Contact deriipa@oal.com or 757-302-0224
21-22 Festival Show with Judge Debbie Rodriguez at Evergreen Farm, Berryville, Va. See www.evergreenfarm.com
22 FADS Schooling Show at Looking Glass Farm, Hamilton, Va. See www.frederickdresage.org
28 FADS Schooling Show at Blue Horse Farm, Jefferson, Md. See www.frederickdresage.org
29 Bayside Chapter Schooling Show. Includes USDF, USEF, Western Dressage, Linealine and Prix Caprilli, judged by Becky Langwost. Contact Anne Thibo for location. baysidechap@yamahcom

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 NAYRC in Lexington, Ky. www.usdf.org
19 WindCrest Farm Schooling Show, Clarksburg, Md. An evening schooling sign 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
19 Hope Floats Equestrian Dressage Show Series, Show 2. See show info and registration at www.hopefloatsequestrian.com
20 Schooling Show at Begin Again Farm, Leonardtown, Md. Contact Michele Alexander at beginagainfarm1@aol.com
23-24 Uwe Steiner Clinic at Chesapeake Dressage Institute, Annapolis, Md. See www.ChesapeakeDressage.com or call 410-267-7174
26 Hope Floats Equestrian Dressage Show Series, Show 3. See show info and registration at www.hopefloatsequestrian.com
26 Lisa Gruen Clinic sponsored by PVDA Southern Maryland Chapter at CDI, Annapolis, Md. Cost is $80. Entry form on website: http://pvdasouthernmaryland.com/. Contact Melissa Harlinski at mharlinski@yahoo.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
20-21 Uwe Steiner Clinic at Chesapeake Dressage Institute, Annapolis, Md. See 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
30-31 PVDA Licensed Shows I and II, (two shows) at Loch Moy. See www.pvda.org. Show Secretary Carolyn Del Grosso.

September
13 Shore Dressage Chapter Clinic (clinician to be announced), Sunset Bay Farm, Onancock, Va. Contact deriipa@oal.com or 757-302-0224
13-14 Jan Brons Clinic at Chesapeake Dressage Institute, Annapolis, Md. Visit www.ChesapeakeDressage.com or call 410-267-7174
Welcome to Spring from your guest writer for the President’s Window.

PVDA has just hosted the Region 1 Adult Clinic with Hilda Gurney as I write this. It was inspiring to hear Hilda’s message of how she tries every day to ride the best she can and how at age 70 she feels she is riding the best she ever has. This from an Olympian! She appreciates her horses and enjoys her passion more than ever. I took lots of notes, as did others around me. Hilda answered all questions using each of her hats as breeder, trainer, instructor, and judge.

It helped that the weather cooperated and spring came with all its blooming glory for Hilda’s visit. Our many guests from around Region 1 were suitably impressed with Lori Larson’s Wyndham Oaks and Lori was the perfect, much appreciated hostess. Thanks to Jocelyn Pearson for organizing everything.

So maybe now our show season will get off the ground. The first two schooling shows for PVDA were canceled because the mud was a problem for parking rigs, more insults from our weather. I’ve heard others complain that, like me, their summer weight riding breeches seem to have shrunk in the drawer over the winter. Mix one rotten winter with another year of age and here comes trouble. That muttering you hear from me is move more, eat less, which is so much easier to do when the weather is nice. And at any age, it’s still fun to try to ride better every year.

continued on page 6
Charles County

By Briana Bowling

Our club held a “show” among our club members on April 13th. Club members rode their test of choice and fellow club members used the test sheets to make comments on the ride. We set up the ring as if it was a real show and even rang the bell to give the riders the “show nerves”. It gave the riders and horses a chance to experience show nerves without the cost and gave them some valuable feedback. It also gave our members a chance to see how difficult it is on the judges side of the table.

We finished the day with our club meeting where we discussed auditing some clinics this summer and will also be hosting a clinic with Jaralyn Finn in the late summer. We also plan on putting together a team or two for the Chapter Challenge.

Peninsula

By Allison Turner

The Kathy Rowse clinic on March 15-16 at Kim Briele’s Horsebridge Farm was full, in spite of the endless winter weather we’ve had this year. Thank you PVDA for the clinic subsidy! All riders appreciated the price break the subsidy allowed. Our April meeting was also held at Horsebridge Farm, and we had intended to have a riding demonstration of some sort. Due to the cold and wind, we chose to bundle up, close the barn doors and have Kim bring out her bit collection for a discussion on which bits are legal for dressage, and how they function in the horse’s mouth. Some quick points: Generally thick, light bits (snaffle or curb) are mildest, but

Charles County Chapter members practice scoring at a practice “show”.
Photo submitted by Briana Bowling.
a horse with a low palate will not be comfortable with a thick bit. Many horses like the double-jointed French link or KK training type snaffles with the short, rounded center pieces, because they lie smoothly across the tongue and don’t act on the palate like a single-jointed snaffle can. However, horses that object to the tongue pressure of double-jointed snaffles may go better in a standard single-jointed version. Some horses like the stability of the eggbutt-type snaffles, while others prefer the mobility of loose-ring snaffles. Curb bits used with double bridles have varying amounts of tongue relief based on the port shape. Generally the longer the shank, the stronger the curb bit. Regardless of bit type, it should be the correct width for your horse’s mouth. Loose-ring snaffles especially should not be too narrow, as they can pinch the corners of the horse’s mouth. Bits that are too wide may not lie correctly in the mouth and can slip back and forth, causing mouth irritation. Although non-legal, or stronger, bits may have their place as temporary training aids, no bit should be expected to take the place of correct training, especially not a harsh bit. Some bits are milder than others, but ultimately the hands connected to the bit determine how harsh the effect is to the horse. Your horse will usually let you know if he’s happy with his bit by his behavior and willingness to reach for contact.

St. Mary’s

By Gina Guffey

On Sunday March 23, 2014 the St. Mary’s County Chapter held a clinic with Kelly McGinn at John and Michele Spalding’s Begin Again Farm in Leonardtown. Kelly is a FEI rider and trainer based in Grasonville, MD on the Eastern Shore. She is a USDF bronze and silver medalist who trains with Scott Hassler.

We had seven riders for the day: Gina Guffey, Cheryl Cavalier, Annmari Ingersoll, Debbie Purvins, Alice Allen, Samantha Richards and Jack Mulqueen. Everyone had a great ride, benefitting from Kelly’s focus on correct and positive training. She was excellent in explaining exactly what she wanted from horse and rider in clear and concise terms. One of her quotes which rang true for everyone . . . “ride what you want, not what he’s giving you.” Some of us focused on controlling the neck of the horse. As Kelly explained, without control of the neck, you cannot have control of the rest of the horse. Others focused on “speed control”--taking the horse through his different gears to encourage him to use his back, allowing the muscles of the back to strengthen. There was also a focus on engaging the hindquarters with work from the ground to find more power from behind.

The riders and auditors provided a potluck lunch for everyone. We spent some time chatting with Kelly and picking her brain for more of her training philosophies.

The Chapter wants to thank John Spalding for getting the arena and farm ready for the clinic, and both John and Michele for once again opening their farm to us.

Look for our ad in this month’s newsletter for our Balimo Clinic with Barbara Strawson on May 31 and June 1, also at Begin Again Farm.
My March/April honorary issue of New England’s newsletter, Tip of the Hat, announces that NEDA, our giant GMO colleague to the north, is going green and that they will not mail out their Tip after this year. They say that printing the newsletter is costly and wasteful and that an electronic version will not only be in color, but can link to videos and websites and “open a new world of journalistic possibilities.” Our treasurer, Carolyn, has been saying the same thing about the costs. PVDA has its show omnibus on line this year for the first time, for all you who think they just didn’t get it in the mail yet. Interestingly, NEDA will continue the old fashioned publishing of their show Omnibus Prize List and The Salute, their annual report. It is an issue that comes up every year for PVDA and something to think about for our future.

Happy Riding,
Betty
Open Letter To All PVDA Members

Dear PVDA Members:

We would like to take this opportunity to update everyone on the status of the 2014 PVDA Ride For Life Benefit Horse Show. As many of you may have heard, this year we will not have a Dancing Horse Challenge and the Gala as we have had in years past. This year we are returning to the roots of the event by encouraging competitors in the PVDA sponsored USEF licensed/USDF recognized weekend dressage competition to bring in generous donations through personal sponsorships. Rider donations have always been a substantial portion of the monies collected by the Ride For Life on behalf of the Johns Hopkins Breast Center, and this year we expect to continue with that tradition with great success. The silent auction, another important source of donations to the Ride For Life, will continue this year with an exciting new online auction format. This will provide broader exposure to the donated items and greater variety of offerings – which makes it more fun for everyone! We also expect to have a great selection of vendors, the popular Spirit in Pink Stall Competition, and the Johns Hopkins’ affiliated Survivor Volunteers for breast health awareness. And, as always, there will be prizes for riders who bring in the highest amounts in donations. The 2014 Ride For Life will continue to offer plenty of fun while raising money for a great cause!

During the rest of this year, PVDA will be evaluating whether to continue the Dancing Horse Challenge and Gala in their past formats or to hold other or different fun events in 2015, with an eye toward balancing the benefit to the cause with the benefit to our organization in a cost effective manner. The Dancing Horse Challenge and the Gala have been incredibly successful, but they are also huge events that take a great many of our PVDA members to organize and run. Our volunteers are our most highly valued resource and we want to rest those who have given over many years and bring on new volunteers with fresh ideas to keep the event vital! Volunteers are always needed to support events like these, and we invite your ideas for future event presentations, and ideas for improvements are always welcome. We will be holding a 2015 PVDA Ride For Life planning meeting in July that is open to all interested members. So, join us and bring your ideas!

Thank you for your support in this transitional year and we look forward to the best benefit show ever. If you have any questions, please contact any one of us.

Pat Artimovich - partimovich@verizon.net

Jeannette Bair - jeannetteabair@gmail.com

Mary Sue McCarthy - mccarthymarysue@gmail.com
March 23, 2014

Junior/Young Rider Clinic with Hilary Moore Hebert

Ema Klugman

I enjoyed a productive lesson with Hilary on my brother’s OTTB, Joker’s Win, who I hope to move up to Preliminary level this year. He can suffer from tension in the dressage (and much prefers cross country), which affects his movement and way of going. Hilary gave me some great exercises (leg yielding along the wall, counter canter, transitions within the gaits) to encourage him to relax and increase his suppleness so he was not only happier and calmer, but also much more active behind. She really seemed to understand how his brain worked, and it is not easy to figure out thoroughbreds sometimes! Overall she gave me some useful tools to enhance the quality of his movement and I would love to work with her in the future.

Annabel Winters-McCabe

The March PVDA Clinic with Hilary Moore Hebert was a blast! I learned a lot and had a great time. Hilary’s positive teaching style was very motivating and it helped me to not only be told what to do, but to have why it would help my horse and/or riding explained. I learned how to improve my horse’s forward energy and engagement of the hindquarters using ten meter circles with specific aids. The clinic was wonderful and informative- I hope Hilary will come back for another soon!

Megan May

My experience at the PVDA clinic with Hilary Moore Hebert was fantastic. It started off a little crazy in that I had planned to bring the young horse (Champ) I have been riding, but at the last minute I had to switch to another horse (Blondie) for my lesson. Although I was not able to ride my usual horse, Hilary really listened to me when I talked to her about the challenges and the work I was doing with Champ and she gave me sound tips on what to do with him back at home.

Hilary helped me focus on what is in store for me this coming show season, and how I should properly warm up my horse. We also worked on getting the right amount of energy in each movement in order to score as high as possible in shows.

Hilary’s instruction was both helpful and understandable, and I’m so happy I was able to have a lesson with her! I was able to take the work that I did with Blondie during the clinic and use that when I rode Champ, and I was so pleased with the results. Thank you Hilary for being so flexible, and thank you Linda Speer and PVDA for sponsoring another great clinic!

Maia Cornwell

Hilary Moore taught me many helpful exercises during the clinic. I had heard from multiple judges that my horse needed more energy, and she showed me an exercise to help me get more energy. She said that when he felt wiggly or slow, to get three big steps to make him more attentive to my aids. At the show after the clinic, there were no comments on my horse’s energy. It made a huge difference in my riding and it really helped. She also helped me with my canter transitions. She told me where the judges would want to see my transitions and why. Then she helped me with the transitions themselves and showed me how to get him to canter when I wanted him to. Finally, she showed me some great exercises to help with my positioning. She told me to do these exercises while warming up in the walk or in the free walk. They have really helped my riding every time that I do them before riding. My position has really improved since she showed me those exercises! All of Hilary’s advice improved my riding greatly and I am incredibly grateful for the chance to ride with her!
I Wish You Enough
By Briana Bowling
from her blog: http://briannadressage.blogspot.com/

I’ve seen this poem and some version of a corresponding story multiple times on Facebook but cannot find where it originated…. In any case, I think the poem has a lot to offer.

I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.  
I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.  
I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.  
I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.  
I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.  
I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.  
I wish enough "Hello’s" to get you through the final "Goodbye"

I like the sentiment of "enough". Not more than you need, not more than your neighbor, not more than is humanely possible to achieve.

I am frequently asked how I am involved in so many things and still "keep it together". How I manage running a business, attend my three kids’ events, volunteer on multiple boards, write this blog and still have a bit of time to ride my horse.

The truth is I don’t keep it together. Most of the time I feel like I am on the edge of a cliff with one foot over the edge, hoping the other holds on. And I have compromised on what I used to feel were important things to get done.

For example, right now my sink is full of dishes but instead of worrying about it I am writing. I am fairly certain they aren’t going anywhere.

A few years ago my husband came up with an ingenious idea to stop folding clothes. Instead each person in our family has a large bin in my walk-in closet. I go straight from the dryer to the bins and throw the clothes in there -- no folding required. It’s up to each person to take their bin to their room to put away their clothes. And if they don’t? Well, they are putting wrinkled clothes on straight from the bin.

I can cook. I cook pretty well actually. But our family eats way too much fast food during sports seasons. Sometimes three or four days go by without me cracking open my oven. My entire house is rarely clean. A room or two yes… but never the whole thing.

Last week I had a fancy party to attend and when I went to get dressed, I realized the dress I was planning on wearing was on top of the dirty laundry pile. After a two second hesitation, I threw the dress in the dryer with two dryer sheets and a sprinkle of water. That isn’t much different than dry cleaning, right?

The point is that I am far from "having it together". And I don’t think that I am that different from most of my friends. I hear from so many of them the disappointment they have in themselves.

Just today I watched a friend’s lesson and it was fabulous. Her horse has come so far and its completely under her direction. When she bought the horse, she was a gangly under-muscled horse with little training. She has brought the horse to a beautiful, well-muscled horse who does a haunches in like its butter. She is schooling third level and today they were such a fluid pair I couldn’t tell where the aids were occurring. But five minutes after the lesson she commented that she wasn’t totally pleased with the medium trot.

Why can’t we celebrate our success? Why do we always want more from ourselves and our horses?

I recently attended a clinic with Steffen Peters and this was a theme of his clinic -- good enough. When you have tested the movement, its time to move on. There is no reason to school it over and over again … or even necessarily complete the movement.

I’ve been thinking of this for a bit now in regards to Golly. I had wanted so much to "get” the canter confirmed this year and in the process I realized that I need to celebrate what he CAN give me. It doesn’t mean that I can’t continue to achieve and try and strive for more. But I need to also celebrate what we have achieved and what he can offer. He is sane. He is loving. He has a steady tempo and good trot. He gets fabulous scores on halts which sounds like it should be easy, but lots of people DON’T get good scores on halt! I can’t say I will be perfect on this resolution, but I intend to do my best to cele-

continued on page 16
**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 only. Started, kind and trusting. Will be a top prospect, $18,000. Janna Dyer, 301-271-1961 or email janna@darkhorsestables.com

2) ’11 Han/Trak dk. brn. geld., 16.1H, gently started, kind and trusting. Suitable for dressage or anything $6,000. Janna Dyer, 301-271-1961 or email janna@darkhorsestables.com

3) ’05 TB bay geld., 17.1H, three solid gaits, well balanced, lovely mover, enjoys the trail and jumps, has fox hunted as well. $8,000. Pam Deem-Hergan, 443-386-1536 or email pandeemhergan@comcast.net

**Equipment**

1) Weighted surcingle by Eponaire (Astride Lite).

2) Classic II-D white GN trailer w/drsg. rm., 6’ wide x 7’4’ high inside horse area (fits 2 WBs nicely!). In very good cond., constantly maintained and kept in a shed. Sleep in GN area! Photos avail. by e-mail, $8,500/obo, LuAnne Levens, 301-421-1252 or email: lullen@mac.com

**For Rent**

Room avail: in 100-year-old farmhouse on a pvt. dressage farm 10 min. from historic oldtown Frederick and MARC train. Bring your horse w/you! Debra Nissen, 301-717-4894 or email: NewWorldStables@hotmail.com

**Wanted**

Dark Horse Dressage stable has opening for FT or PT working student w/ or w/o horse. Must be reliable/resp. w/ refs. Janna Dyer, 301-271-1961

**Boarding**


**For Sale**

1) ’00 Collins Arndt Encore Elite 2H BP w/drsg rm, x-tall/x-wide. Roomy manger area for big horses. Well maintained, good tires, and rec. serviced so ready to take you to the spring shows! $6500, Kyrie Garretson, email: kyrieg@earthlink.net

2) ’04 Morgan Cremello stallion, 14.2H, beautiful conformation and movement but too small for our breeding program. Started w/’s. 3) ’09 Morgan ches. mare, smart and stylish, could be a competitor. Started w/’s. 4) ’10 Morgan palomino geld. Handsome and sweet, might be OK for an amateur to bring along. Started w/’s. Del Lamiman & CeAnn Shipley, 301-972-1207 or email: mythicmor@yahoo.com

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The Classifieds is available to PVDA members only, at no charge, as a membership benefit. Classified advertisements 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.

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

*JUNE 2014 ISSUE CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE IS MAY 10, 2014

Top left: Group lesson at Pleasant Ridge Farm—Elissa Dallimore on Asia, Linda Glowienka on Fabuloso RC, Jaclyn Sicoli on Della, Carolyn Steppe on Danika. Top right: Linda Glowienka on Fabuloso RC. Lower right: Jaclyn Sicoli riding Herculeo H owned by Kara Schoepp. Photos submitted by Jaclyn Sicoli. Lower Middle: PVDA Board Member Betty Thorpe and trainer Caroline Jordan at the Fix-a-Test clinics at Good News Farm. Photo by Carol Havelka. Lower left: Jane Dallimore on Della. Photo by Jaclyn Sicoli.
Training Doesn't Happen Overnight—Charlotte Dujardin with Judy Harvey Symposium
March 8-9, 2014

By Diane Skvarla

In 1990 I quit my job and set off on a new adventure. I was going to England for a year to be a working student for British dressage trainer and judge Judy Harvey and take my British Horse Society (BHS) examinations. I had lived in England as a teenager and dreamed of returning and working with horses. It was a year to remember; I worked hard, successfully passed my BHS exams, and rode with and met some of the top equestrians in the country. Judy would host these incredible dinners where Stephen Clarke, a young Carl Hester, Richard Davidson, and others would eat, drink, and discuss dressage. Those evenings were inspiring and complemented the hours of book learning and lessons that Judy taught her working students.

Fast forward 24 years. In March I attended the Charlotte Dujardin with Judy Harvey clinic at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center. I’d kept in touch with Judy and her husband Malcolm over the years, meeting at various international dressage events in England and America. This was an opportunity not to be missed; to learn more from Judy and to hear from her famous former working student—Charlotte.

Charlotte trained with Judy for four years before a chance opportunity sent her to Carl Hester’s barn. The rest, of course, is history. The symposium was Charlotte’s first time as a clinician in the U.S. and reunited her with her former trainer. Since my working student days, Judy has become a Grand Prix international rider, FEI 4* judge, a highly sought-after coach, and was a selector for the British Olympic Dressage Team and the official BBC commentator for the Games.

The two day clinic proved highly instructive and entertaining. Judy and Charlotte gave the audience invaluable training advice and kept everyone laughing with their witty commentary. They worked well together, with Charlotte teaching the riders and Judy observing and commenting from a trainer’s and judge’s point of view. Horses ranged in ability from Training Level to Grand Prix, with several amateur riders participating with the professionals. Each day ended with a question-and-answer period covering training issues, riding techniques, stable management, and more personal topics. It was interesting to hear that Carl and Charlotte work their horses only four days a week, with two days “hacking” or trail riding, and one day of rest. On work days, upper level horses hack for 20 minutes, then stretch for 15 minutes in the ring, train for 40 minutes, and finish by stretching and walking. All their horses go in the fields: “Carl lets horses be horses.”

After seeing Charlotte ride and teach there is no doubt why she is number one in the world dressage rankings. This was reinforced by Judy’s story of when Charlotte went to Carl’s barn to initially work for two weeks. Carl called Judy. “That girl can ride.” “Yes she can,” said Judy. “She can do piaffe like I have never seen,” said Carl. “Yes she can,” replied Judy. “Do you think I should keep her,” Carl asked. “I think you should,” Judy answered. Judy and Carl recognized Charlotte’s talent and gave her the opportunities to make it to the top. But after watching her for two days, it is clear that it isn’t only natural talent that she possesses. Charlotte is determined, competitive, focused, disciplined, and unwavering (even dogged) in seeking perfection. She works out religiously to stay in shape, knowing that aerobic exercise and a solid core allows her to ride to her best ability; she has learned to focus her mind to eliminate distractions when competing; she watches other top riders to help her improve; and she never allows herself to be sloppy in her riding. Canadian FEI rider Leslie Reid said it best after watching Charlotte ride her horse, “There is a saying in the horse sport, craftsmen are made and artists are born. With your talent and your feel and your tim-

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ing, that is why you’re an Olympic champion, so congratulations.”

All the horses visibly improved during their sessions, but it was hard work for the riders, with Charlotte and Judy keeping them on their toes. Charlotte emphasized that this was training and not to worry about mistakes. Judy agreed: “You’re not going to make an omelet without breaking eggs.” But poor riding, such as bad transitions and corners, was unacceptable and Charlotte did not mince words when that occurred, retorting: “That was terrible, do it again” or “that was rubbish.” “If you do bad transitions at home you will do bad transitions in the arena.” She was quick to note it was never the horse’s fault, telling the audience: “Pat the horse, slap the rider.”

The mood was kept light with plenty of positive reinforcement. Riders were challenged to improve and praised when progress was made. For the spectators it was a tutorial in dressage training, with constant emphasis on the basics and a recognition on the need to be precise and in control at all times. Briefly, here are some of the comments, observations, and training tips heard throughout the weekend.

**The Young Horse**

Charlotte works her young 4-5 year old horses for only 20 minutes, “keeping everything really easy and clear,” and she never does sitting trot with them until they are about 6. “For me it’s more important that I get his back strong enough and that I feel that the horse remains forward.” Sitting trot on a young horse tends to close them down and you can lose the swing in their backs because they are still weak. She gives lots of verbal praise and takes frequent walk breaks, but never picks up the contact at the walk. “I always walk them on a long rein. You don’t want to interrupt the walk at all when they are a young horse.” Temperament, trainability, and a willingness to work for you are key characteristics that both Charlotte and Judy look for in a young horse. “A championship horse will have three long tests to do in four days and those horses have got to really want to fight for you,” Judy noted.

I was interested to hear how Charlotte teaches young horses medium trot. It’s all about gaining strength behind and pushing power. She trots around and around as fast as she can in the ring, or ideally outside in the fields, until she feels the push of the hind legs starting to create some suspension. ”Literally... it feels like roadrunner.” Since the horse is young and weak behind he will fall on his forehand, but the rider needs to ride through that to get the horse stronger. If the horse breaks into canter that is ok, just continue the exercise.

Charlotte begins the flying changes with young horses once they are confirmed in transitions and counter canter. But she cautioned not to train the counter canter for too long or the horse will have difficulty learning the changes. She just plays around with the changes and never gets after young horses if they make a mistake, or they will become tense and worried about it. Charlotte stressed: “It’s all about repetition.” “What’s so important is that the young horse learns to enjoy the changes,” said Judy.

**Trainings Techniques and Exercises**

Emphasis throughout the weekend was on the basics: rhythm, suppleness, contact, impulsion, straightness, and collection. “We’re training the horse to be a gymnast. Our job is to keep them as loose and supple as possible.... We never work on our test movements at home -- we do exercises that make our test movements better,” said Charlotte. These include bending exercises in both trot and canter, such as travers and shoulder fore on the long side and on a 20 meter circle, lateral movements like leg yield, and frequent transitions within and between the gaits. “If you keep doing transitions in the movement the horse will always be waiting for you,” she told one rider. Controlling every step of the horse at all times is key to success.

It was clear that many problems stemmed from the horse not honestly being in front of the leg. In those moments, Charlotte yelled, ”Yeehaw!” -- by which she
meant to gallop immediately. When one rider failed to get the necessary quick and forward reaction from her horse, Charlotte dryly remarked that the rider would get time faults for going so slow. For another rider unable to get a quick forward reaction, Charlotte retorted, "I'd be on the other side of the arena by now." She later added: "If a horse is in front of your leg you can pretty much do anything."

Throughout all exercises the frame of the horse had to stay the same, the tempo and rhythm the same, and the contact the same. If any of those basics are lost during a movement then do not continue, or try other movements to get what you want. For example, if you lose the forward in the half pass, try leg yield with forward movement.

Charlotte had a canter pirouette exercise for the upper level horses that Judy referred to as "the Carl," since Carl Hester uses it in his training system. The point of the exercise is to be sure the horse learns to wait for the rider’s aids and that the rider controls and directs every step. The rider did a half pass from H to X, then came down the centerline toward A in a shoulder fore, then did a 10 meter half circle in the corner with haunches in to the left [turning the forehand around the hindquarters], and then did another half pass from F to X repeating the exercise in reverse. As rider and horse progressed in the movement, the half circle became smaller and more like a working half pirouette. Judy pointed out that too often you see riders practicing and practicing the pirouettes until the quality of the canter is destroyed. With this exercise she noted that the rider "had to ride forward, she had to keep going, she had to be aware of her bearings, she had to concentrate on straight lines, she had to concentrate on turns, she had to concentrate on haunches in --a lot going on." "I think the proof of the pudding was in that last little turn when he actually started to sit and understand what she wanted." In helping riders with piaffe, Charlotte wanted the horses rounder and more forward as often they got stuck in the movement. One horse was very tense in the piaffe, but when the rider allowed the horse to move in and out of the piaffe, never staying in the movement for long, the tension eased. "I train it so that we can go on, come back, go on, come back, and be in control of those steps," she told the audience. "Then when you want to close it and put 15 steps on the spot, you can keep it really active and not just have them get in there and get stuck." For the passage, Charlotte had another rider do rising trot and the passage became significantly more elevated. She explained: "The piaffe is sitting and the passage is pushing. Most horses find one or the other easier. A really talented horse can do both, it can sit and it can push." Judy revealed on the first day that Charlotte has a phenomenal talent for riding piaffe and passage, but that the downside is the Charlotte doesn’t actually know how she does it! To which Charlotte responded, "I don’t actually know.... It’s just a feeling I have inside me which I then can create and put onto a horse."

Charlotte’s Riding

The audience was treated each day to a demonstration of Charlotte’s training techniques and precise riding style. She first rode Leslie Reid’s Andalusian stallion Kobal. Once Charlotte started to put the horse through his paces the transformation was astonishing. A very ordinary trot

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became world class and the canter was similarly spectacular. Charlotte was quick to praise Leslie for her excellent training of the horse. At one point Charlotte described what she was doing to get cadence in the trot, "My reins are slowing and my legs are saying go, but I’m not blocking him. All I’m doing is creating more suspension and more lift."

On the second day Charlotte rode another horse where she worked on getting a softer contact and allowing him to relax over his back. She did rising trot at various times at the start to allow the horse to come up over his back, noting, "don't feel it is necessary to always sit." Only after she had the horse lighter in her hand and in self-carriage could she create more energy. Again, the result was impressive, with the horse offering amazing piaffe and passage.

How does Charlotte ride the way she does? "I think it’s something I’ve definitely worked at..... I think the way I sit now is just through my core ability of being strong and having strength in my seat not to be able to just hold on to my reins.... I try and have the feeling when I sit on the horse that I sit in the saddle and my legs aren’t gripping around the horse -- my legs just hang. So when I want to use my leg, I can use my legs, when I don’t want to use my legs the horse isn’t becoming numb to my legs. I think that’s one of the hardest things to be able to do is not to grip."

The Rider

Charlotte and Judy also focused on the riders and what they were doing to positively or negatively influence their horse. Charlotte took the whip away from most riders, noting that she only uses the whip when she wants to make the horse "bounce." She emphasized that the whip is "not there to make my horse go." Rather, the horse must react immediately from the leg, and never a nagging leg. She added: "Lazy horses need your legs off; hot horses need your legs on." She sympathized that it is difficult to take your legs off a lazy horse, but that you have to be disciplined as a rider and not keep kicking. Also, since whips are not allowed in championship or FEI classes, Judy told riders to "lose your whip dependence."

Charlotte noted that most riders think of the walk as a breather, but it is a movement that should be practiced daily [but not collected walk with a young horse], especially as it has a co-efficient of two in most tests. Judy stated that walking is "not the time when we do our e-mails and text and make a few phone calls!" As well as practicing the walk, Judy emphasized the importance of the halt, as it is the first impression you give the judge. "There is no excuse for not practicing it and getting it really, really correct right at the beginning of the horse’s training. But it has to be correct for the level." "When you’re riding at Charlotte’s level and you’re talking about world records and Olympic medals, you can’t throw away the halt." Two years ago in Wellington at the World Dressage Masters I saw Charlotte put this to practice. She was walking Valegro early in the morning to stretch his legs before the evening’s big competition. Over a 20 minute period she turned and halted on the center line over 15 times, with someone confirming if it was square.

Throughout the weekend, Charlotte time and again reminded riders to shorten their reins, as long reins tended to create a backward hand. Judy commented that Charlotte’s hands are always thinking forward. Charlotte gave out her secret to success, telling several riders: "Short reins win gold medals."

It's a Discipline

I left the symposium with a better understanding of what training is all about. "Training doesn’t happen overnight," as Charlotte pointed out. "It’s not something you’ll fix in a few days or weeks. It’s only through the training and the discipline the you’ll make it better." Judy agreed, "It’s a discipline. It’s something you have to work at." I went home ready to put my new knowledge to work, recognizing that my major problem with my horse Prism is that he is not always honestly in front of my leg. Dressage is about learning, and I learned much over the weekend from Charlotte and Judy. I hope to meet up with Judy and Malcolm next year in Las Vegas for the Dressage World Cup.
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brate him for what he is while we strive for more.

As my life became more busy I came up with a justification for why my house was not perfect. While I used to freak out if my baseboards weren’t clean for guests, it became okay if toys were strewn everywhere, dishes were in the sink, and crumbs on the table left over from last nights dinner. My justification was that I was doing a service to my friends. Rather than leaving my house feeling less about themselves because their house wasn’t up to par, they could leave with the thought that they weren’t all that bad... their house wasn’t all that different from mine.... maybe even better. And I hope that my friends feel comfortable in my house -- free to put their feet up on the coffee table and relax with a cup of tea.

So as we enter a new year and think about New Year’s resolutions, I challenge you to lower your expectations for yourself. Celebrate your achievements and the achievements of your horse. I wish you enough. Anything beyond is gravy.

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<td>4 Samantha Brown / Desiree / 67.917%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Level Test 1</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Ema Klugman / Jokers Win / 68.636%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Ema Klugman / Bendigo / 65.682%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Level Test 2 and 3</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Madison Caliber / Cole / 69.107%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Sarah Selden / Moby Dixon / 67.857%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Emma Chabolla / Tiger Lily / 67.857%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Laura Strauch / Fabled Island / 66.607%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Laura Strauch / Fabled Island / 64.800%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Level Test 1</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Susan Gadomski(1-3) / Lino / 68.387%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Traci Melvin(1-1) / Song of Solomon / 61.724%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Joanne Shelly(1-1) / Stolichnaya / 56.379%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Second Level Test 1</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Susan Gadomski(2-1) / Lino / 63.143%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Samantha Sandler(3-2) / Zackary / 60.488%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Samantha Sandler(4-1) / Zackary / 56.143%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MFS TOC</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Traci Melvin / Song of Solomon / 66.000%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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: JUNE 2014; DEADLINE: MAY 10; DISTRIBUTION: early JUNE 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.

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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Advertise in the PVDA Newsletter! pvdanewsletter@gmail.com for information

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**PVDA Web Site:** www.pvda.org
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**Potomac Valley Dressage Association Membership Application 2014**

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

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

I wish to apply for the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 YEAR</th>
<th>2 YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior Affiliate (&lt;18)</td>
<td>$45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Adult (18-21)</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior (65 &amp; Older)</td>
<td>$45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patron</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Affiliate</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family (priced for 2)</td>
<td>$85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Family</td>
<td>$20 ea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Adult Member</td>
<td>$799</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I would like to Volunteer:

- Scribe
- Manager
- Steward
- Runner
- Scoring
- Set Up
- Breakdown
- Show Other
- Education
- Computer
- Writing
- Marketing
- Breakdown
- Show Other
- Anything

I offer the following services:

- Judge at Grade: ______
- Trainer at Level: ______
- USEF TD at Level: ______
- Breeder of: ______

PVDA Membership Directory Options

List my Phone # | ☐ Yes | ☐ No
List my Email | ☐ Yes | ☐ No

I would like to Donate toward:

Year End Trophy Fund: $_______
PVDA Ride for Life: $_______

Mail Completed Applications with check made Payable to PVDA to:

Michele Wellman, PVDA Membership 9205 Bessie Clemson Rd Union Bridge, MD 21791 membership@pvda.org or 301-873-3496

Name_________________________DOB*: ___________ ☐ AA ☐ Pro
Family #1_______________________DOB*: ___________ ☐ AA ☐ Pro
Family #2_______________________DOB*: ___________ ☐ AA ☐ Pro
Street__________________________
City/ST/Zip__________________________
Phone_________________________Email__________________
I have been a PVDA member | ☐ Yes | ☐ No | USD #_________
Primary GMO _____________ ☐ Do Not Snail Mail me a Newsletter

*Birthdates are REQUIRED for Junior, Young Adult and Senior Memberships
APRIL PVDA BOARD MEETING

Date: April 7, 2014; Meeting #537
Location: Linda Speer's Farm in Clarksville, Md.

ATTENDANCE
Board Members Present: Betty Thorpe, Carolyn Del Grosso, Rebekah Lusk, Moa Goron-Lickeye, Valerie Mallder, Mary Sue McCarthy, Moea Goron-Lickeye, Mimi Mack, Claire Lacey, Christina Dale
Members Absent: Deanna Williford
Assoc. Members Present: Wendy Emblyn, Ingrid Gentry, Julie Kingsbury, Pat Artimovich, Jeannette Bair

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards: The PVDA Awards Programs brochure was provided to all riders at both recent Schooley Mill shows. Valerie received permission to print enough brochures for the remaining shows. Claire Lacey will take over the Rider Achievement Awards.

Finance/Budget: Show season is starting so memberships and show entries are coming in. CDs: $15,107.09; Chapter funds: $12,737.38; Corporate Checking: $9,441.78; PVDA Paypal: $369.40; Schooling Show Fund: $3033.45; Total: $40,689.10.

Fundraising/Marketing/Sponsorships: There was productive discussion to make a consistent policy on sponsorships for the Ride for Life as well as the other licensed shows and the educational activities. The final wording will be announced and published in a brochure.

Membership: Total membership is 807. Adult-494; Business-5; Family Primary-65; Family Supporting-70; Junior-66; Life-18; Patron-4; Senior-65; Young Adult-20.

Ride for Life: There was extensive discussion of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between PVDA and Johns Hopkins for the 2014 event because this will clarify what the event will be this year. The PVDA donation to Johns Hopkins will come from rider donations, merchandise sales, and the silent auction which will be largely online. As in the past, rider donations and silent auction proceeds will go directly to Johns Hopkins. All show entry fees go to PVDA for show expenses. Since there is no Dancing Horse Challenge the vendor fee will go from $200 to $40 per day. Sponsorships, which go to PVDA, will be used to support the benefit volunteers.

A press release to announce this year’s event changes will be written by Jackie and Mary Sue. Mimi and Mary Sue will coordinate all the volunteers for the event, and Valerie and Christina will begin the promotion. Christina has agreed to be the point of contact between all the committees.

Shows: Recognized – Entries are coming in for the Spring Show, light right now but that’s normal for this time.

Shows: Schooling - The JrYR Schooley Mill show on April 5 had 47 rides; the Open Schooley Mill show on April 6 had 35 rides. These were the first two shows of the season as the first two scheduled shows were canceled due to mud. There was confusion for competitors signing up on Equestrian Entries, which was designed for licensed shows. Valerie made a “How to Enter” video that has helped some members. The signature page was a problem, as well as the membership requirement. Valerie noted that riders could join PVDA on Equestrian Entries for a one-time fee which would be valid for the show when they would have to wait for their membership number when signing up on the website. The managers had problems with Fox Village because of program glitches which Valerie has documented in the show manager’s manual. One problem is that Fox Village doesn’t run on Macs, so managers who own Macs will have to use one of the PVDA computers.

PVDA Library/ Documents (Archives, Books, Videos)
Betty Thorpe (chair), Jennifer Tingley (video)

Publications (Service Directory, Omnibus, Mailings)
Betty Thorpe (chair)

Riders (Advanced Young Riders/FEI, Junior/Young Riders, Adult Amateur)
Carolyn Del Grosso (chair), Deanna Williford

COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD
For complete contact information see www.pvda.org

Mailing)

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Carolyn Del Grosso (chair), Deanna Williford

Special Events (Awards Dinner, Expo, Special Events)
Linda Speer (chair), Shari Glickman, Deanna Williford, Christina Dale

Volunteers
Mary Sue McCarthy (chair), Christina Dale, Camilla Cornwell, Ninja Nissen

Website
Valerie Mallder (chair), Christina Dale

April 7, 2014; Meeting #537
Location: Linda Speer’s Farm in Clarksville, Md.

ATTENDANCE
Board Members Present: Betty Thorpe, Carolyn Del Grosso, Rebekah Lusk, Linda Speer, Jaclyn Sicoli, Valerie Mallder, Mary Sue McCarthy, Moea Goron-Lickeye, Mimi Mack, Claire Lacey, Christina Dale
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Volunteers
Mary Sue McCarthy (chair), Christina Dale, Camilla Cornwell, Ninja Nissen

Website
Valerie Mallder (chair), Christina Dale
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

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: ___________________________