PVDA member Kiley Bitner-Parish and Monty show off their winnings.

Photo by Claire Lacey.
### Calendar of Events

#### March
- **6** Schooling Show at Basculle Farm, Poolesville, Md.  Contact basculesecretary@verizon.net.
- **7** PVDA Board Meeting, 7 pm at Stonebrook Farm in Clarksville, Md.  Contact president@pvda.org.
- **12** Spirit Winter Schooling Show Series at Frying Pan Park, Herndon, Va.  See www.spiritopenequestrian.blogspot.com
- **13** USDF Region 1 Spring Meeting at Hassler’s Dressage, Chesapeake City, Md.  See www.usdfrregion1.org
- **14** Mary Wanless Biomechanics Clinic at Great Strides, Damascus, Md.  Contact Emily Osborne at heartofriding@gmail.com or 240-587-7996
- **20** VADAnova Schooling Show at Morven Park, Leesburg, Va.  See www.vadanova.org
- **20** PVDA Jr/YR Get Ready to Show Day at Stonebrook Farm, Clarksville, Md.  Contact Camilla Cornwell at camilla.cornwell@pvda.org

#### April
- **2-3** Dressage/Jumping Clinic with Don Schramm in New Oxford, Pa.  Contact Sue Smith at smsmith@mtholyoke.edu or 717-451-4726
- **3** FADS at Blue Horse Farm, Jefferson, Md.  See www.frederickdressage.org
- **4** PVDA Board Meeting, 7 pm at Stonebrook Farm in Clarksville, Md.  Contact president@pvda.org.
- **9** FADS at Loch Moy, Adamstown, Md.  See www.frederickdressage.org
- **9-10** VADAnova Licensed Spring Show at Morven Park, Leesburg, Va.  See www.vadanova.org.
- **10** PVDA Schooling Show at Schooley Mill Park, Highland, Md.  See www.pvda.org.
- **10** FADS at Celebration Farm, Union Bridge, Md.  See www.frederickdressage.org
- **16-17** “Through the Levels” Clinic with USEF “T” Judge and author Janet Foy at Wyndham Oaks, Boyds, Md.  See www.wyndham-oaks.com
- **17** FADS at By Chance Farm, Union Bridge, Md.  See www.frederickdressage.org
- **23-24** Jan Brons Clinic at Chesapeake Dressage Institute, Annapolis, MD.  Visit us on Facebook or our website at www.ChesapeakeDressage.com or call 410-267-7174
- **24** PVDA Schooling Show at Preston Farm, Choptank, Md.  See www.pvda.org.
- **24** PVDA Schooling Show at Southwind Farm, Damascus, Md.  See www.pvda.org.
- **24** FADS at Troupe Run Farm, Hagerstown, Md.  See www.frederickdressage.org
- **30** Spirit Winter Schooling Show Series at Frying Pan Park, Herndon, Va.  See www.spiritopenequestrian.blogspot.com

#### May
- **1** PVDA Schooling Show at Woodstock Equestrian Center, Beallsville, Md.  See www.pvda.org.
- **1** PVDA Schooling Show at Lucky Cricket Farm, Huntingtown, Md.  See www.pvda.org.
- **2** PVDA Board Meeting, 7 pm at Stonebrook Farm in Clarksville, Md.  Contact president@pvda.org.
- **7** PVDA Schooling Show at Windcrest Farm, Clarksburg, Md.  See www.pvda.org.
- **7** PVDA Catoctin Chapter Dressage Sport Horse In Hand & Dressage Schooling Show at Plantation Valley Stables, Middletown, Md.  See http://catoctinchapterpvda.weebly.com/
- **7-8** CDCTA Licensed Show at Morven Park, Leesburg, Va.  See www.cdcta.com
- **8** FADS at Celebration Farm, Union Bridge, Md.  See www.frederickdressage.org
- **14** FADS at By Chance Farm, Union Bridge, Md.  See www.frederickdressage.org
- **15** FADS at Wyndham Oaks, Boyds, Md.  See www.frederickdressage.org
- **20-24** Erik Herbermann Clinic at Equilibrium Horse Center, Gambrills, Md.  Contact echorse@aol.com or 410-721-0885
- **21-22** PVDA Spring Licensed Show at the Prince George’s Equestrian Center, Upper Marlboro, Md.  See www.pvda.org.
- **28-29** Jan Brons Clinic at Chesapeake Dressage Institute, Annapolis, MD.  Visit us on Facebook or our website at www.ChesapeakeDressage.com or call 410-267-7174
- **29** PVDA Schooling Show (tentative) at Morgan Run Stables, Westminster, Md.  See www.pvda.org.

#### June
- **4** FADS at Karmic Run Stables, Mt. Airy, Md.  See www.frederickdressage.org
- **4** PVDA Schooling Show at Schooley Mill Park, Highland, Md.  See www.pvda.org.
- **4-5** PVDA Tri County Chapter sponsored Janet Foy Clinic at Chesapeake Dressage Institute, Annapolis, MD.  Contact 908-451-7827
- **5** PVDA Jr/YR Schooling Show at Schoolo Mill Park, Highland, Md.  See www.pvda.org.
- **5** PVDA Schooling Show at Lucky Cricket Farm, Huntingtown, Md.  See www.pvda.org.
- **5** FADS at Looking Glass Farm, Hamilton, Va.  See www.frederickdressage.org
- **6** PVDA Board Meeting, 7 pm at Stonebrook Farm in Clarksville, Md.  Contact president@pvda.org.
- **10** VADAnova Breeding Classic and Summer Dressage Warmup, Licensed Show.  See www.vadanova.org
- **11-12** VADAnova Summer Licensed Show.  See www.vadanova.org
- **11** PVDA Schooling Show at Mountain View Farm.  See www.pvda.org.
- **19** FADS at Blue Horse Farm, Jefferson, Md.  See www.frederickdressage.org
- **22-23** Jan Brons Clinic at Chesapeake Dressage Institute, Annapolis, MD.  Visit us on Facebook or our website at www.ChesapeakeDressage.com or call 410-267-7174
- **25-26** PVDA Ride for Life Licensed Show at the Prince George’s Equestrian Center, Upper Marlboro, Md.  See www.pvda.org.
- **25** Hope Floats Equestrian Fix-A-Test with Judge Dona Ruth, Taneytown, Md.  Contact Jeanine Holtsberg at 410-861-7977 or see http://hopefloatsequestrian.com
- **26** FADS at By Chance Farm, Union Bridge, Md.  See www.frederickdressage.org
- **30** FADS at Looking Glass Farm, Hamilton, Va.  (Thursday)  See www.frederickdressage.org

#### July
- **2** PVDA Schooling Show at Bluebird Farm, Friendship, Md.  See www.pvda.org.
- **9** Hope Floats Equestrian Summer Dressage Series Show I, Judge Wanjia Gerlach, in Taneytown, Md.  Contact Jeanine Holtsberg at 410-861-7977 or see http://hopefloatsequestrian.com
- **9** FADS at Wyndham Oaks, Boyds, Md.  See www.frederickdressage.org
- **11** PVDA Board Meeting, 7 pm at Stonebrook Farm in Clarksville, Md.  Contact president@pvda.org.
- **15** FADS at Celebration Farm, Union Bridge, Md.  (Friday).  See www.frederickdressage.org
- **16** Hope Floats Equestrian Summer Dressage Series Show II in Taneytown, Md.  Contact
Welcome to Spring everyone! Winter tries to hold on and fight back, but the sheer energy and optimism of Spring always wins in the end. It’s time for shedding blades to emerge and lip balm to hide from the barn at least! Time to set up for success -however you define it- in this emerging year. As the days lengthen many of us start working on increasing our forward progress. If you find yourself needing equipment, remember to ask if a store gives a PVDA discount. It’s a member benefit that several stores offer and they appreciate you asking before they ring things up!

The PVDA year is already moving forward. Our show season is up and running already with some new venues and an additional Fall Recognized Show at Prince George’s Equestrian Center. The Ride for Life website is up and plans for that show are well underway with a new Fundraiser Freestyle being offered as a non-judged class. The theme this year is “Celebrate”. R4L chair, Marcia Mia, has written an article about this special event. It’s never too early to start planning your fundraising or to choose how you will volunteer this year at this event or others. We can only produce shows and clinics with significant support from our members and every bit helps! Fill out a volunteer form on the website or contact a show manager and claim your volunteer hours, gifts, and our gratitude.

This is the first of our new bi-monthly newsletters. We have more information about it inside but have tried to retain the best of our previous format and add new and relevant content. One of the fabulous things about PVDA is the huge pool of knowledge and information we collectively share about dressage. This organization was founded in order to advance dressage education, so I’d like to encourage our members to write and submit tips and articles based on their experiences. Please send as Word documents to editor@pvda.org to be considered for publication. Articles should not be too long (~1200 words or less) and we love pictures to go with them- or just good pictures to share! Remember it’s about sharing ideas with your community rather than advertising.

Spring! The very word has such positive energy and hope. It’s also unstoppable. Something we can all benefit from emulating. This is the time to identify what stops us (rarely the horse but often something within!) and keep taking the next appropriate action towards a goal. Dare to dream and ride “as if”! Looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish this year.

Claire

By Claire Lacey
president@pvda.org

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Jeanine Holtsberg at 410-861-7977 or see http://hopefloatsequestrian.com

17 PVDA Schooling Show at Lucky Cricket Farm, Huntingtown, Md. See www.pvda.org.

23 FADS at By Chance Farm, Union Bridge, Md. See www.frederickdressage.org

23 Hope Floats Equestrian Summer Dressage Series Show III in Taneytown, Md. Contact Jeanine Holtsberg at 410-861-7977 or see http://hopefloatsequestrian.com

23-24 Youth Team Competition North at Morven Park. Contact Alison Head at lookingglassfarm@mac.com

23-24 Jan Brons Clinic at Chesapeake Dressage Institute, Annapolis, MD. Visit us on Facebook or our website at www.ChesapeakeDressage.com or call 410-267-7174

28 FADS at Looking Glass Farm, Hamilton, Va. (Thursday) See www.frederickdressage.org

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August

1 PVDA Board Meeting, 7 pm at Stonebrook Farm in Clarksville, Md. Contact president@pvda.org.

6 PVDA Schooling Show at Exalt Farm, Harwood, Md. See www.pvda.org.


20-21 CDCTA Dressage at Glenwood (Formerly Dressage at Foxcroft), Licensed Show in Middleburg, Va. See www.cdcta.com

28 PVDA Schooling Show at Thornridge Manor, Glen Arm, Md. See www.pvda.org.

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September

3 PVDA Loch Moy #1 Licensed Show at Adamstown, Md. See www.pvda.org.

4 PVDA Loch Moy #2 Licensed Show at Adamstown, Md. See www.pvda.org.

5 PVDA Board Meeting, 7 pm at Stonebrook Farm in Clarksville, Md. Contact president@pvda.org.

10 PVDA Schooling Show at Windcrest Farm, Clarkburg, Md. See www.pvda.org.

10-11 VADA/inoa Autumn I Licensed Show. See www.vadanova.org

11 PVDA Schooling Show (tentative) at Chesapeake Dressage Institute, Annapolis Md. See www.pvda.org.
The PVDA Newsletter

The 2016 Lesson Lottery Program

Coordinated by Mimi Mack

The PVDA Lesson Lottery program was piloted in 2015 by beloved Board member, Betty Thorpe, and was 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 with an instructor in our area.

The list of 13 instructors who have agreed to participate and donate a lesson for this program are below, along with their biographies. 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(s). The cost to enter the lottery for Adults is $50 per ticket and for JR/YR is $45. You can apply for up to three instructors and indicate your order of preference, as you can only win a lesson with one instructor. Send a separate check for each lesson you apply for, made payable to PVDA. If you do not win in the lottery, your check(s) will be destroyed or returned to you.

Applications will be accepted until May 1. 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 at the trainer's convenience, but within 12 months. It is up to the winner of the lottery to contact the instructor and set up a time, and it is up to the winner to travel to the instructor for the lesson. Please give these busy professionals plenty of leeway to fit you in to their schedule!

Lesson Lottery Application

There are two ways you can apply for the Lesson Lottery Program:

1. Online and US Mail: Go to the online application form at www.pvda.org. After submitting the application, mail your checks payable to PVDA to:
   Mimi Mack
   11910 Clayton Ct
   Monrovia, MD 21770

2. US Mail Only: To send your application through the mail, please include the following information in an envelope addressed to Mimi Mack at the address listed above:
   • Your check(s), payable to PVDA
   • Membership number
   • Contact information
   • Your instructor preferences, in order of preference

   • A signed release form

2016 Lesson Lottery Instructor Biographies (Listed Alphabetically)

Brandi Benedict

Brandi Benedict is the resident trainer at SonRise Stables in Lovettsville, Virginia. She has her Bronze, Silver and Gold medals. Brandi has extensive experience working with young horses as well as training horses to the FEI level. Brandi has worked with such notable trainers as Steffen Peters, Michael Klimke, Linda Zang, Ingo Pape, John Winnett and Anne Gribbons. Brandi regularly works with “S” judge Heidi Berry and US Young Horse coach Scott Hassler.

Brendan Curtis

Brendan Curtis is an accomplished rider & trainer. He began training seriously when he was accepted as a working student for Felicitas Von Neumann-Cosel in Woodbine, Maryland. After five years building a solid foundation in classical dressage with Felicitas, Brendan was offered the opportunity to move to Raleigh, North Carolina to be an assistant trainer with Jim Koford. In 2010, Brendan opened his own training facility and is currently operating in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Phoebe Devoe-Moore

Phoebe is a USEF “r” Dressage Judge, USDF Bronze and Silver Medalist, and Bronze Bar Medalist. In 1999, she built Thornridge Manor, Glen Arm, MD. In 2014, it was expanded to include an additional 50 acres, and two more homes. Thornridge Manor has a very active Adult Amateur and Young Rider lesson program. Both Phoebe and her students have been awarded USDF HOY and USDF All Breeds National Rankings, as well as, regional and local championship awards. Phoebe has coached her students to achieve their USDF Bronze and Silver Medals. Although Phoebe works with a wide range of breeds, Thornridge Manor has been recognized by the AHS as an approved Dressage Training Facility, Intro thru FEI, and as an approved Sales Facility.

Janna Dyer

Janna is a USDF Gold Medalist who has studied with Georg Heyser, Jessica Ransehausen and Robert Dover. She received a USET/Asmis grant to study at Dr. Reiner Klimke’s stable, having com-

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peted heavily and successfully on several different horses at CDI-W’s at all FEI levels.

**Jaralyn Finn**

Jaralyn Finn is the head trainer of Finesse Dressage, LLC based in Poolesville, MD. She is a USDF Gold, Silver, and Bronze medalist and a graduate with distinction of the USDF “L” judge program. She has also earned her USDF Gold Bar for musical freestyles. Over the years, Jaralyn has helped many clients earn scores for their USDF Medals as well as qualify and compete at USDF Regional Championships. “Jaralyn's training priority is to achieve harmony between horse and rider through a solid understanding of the classical training scale. Jaralyn has benefited from extensive training with many devoted experts over the years including Conrad Schumacher, Scott Hassler, William Warren and Arlene “Tuny” Page. Jaralyn has clients at Wyndham Oaks in Boyds, MD as well as training her own horses and others at her Shepherd’s Run Farm in Poolesville, MD and Shepherd’s Run South in White Fences, Loxahatchee, FL.

**Suzy Floyd**

Suzy Floyd is a professional trainer with over 25 years experience teaching, training and coaching. She owns and operates Meadowood Dressage, LLC in Brookeville, Maryland. Suzy is a USDF Silver Medalist and USDF “L” Graduate Judge with Distinction. She originally learned her craft ‘the hard way’ by working as an apprentice to numerous top trainers and judges, including long term positions held with three former US Olympic Dressage Team Members. Although an accomplished dressage trainer and coach, Suzy’s real interest is problem solving and teaching people how to train their own horses. She incorporates Natural Horsemanship with Classical Dressage to bring out the best partnership and connection between horse and rider. Suzy’s students describe her as calm, focused, patient and able to explain every detail.

**Alison Head**

Alison Head is a USDF bronze, silver and gold medalist. She was long-listed with the USET in 1993 and 1994 with Granus. A USEF “R” judge (and currently accepted into the S program), she operates Looking Glass Farm, where she teaches and trains riders and horses at all levels through FEI. Alison is currently President of both VADA/Nova and VADA and is on the USEF Dressage Committee.

**Hilary Moore-Hebert**

Hilary Moore Hebert is an FEI-level competitor and USDF “L” Education Program Graduate. She is the resident head trainer at Alsikkan Farm in Germantown, MD, as well as contributing editor at Dressage Today magazine. Hebert recently made headlines for taking a $1 horse to compete at Devon, multiple regional championships and the USDF Nationals.

**Jaclyn Sicoli**

Jaclyn Sicoli, owner and trainer of Peace Of Mind Dressage empowers riders to reach their goals. As a dressage trainer, judge, scientist, and avid yogi Jaclyn has learned from the world’s best educators in many fields. She brings this background to her students and values clear, easy to understand communication. A USDF Bronze and Silver Medalist who trains horses from green to grand prix, and USDF “L” Graduate with Distinction, Jaclyn welcomes students to her stables located on a 150 acre campus in Frederick, MD.

**Barbara Strawson**

Barbara Strawson is a USDF Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medalist and also has her silver and gold freestyle bars. She has trained and competed horses from USDF Training Level through FEI Grand Prix. For three years Barbara trained in Germany with Nicole Uphoff, four-time Olympic Gold Medalist. Barbara was the assistant trainer at Hilltop Farm for over 10 years. She brings over 20 years of experience to her business, which she began in 2005.

**Erin Sweeney**

USDF Certified Instructor/Trainer and Bronze and Silver medalist Erin Sweeney teaches students with an emphasis on safety, the dressage training scale, and correct position to achieve an elegant, harmonious horse and rider combination. She has extensive experience starting, developing, and competing young horses and has successfully competed horses at national through FEI levels, FEI/USEF Young Horse classes, and in breeding/materiale classes with multiple high score and Horse of the Year awards to her credit. In lessons and clinics, Erin creates a safe learning environment in which horse and rider can learn and excel through the riding and competitive levels.

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Marija Trieschman
Marija Trieschman is originally from Sweden. She has trained with Herbert Rehbein in Germany and with Jan Brink in Sweden. She also rode many years with Gunnar Ostegaard. Her training and boarding barn, Exhalt Farm, is in Harwood, MD. She has trained horses at all levels to Grand Prix and enjoys teaching. She has trained several students to their Gold Medal.

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.

Dressage Sport Horse In-Hand & Dressage Schooling Show
Saturday, May 7, 2016
Plantation Valley Stables,
1801 Mountain Church Road, Middletown, MD 21769
Opening Date: April 16, 2016  Closing Date: April 30, 2016
Judge: TBD
Show Arena: Indoor 20m x 60m with sand and fiber footing
Warm-Up Arena: Outdoor bluestone
Sport Horse In-Hand Classes: Yearling, 2 & 3 Year Olds, 4 Year Olds & Older, Mares, Geldings, and Novice Handler
Dressage Classes: Current USDF Introductory Level, USEF Training Level, USEF First Level, USEF Second/Third/Fourth Levels, FEI TOC (FSG, Int I, Int A, Int B, Int II, GP), USEF or FEI Eventing Dressage, and USEF Western
The show will follow USEF rules and USDF guidance; show jackets are excused.
Further information and the prize list are at:
http://CatoctinChapterPVDA.weekly.com/show.html
The 2016 Ride for Life

By Marcia Mia

I am thrilled to be this year’s Ride for Life (RFL) Committee Chair. This is such a flagship event for PVDA and really makes a difference in the work that the Johns Hopkins Breast Center can accomplish. This past year’s fundraising efforts resulted in the creation of a fully funded fellowship position at the hospital. I think that is simply amazing.

But did you know that the bulk of the RFL funds are raised by about a very small percentage (less than 2%) of the people involved in the show, either through rider or Phantom Horse Donations? Did you know that less than 30% of competitors participate in the fundraising effort?

PVDA and JHU have decided that this year’s theme will be “Celebrate” and that we will hold the show in Betty Thorpe’s memory. So be thinking about ways to honor Betty, her courageous battle with breast cancer, her contributions to PVDA and most of all - how to Celebrate her life. I believe a great first step would be a goal of 100% rider participation in the fundraising efforts for 2016!

Also, we are excited to announce that new this year will be a Fundraiser Freestyle which will take place in the indoor on Saturday afternoon, as a separate non-recognized and non-judged Musical Freestyle TOC class, immediately following the recognized freestyle classes. There will be a minimum donation to ride in the class, all of which will go directly to JHU. Costumes and creativity are encouraged! After conclusion of the Fundraiser Freestyle we will have a CELEBRATION on the concourse with complimentary hors d’oeuvres and cash bar. During this time, attendees are encouraged to further support the Fundraiser Freestyle of their choice by purchasing raffle tickets to vote for their favorite horse and rider team! All proceeds from the raffle will go to JHU and be included in the total amount raised by the rider in the Fundraiser Freestyle. This will also be the basis for selecting the winner of the class.

Finally, we hope by the time you receive this newsletter, that the Ride for Life website and Facebook page have been updated and populated with all of the forms you will need to begin your fundraising efforts. Get going and start CELEBRATING!

Update on USEF General Rule 845 – Equine Vaccination Rule

By Marcia Mia

USEF has passed a drugs and medications rule change – GR845 – “Equine Vaccination Rule”. The rule became effective December 1, 2015. The rule requires that any horse on the show grounds must have documentation that the horse received the Equine Influenza Virus and Equine Herpes Virus (Rhinopneumonitis) vaccinations within SIX (6) months prior to entering the show grounds. The vaccine may be administered by a licensed veterinarian or by a person other than a veterinarian (for example, the owner or trainer of the horse). If your veterinarian administers the vaccine, documentation may include the “Vaccination Record” provided by USEF (See https://www.usef.org/documents/membership/EquineVaccinationRecord.pdf) or other documentation from the veterinarian. Minimum elements of the documentation include the name of the veterinarian, the name of the horse, the name of the vaccine(s), and the date of vaccine administration. If someone other than a veterinarian administers the vaccine(s), documentation must include a receipt of the vaccine purchase signed by the owner (or agent with care, custody, and control of the horse), name of the horse, serial number and expiration date of the vaccine, and the date the vaccine was administered. There are special provisions for horses with a history of adverse reactions who cannot receive the vaccine.

This is a summary of the rule. Please make yourself familiar with the rule before show season starts and be prepared – see https://www.usef.org/documents/drugsMeds/2016/2016GR08845VaccineRule.pdf. USEF has a “live chat” function to which you may pose specific questions, or you may contact the USEF Drugs and Medications Department at medequestrian@aol.com or 800-633-2472.

PVDA expects that horses at PVDA shows will be in compliance with the rule, but for the 2016 show season will not require that proof of vaccination be uploaded into Equestrian Entries in order to have a complete entry. PVDA will post a courtesy copy of the “Vaccination Record” onto the PVDA website under the “Competitor’s Corner”.

The TD Corner

By Michelle King

I am extremely flattered to have been asked by PVDA to write an occasional column for the newsletter sharing my insights from the perspective of a Dressage Technical Delegate. And from that perspective, nothing reigns more supreme than the USEF Rulebook. As those of you who compete know, the burden to know and follow the rules is on the competitor and the Rulebook is massive. Luckily for dressage competitors, we only need to worry about the General Rules (GR) and the Dressage Rules (DR), unless of course you plan to compete in a breed specific show, and then you must add those rules to the mix. But even knowing just the General and the Dressage Rules is no easy feat, especially as there are frequent changes to the rules. That is why I have decided to focus on a few of the most significant rule changes that were enacted this year and which will be in effect the next time you ride down center line.

One of the most significant new rules concerns vaccination requirements for all horses at a licensed competition. It is a General Rule, which means it applies to licensed competitions of any type, not just dressage shows. Beginning December 1, 2015, all horses entering the grounds of a USEF licensed competition must be accompanied by documentation of Equine Influenza Virus and Equine Herpes Virus (Rhinopneumonitis) vaccinations within six months prior to entering the show grounds. Please see the companion article on page 7.

Another major rule change that went into effect on February 1, 2016 concerns how errors are scored for riders riding any FEI test except for the FEI Young Horse tests, and FEI Children, Pony Riders, and Junior tests. For all other FEI tests, the first error results in a deduction of 2 percentage points and the second error results in elimination. There is no change in the scoring of errors for the USEF/National tests (2 points for the first error, 4 points for the second error, and elimination for the third error.) See DR 122.5 for the complete rule. This change is significant not only for riders, but also for show management and adds a new level of complexity for anyone involved in scoring tests.

These are just two of the many rule changes enacted by the USEF this year. And, as for proposed rule changes not enacted, there will be no change regarding when a double bridle is allowed (Third level and above) since the proposal limiting its use to Fourth level and above was not adopted.

In my next column, I will talk about changes to the rules concerning ear nets/bonnets and logos on saddle pads. But the bottom line to you as a competitor is to know the rules, and when in doubt, ask the TD before you head down center line!

The TD Corner is an occasional series provided by Michelle King. Michelle is an “r” Dressage Technical Delegate (TD), as well as an adult amateur rider, who has competed through Second level. She has been on the USDF’s Adult Programs Committee since 2010 and a USDF PM delegate since 2011. She is on the Board of Directors of both VADA/Nova and VADA. Michelle is a licensed attorney and retired to pursue her equine interests after a 32-year career with the federal government. We thank Michelle for agreeing to provide insight and important news from the perspective of the Technical Delegate.

Hosted by the Tri-County Chapter of the PVDA

Janet Foy
Fix-a-Test Clinic
Saturday June 4th and Sunday June 5th
2016
Chesapeake Dressage Institute
2630 Mas Que Road, Annapolis

Take this great opportunity to ride a dressage test of your choice in front of USEF 5 and FEI 4* Dressage Judge Janet Foy.
She will then work with you to help improve your test scores.

For further details contact
Hallie Ahrensbrak
Tel: 240-882-2531
Email: hahrensbrak@federatedlighting.com
Become a member today and stay connected with your local dressage community!

By joining, you also receive complimentary issues of the award winning USDF Connection.
Horses for Lease

+ Fantastic lesson and lease opportunities! Partial lease option avail. 13.2H Fell pony cross. Great for the young rider or petite adult to gain confidence and knowledge up to 1st Level. Loc. in Mount Airy. Other great options avail. Training – 3rd level. Ali Calkins: email: fsllc09@gmail.com
+ 3/5/16 Flashy Large Pony For Lease - 15 year old gelding, 14.1 1/2 hands, Pinto/Arabian cross. Simon has an extensive background in Pony Club, hunters, and lower level dressage. Very honest and easy keeper. On or off farm lease option Tedra Lesniewski, (301) 928-7279 tedi@preferentfarm.com

Horses for Sale

+ 3/8/16 Dark Bay TB mare w large star. 16.1 hh, 12 y.o OTTB. Retired sound with papers (too slow). Has been chilling & decompressing as a companion. Now ready to start something new. Could do hunter or lower level dressage. Great project. All offers considered, Claire Lacey, (301) 854-1371, camelot108@gmail.com

Help Wanted

+ Barn help/working student needed at Chesapeake Dressage in Annapolis, 5 days/wk., Lisa Gruen, (410) 991-3711 or email: lisagruen@comcast.net

Boarding

+ 2/11/16 Stall avail. at Periwinkle Farm LLC loc. in Mont. Co. at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and Rt 198. Kind, personalized care, 24/7 hours, friendly boarders, indoor and outdoor rings, easily accessible trails, indiv. or sm. group turnout.

Equipment

+ 3/5/16 Hulsebos Dynamic 3 dressage saddle, 18” med/wide tree, in great cond., very comf., Hulsebos contour girth incl., $1,900/obo. Pat Cameron, 410-430-1986 or email: patricia.cameron@medstar.net
+ 2/9/16 County Connection, 17.5”, Medium tree short flaps. Excellent condition, $2500. Donna Hoffman, (301) 371-4243, dona@singletonelectric.com
+ 17.5” med. County Connection. Kept in climate-controlled environ. and cleaned after every use. Lovely saddle. $2,800/neg., Meghan Truppner, 443-838-6488 or email: karmicrun@gmail.com
+ 3/8/16 Barnsby Raven Dressage saddle, 17”

*THE MAY/JUNE 2016 ISSUE CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE IS APRIL 10*

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 via e-mail. Type or print your submission 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 shari.glickman@comcast.net.

Welcome to the New Bi-monthly Newsletter

By Claire Lacey

Before getting to specifics I do want to clarify that this is not a change we made lightly. There was a lot of discussion and debate over many months as we tried to find a path forward. Keeping a monthly publication simply was not viable at this time. So we decided to change to a bi-monthly format. This was not a unanimous decision but was a very clear majority. This does mean we have some changes to deal with for deadlines and a longer time between issues which affects how we share information.

The website and eblasts become key tools for sharing information so it is imperative that we use them. The web site not only carries the most up to date listings for shows, calendar and classifieds but

Continued on next page
GET READY TO SHOW DAY!
MARCH 20, 2016 at Stonebrook Farm
Free for PVDA juniors. If you have not signed up for membership yet, you can do so at the door. $45/junior (18 years or younger). Fun unmounted workshops and affordable clinic sessions offered by the PVDA youth committee to help get our young members ready for this show season. Parents need not stay. Have FUN all day while learning valuable tips. Pizza lunch included!

Workshops include:
• How to braid your horse for the show ring
• Apply the perfect polo wrap
• Getting that Musical Freestyle started
• Bridle assembly and relay
• Scavenger/Easter egg hunt
• Get your boots shined to blind (bring your boots to get cleaned)
• Make a horse pizza (yes, a pizza for your horse!)
• Perfect show packing
• Brush decorating with your horse’s name (bring clean or new brush)

Clinic sessions with “L” judge Hilary Moore Hebert
• 30 min Fix a Test for $25 OR
• 45 min Work on What You Need for $35
Contact Camilla Cornwell at camilla.cornwell@pvda.org.

2016 PVDA Jr/YR Shows
(Schooley Mill Park, Highland, MD)
April 9, Judge Marija Trishman
June 5, Judge Jennifer Bowles Moran
August 13, Judge Aviva Nebeski
September 25, Judge Dilly Jackson
Johann Hinnemann and the Trickle-Down Effect: The 2016 Adequan/USDF FEI-Level Trainers Conference

Article and photos by Diane K. Skvarla

I was excited to have the opportunity to attend this year’s East Coast Adequan/USDF FEI-Level Trainers Conference held on January 18-19 at Mary Anne McPhail’s High Meadow Farm in Loxahatchee, Florida. I was especially eager to hear from one of the world’s top dressage trainers and coaches, Johann Hinnemann. His book, The Simplicity of Dressage, is my go-to source for inspiration.

The conference drew a packed arena of over 300 auditors from all walks of dressage: trainers, certified instructors, judges, and FEI riders. Its purpose? Kathie Robertson, USDF Education Department Manager, explained: "The idea behind the Trainers Conference is to give our FEI-level instructors some continued education and some exposure to training techniques from European instructors and even sometimes American instructors that they may not otherwise have access to. The opportunity to see those techniques applied on a variety of horses, why they work, why they don’t work, so that hopefully they can take those things home and it will help them with their students.”

Johann Hinnemann was a major draw for many participants this year. Since he rarely does events in this country, auditors came to learn from a master. Mary McGuire Smith, a trainer, rider, and recent L-program graduate from Alabama said, “I’ve wanted to come audit him for years, because people I respect, respect him. I was so excited to come to this conference and it has been everything I expected it to be and more.” USEF Dressage Young Horse Coach, Christine Traurig, who trained with Hinnemann for many years, acknowledged how important these events are to American dressage: “When we in this country have the opportunity to have people come and do a seminar who have such tremendous experience with so many horses, at so many levels, I think it is really something that we have to find ourselves very fortunate to have.”

Hinnemann is all about the “simplicity” of dressage. He worked with six riders on eight different horses over the two days, focusing on the basics of the training scale as a method of improving the quality of the paces and then the movements. "I think what Jo does so brilliantly,” Traurig remarked, ”is that at every stage of the horse’s training, he can put the scale of training into perspective. That he always emphasizes the need for suppleness and relaxation to be accomplished in the correct outline, meaning the frame of the horse, from the warm-up to increasing the elevation in relation to engagement and collection.”

Hinnemann insisted that the horses be balanced, supple, and submissive to the rider’s aids to achieve more expression. He noted that a supple horse is not necessarily submissive, but a submissive horse is always supple. Hinnemann had riders start by focusing on keeping the poll as the highest point and allowing the horse to reach to the contact while maintaining an active hind leg. This created a horse in self-carriage and from here more expression could be achieved.

He explained: "First you must show a balanced horse, then step by step add more bend. You need visible flexion and bend. With this, you can then find expression. If this balance and activity dies out, you have to renew the impulsion.” He was adamant that all movements be ridden accurately to get the desired result. This included clear transitions within and between gaits, perfect 20-meter circles, precise corners, and correct placement of tempi changes.

Riders were told to have a goal each day. "When you come into the arena and warm up the horses, you need to think about where you want to end up and focus on that goal of submission and suppleness,” said Hinnemann. "The idea is to develop exercises to make things better, and you can’t do everything at the same time.” Traurig said she was reminded throughout the two days how patient one has to be in developing the training session and how essential frequent
walk breaks are to allow the horse time to breathe and relax after a difficult or challenging exercise.

The importance of developing a training plan for both horse and student was underscored; a plan built on classical principles and correct training. "Our job as trainers is to think every day how to make something better. Developing ideas is to train. We need to teach our students that we can only get things better with logical exercises that bring us into situations of basic gaits, suppleness, and submission," Hinnemann said.

Throughout the conference, attendees had the opportunity to submit questions to Hinnemann, sometimes immediately after the ride or at the interactive lunchtime discussion where Christine Traurig and Olympic rider Kathleen Raine joined him to answer questions.

Participants felt this year’s conference was one of the most enlightened and educational to date. I was told, "this was the best one yet," "incredible," and "spot on."

Jessica Jo (JJ) Tate of Wellington, Florida, has ridden in five Trainers Conferences but this was her first clinic with Hinnemann. She finds these events important to connect with peers, learn about particular training systems, and benefit from the eyes of respected trainers. "Otherwise you are just riding around in your own arena, thinking you are doing a good job, and your vision of what you look like gets clouded because you are just seeing the same things; you get stuck in a rut." JJ was thrilled with her ride and acknowledged that Hinnemann picked out her weaker points,especially the half-pass. While she has ridden the movement for over 20 years, Hinnemann’s approach gave her new insight and improved the quality of her horse’s movement.

FEI trainer and rider Kris Hamilton from North Carolina said her main takeaway was "the importance of the details and not the flair and the flash. And I think the details bring the quality. That is what I saw this weekend over and over again. Suppleness, submission, correct aids, and correct lines, and that produced the Wow; instead of chasing the Wow."

Michael Bragdell, head trainer at Hilltop Farm in Maryland, agreed that the conference provided insight into new training techniques and exercises, problem-solving, and teaching ideas. Mary McGuire Smith said of Hinnemann, "He gives a lot of the supportive theory and that really speaks to me, as I try to transfer that to my students as well. I like to give the whys, as well as the what or the how."

Everyone I talked to was inspired by the conference and excited to take their new knowledge home to benefit their training and help their students, or to utilize in their judging.

And that is what it’s all about, as Stephan Hienzsch, Executive Director of USDF, explained: "I think that is really at the core of the conference. To have a trickle-down effect. Certainly we want to influence those that are here. But more importantly, who can they influence so that raises the quality throughout the country."

Auditors and riders appreciated Hinnemann’s honest assessment, his willingness to tell the truth, and the fact that he didn’t dance around problems. For the future of American dressage, it is critical that the best trainers help our professionals; but it is also as important for those top trainers to give an honest assessment of our professionals. Our professionals perform better and help their students learn more effectively. That is a win-win situation for everyone!
The PVDA Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Potomac Valley Dressage Association. The deadline for submissions is (usually) the 10th of the month for distribution the following two months. **NEXT ISSUE: MAY/JUNE 2016; DEADLINE: APRIL 10; DISTRIBUTION: MAY 2016.** 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:** editor@pvda.org
- **News/Articles/Flying Changes:** editor@pvda.org
- **The Classifieds:** classifieds@pvda.org or shari.glickman@comcast.net
  (Shari Glickman, 301-351-5530)
- **Calendar of Events:** calendar@pvda.org (Christina Dale, Calendar Editor)
- **Change of Address/Membership Renewal & Information:** membership@pvda.org
  (Liz Erwin, Membership Coordinator, 16816 Norbeck Drive, Olney, MD 20832; 301-924-5970)
- **General Information:** info@pvda.org
- **PVDA Web Site:** www.pvda.org

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**Potomac Valley Dressage Association Membership Application 2016**

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

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

I wish to apply for the following:

- **Junior Affiliate (<18)**
  - 1 YEAR: $45
  - 2 YEAR: $75
- **Young Adult (18-21)**
  - 1 YEAR: $60
  - 2 YEAR: $100
- **Adult**
  - 1 YEAR: $60
  - 2 YEAR: $100
- **Senior (65 & Older)**
  - 1 YEAR: $45
  - 2 YEAR: $75
- **Patron**
  - 1 YEAR: $75
  - 2 YEAR: $125
- **Business Affiliate**
  - $100
  - $175
- **Family (priced for 2)**
  - $85
  - $145
- **Additional Family**
  - $20 ea
  - $40 ea
- **Life Adult Member**
  - $999

I would like to Volunteer:

- ☐ Scribe
- ☐ Manager
- ☐ Set Up
- ☐ Breakdown
- ☐ Steward
- ☐ Show Other
- ☐ Runner
- ☐ Education
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- ☐ Computer

I offer the following services:

- ☐ Judge at Grade: _________
- ☐ USEF TD at Level: _________
- ☐ Instructor at Level: _________
- ☐ Trainer 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:

Liz Erwin, PVDA Membership
16816 Norbeck Drive
Olney, MD 20832

membership@pvda.org or 301 924 5970

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*Birthdates are REQUIRED for Junior, Young Adult and Senior Memberships*
New Owners Joe and Candace Herzog want to welcome you to their 150 Acre equestrian campus in Frederick, Maryland!

**PEACE OF MIND**

**POM**

**DRESSAGE**

Beginner to FEI Dressage with Head Trainer

**Jaclyn Sicoli**
pomdressage@gmail.com
609-651-6526

Horsemanship & Eventing with Assistant Trainer

**Courtney Swars**
pomequestrian@gmail.com
301-404-3923

Openings for Boarding and Training

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

See page 14 for publication deadlines and section editors.

Deadline for ads and articles is
APRIL 10 for the MAY/JUNE 2016 Issue
Articles/General News: editor@pvda.org
Calendar: calendar@pvda.org
Chapter News: editor@pvda.org
Classifieds: classifieds@pvda.org
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**Wyndham Oaks Presents**

**JANET FOY “Through the Levels”**

**April 16 and 17, 2016**

**Riding Spaces Available**

★★★

Auditors — $40 one day, $75 two days

*Preparing for the show season? Janet returns for her insightful “Through the Levels” clinic. Each ride will focus on a particular level and what you need to know to improve your scores.*

**Registration**

For more information and online registration, visit www.wyndham-oaks.com

Register and pay by April 1, 2016 for advance pricing (including lunch)

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**19301 Bucklodge Road, Boyds, MD**

E-mail clinics@wyndham-oaks.com or call 301-349-0077

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**Back again this year by popular demand, Janet is a well-respected “I” rated FEI Judge, USEF “S” judge, author, and Olympic selection panel member. She has judged every major championship in North America.**