

Southeast Virginia Dressage Association

January 2010
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Half Halt



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Don't Miss Out!

JANURARY 30, 2010

GRAND AFFAIRS @ LAS CAVIOTAS
1201 CLUBHOUSE DRIVE, CHESAPEAKE VA, 23322
TELEPHONE 757-436-3330

Closing Date: January 16, 2010

Please mail reservations early. We need to know how many will attend.

Organizer:
Carol Gonyo
920 Forest Lakes Drive
Chesapeake VA 23322
email: tullagonyo@cox.net
home phone: 757-436-2374

This Year's Theme is the 1970's.

Come dressed in your best 1970's outfits and groove to the music and dance of the '70's

Be sure to send your pictures to Carol Gonyo for use in the slideshow for the banquet.

[Click here for Link to Reservation Form](#)



Silent Auction Reminder

Please bring your Silent Auction Items (and checkbooks!) to the SVDA Annual Awards Banquet on January 30th. Proceeds go to benefit the SVDA Junior/Young Rider program. All items welcome, big or small, horse related or not, any price range. Gently used in really good condition accepted.

Contact Tristin Hardy Butler at 757-615-4975 or tristin@elfenridge.com with questions or if you need assistance getting items to the banquet.

It's lots of fun and for a great cause!!!

Please make sure to note the names and contact information for the 2010

Board of Directors as listed on page 1 of this newsletter.

Many of the positions have changed this year.



DID YOU KNOW?

The origins of classical dressage and collection lie in the natural ability of the horse and its movements in the wild. In fact, most modern definitions of dressage state that the goal is to have the horse perform under saddle with the degree of athleticism and grace that it naturally shows when free.

Horses naturally use the concept of collection when playing, fighting, competing and courting with each other. When trying to impress other horses they make themselves look bigger, just as other animals do. They achieve this by pumping up the chest, raising the neck and making it bigger by flexing the poll, while at the same time transforming their gaits to emphasize more upwards movement. When fighting, the horse will collect because in collection he can produce lightning speed reactions for kicking, rearing, spinning, striking with the front feet, bucking and jumping.

This natural ability to collect is visible in every horse of any breed, and probably inspired early trainers to reproduce that kind of behavior in more controlled circumstances. This origin also points out why, according to most Classical dressage trainers, every healthy horse, regardless its breed, can perform classical dressage



Junior Rider News

A CLINIC WITH A LEGEND

The Lendon Gray Clinic

by Claudia Griffiths

Most have heard of Lendon Gray. You might know that she was riding before she could walk; that she nurtures an undying love and fierce respect for horses; that she competed in the Alternate Olympics with her famous dressage pony "Seldom Scene" and she runs the program called Dressage4Kids. This article will provide you with a bit of insight with my first experience riding in a Lendon Gray clinic.

The clinic was held a Fire Creek Farm, a truly beautiful farm in Newtown, PA. The staff was friendly, the stalls were room and the temperature was freezing! There was eight Juniors and Young Riders accepted into the 2 day clinic by USDF. On the first day, we were split into 2 divisions for group lessons and the first

thing that we learned was that Ms. Gray took the riders' position seriously. By improving our position, she taught us to interfere as little as possible with the natural movements and reactions of our horses. The same day we each had a private lesson. In mine, she had me pretend that I was at a much higher level of riding and, "to get in trouble". Only after pretending that I was Debbie McDonald on "Brentina" did I realize that I had been riding too slowly in the past,

During my private lesson, she also returned to my position, this time focusing on my hands. She did an exercise where she took the reins near the bit and had me follow the pull that she created, but not moving my elbows away from my hips. As you can imagine, it was a bit confusing. She then told me to pull on her and when I did, she continued to grasp the reins but she released all her fingers except for her thumb and forefinger. She told me



that was how I was to always hold my reins and when I was to take more contact, I had to tighten my fingers (ie in an invisible half-halt). Another exercise she had me do was without stirrups so that I could raise my knees for a second and then let them back down. We did this at all 3 gaits. She told me that I had been holding on with my knees and that I was now to hold on with my lower legs.

Since the clinic, I've been applying all that I have learned to my training sessions and I've started to see and feel a difference in my mare. She reacts much more readily to my aids and I don't have to ask twice for things. And she has also, (If possible – she is a Chestnut Mare) has gotten sweeter. I think that Ms. Gray's respect

and love for the horses has made more in tune with my mare. I hope you find these exercises useful, too, and that you will also get the chance to meet the wonderful Lendon Gray.

Claudia Griffiths is a 13 year old dressage rider who competed her Oldenburg/TB mare "Ideals Diamond" at 1st level this past year. She was accepted to ride for Region 1 in the new USDF clinics program for lower level Juniors and Young Riders on Nov 21 and 22nd. The only cost was for stabling for the selected riders. Claudia and her parents are frequent SVDA volunteers!



Membership

It's That time of Year!

Renew your SVDA membership Today!

Membership Year: Jan
1 – Dec 31

Senior Member
\$45.00

Junior Member \$35.00
(Under 18 years of age)

Family: \$75.00 two members
\$25.00 for each additional
member

Farm: \$75.00 two owners
\$25.00 for each additional
member – limit four members
total



Membership with SVDA includes:

- Membership Card
- USDF Affiliation
- Monthly Newsletter
- Copy of Awards Policy
- [VADA](#) Membership

Benefits of SVDA Membership:

- Discounted Clinics and Group Lessons with Nationally ranked Dressage Professionals
- Discounted Schooling Show Fees
- Annual Awards and Recognition
- Local Dressage Educational Programs
- Annual Scholarship Program

[Click Here for Membership Application](#)

"As the blind person touches the object before him very softly and lightly with his fingertips in order not to interfere with the work of the sensitive nerve ends by too much pressure, so it is the rider's first obligation to keep soft and natural those parts of his body with which he feels his horse. If his seat meets this requirement, he will soon feel the movement of the horse's legs and will be able to distinguish each individual one; he will thus have the means at his disposal with which to control them as if they were his own."

~G.Steinbrecht

Clinics and Programs



Patti Pierucci



Patti's Clinic has been rescheduled for **Jan 23rd at Silverleaf Farm** and

Jan 24th at Becky Kelly's Due to having more riders than slots – we have decided to add **Jan 22nd at Silverleaf Farm** – still at the \$65 price.

Riders who were scheduled for the Dec 23/24 clinic are confirmed for the new dates of Jan 22/ 23/24. There are a few slots open at

Silverleaf Farm – on Jan. 22nd and, a few on Jan 23rd. There are currently no open slots at Becky Kelly's farm.

Riders who were scheduled for the original date of Dec 5/ will be accepted 1st to get into the Jan 22/23/24 clinic.

Anyone new interested in riding, should contact Kathv Rowse directly No

SVDA Clinics are a great way to ride at a reduced cost with excellent trainers.

\$25 SVDA Member

\$20 SVDA Jr. Member

[Click Here For Clinic Application](#)

[Click Here For Clinic Release](#)

Kathy Rowse



Sunday January 17th
Location: Silverleaf Farm Suffolk, VA

Closing Date 1/5/10

Sandy Johnson



Sunday, February 21st
Location: Happy Valley Equestrian Center

Closing Date 2/15/10

Tristin Hardy-Butler



Date and time in March to be announced

Opportunity Classes

For those who enjoy dressage schooling shows but haven't yet tried nationally licensed competition: our two SVDA Recognized shows (as well as many other recognized shows) this

year will offer the new "Opportunity" classes from Training to Second level. No membership or horse I.D. is required, and even the \$15 per horse USEF drug fee is waived for these classes. This

offers an inexpensive way to participate and try out recognized competition! Mark your calendars for the May 2nd and August 15th 2010 SVDA Recognized Shows in Williamsburg!



Show News

2010 Show Schedule

March 14, 2010

Bridlewood, Suffolk

Judge: Margaret Little

April 18, 2010

Happy Valley, Suffolk

Judge: Sandy Johnson

May 23, 2010

Princess Ann Farm, Va.
Beach

Judge: Kris Montgomery

June 13, 2010

Merry Oaks Stables,
Windsor

Judge: Nicky Vogel

July 11, 2010

Terra Ceia, Suffolk

Judge: Nancy Lowey

August, 2010

No Schooling Show

September 5, 2010

Bridlewood, Wakefield
(This is the Winchell's
Farm)

Judge: Tristin Hardy-
Bulter

October 10, 2010

Sterling Meadows, Va.
Beach

Judge: TBA

November 7, 2010

Maturia Farm,

Chesapeake - Deri
Jeffers

ETIQUETTE FOR RIDING ARENA & WARMING UP AT SHOWS

- Pass left shoulder to left shoulder (thus, a horse on the left-rein on the track has right of way).
- A slower moving horse (walking) keeps to the inside track. When walking or halting, do so 5m off the track in order to keep the track clear for faster moving horses (i.e. cantering horses).
- A horse doing lateral work has right of way (shoulder-in, leg-yield, half-pass).
- Be aware of your fellow riders and ride *considerately*:
 - Try not to stop suddenly and don't deliberately cut across someone else's path.
 - Don't obstruct the entrance/exit, or the track.

USDF/USEF Changes

Submitted by
Robyn Nunnally

USDF changes:

Membership fee increases starting December 2010

New educational (non-voting) membership category for USDF created

George Williams is the new President.

USEF changes:

As of 12/1/09, snaffle bits are allowed through FEI. The rulebook hasn't been completely updated to reflect this change but corrections are being made.

New tests are being written for release in late 2010/early 2011.

Changes include:

- Posting trot allowed at first level.
- Three tests at all levels.
- Six minute limit on all tests including freestyles.

The goal is to prevent slide between levels and to keep tests associated with the directives at each level.

"The modern Olympics commenced in 1898 with equestrian events, and the "military test" first included in 1900 which evolved into the separate Olympic disciplines of dressage, eventing, and stadium jumping."





Happy New Year 2010!



Compiled by Kathy Rowse

Several of our SVDA Trainers shared their "NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS" for themselves, their students and their horses. Hope this helps start off your Equestrian 2010 in a fantastic way!

KRIS MONTGOMERY

- Set goals with measurable steps to achieve them.
- Attend more educational events.
- Help my students set realistic goals for themselves and their horses
- Not spend every penny I make on horses
- Slow down and smell the shavings
- Lunge line lessons for my students on a regular basis.
- To learn more from the horses and people around me.

JANICE MUMFORD

My students: I will look at my position first before blaming my horse when things go

Me: I will work to become fit and ride with lighter aids.

Bries: I happily move forward.

Dexter's Opinion: Why tamper with Perfection?

KATHY ROWSE

Always be fair to your horse – give him the appreciation and respect that he/she deserves.

Get in shape – there is nothing better that you can do for your horse than to be physically fit with a strong core. You can't do this on a horse, you have to make a commitment OFF the horse to cross train and get fit.

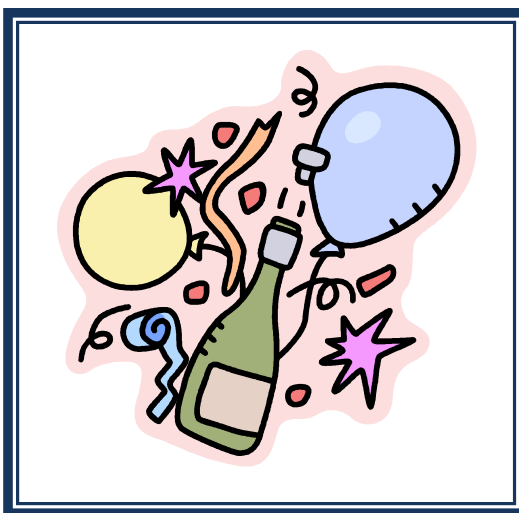
Give yourself the credit you deserve! You work hard? Ride as much as you can and love your horses – your time on and with your horse is the best few hours of your day! Appreciate that time together.

To Basie: You are the BEST – riding you is an honor and I promise to never forget it.

SANDY JOHNSON

For my Students: I hope that my students have a safe, fun, and enjoyable year showing!

For my horse: Davignair aka Forrest- That he keeps learning and progressing in his (and my) education and that he stops being a donkey butt in the warm ups at the shows



TRISTIN HARDY

For Students: Remember to have fun! Yes, winning is fun, but if you or your horse are stressing too much on the way there, is it worth it? You will need to work hard but you should appreciate the small rewards along the way.

Be realistic. If you can only ride 3-4 times a week, you may not advance as quickly as you would like, but that's ok. The more you can do, the better or quicker it may come.

If you want more, realize you may need to commit more time, lessons, training or what have you to make it happen. Find out what it will take to make your goals, or adjust your expectations to match what you can realistically do. By the way, remember to have some fun!

Consistency, consistency, consistency.

Quality is better than random quantity. Short bits of good work is better than long random sessions.

Find a main trainer that you like and trust, then add clinics to enhance what your trainer offers. It is confusing to ride with several different trainers at one time, it helps to have one point of cohesion.

For Myself: To enjoy the clients and horses I have, make the best of what we have and can do, give the most I can.

For Horses: Realize the monsters in the tree line are really just the deer/birds they graze with in turn out all day

Moms are more than treat factories.

You are working for your owner to "pay" for your board and training and farrier and extras (massage, chiroprator, etc). What you are asked to do for an hour a day is not that bad!!!

DANIELLE ROWLAND

For me: to sit back, use my seat more and my hand less. To talk to my horses more and tell them they are awesome. To be clearer with my aids, esp. in Flying changes.

For my horses: For the youngsters: Relax and don't spook at silly little things.

For my guys learning the changes: Cut out the drama! For everyone: Always take care of your rider.

For my students: Accept the fact that learning to ride is a journey and it takes years with lots of time and hard work to reach my long term goals. Make realistic short term goals!

ROBYN NUNNALLY

Hope: I will not get another horse, I have 5 already.

Toni: I will not buy more stuff, I have enough stuff already.

Resha: I will not ride while pregnant.

Dave and Kathy: We will not buy any more Icelandic, pygmy goats or miniature donkeys just because they are cute. Or for any other reason.

Brittany - I will not buy another saddle pad until I have used all the ones I already have.

Sharon - I will not believe the guy at work is an expert horseman just because he says he is.

Linda - I will learn to recognize my horse when turned out with others!



Classifieds



Sommer Flextra

Saddle has less than a year of ride time No scratches or nicks. Monoflap design, flexible tree.

Tree width 32, Seat Size 18.

Saddle was \$3985 new, asking \$2800.

Contact Eve Zentrich at
757-839-3122 or
junkinase@hotmail.com.

Albion Dressage Saddle

SLK, black – ULTIMA leather – 17 Inch seat, Wide Tree

Excellent condition –
Goes for \$3,495 new.
\$2,200

Available at Kathy
Rowse's 757-617-9505 or
krowse@verizon.net



Amish Made Western Saddle

Draft Size Excellent Condition

20" Seat All Leather

Offered at \$250.00

Available at Sesroh Tack Shoppe
1408 South Church Street,
Smithfield 757 356-9234
sesroh1@verizon.net



County Dressage Saddle

Excellent Condition
Dark Brown 17" Seat
Offered at \$850
Sesroh Tack Shoppe
757 356-9234



Kieffer Dressage Saddle

Excellent Condition
Black 17" Seat
Offered At \$1,000
Sesroh Tack Shoppe
757 356-9234



Advertisers

All ads must be submitted as they are to appear in the newsletter.

Remember it is a **NEW YEAR** and Advertisers Need to Re-Submit their ads With Payment to be included in our Advertisers Section

SIZE	PER ISSUE	PER YEAR
FULL PAGE	\$15.00	\$150.00
HALF PAGE	\$10.00	\$100.00
QUARTER PAGE	\$7.50	\$75.00
BUSINESS CARD	\$5.00	\$50.00
CLASSIFIEDS	\$5.00	\$50.00

Submissions MUST be received by the 25th of the month.



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Fri – 9:30– 7, Sat 10-4
Closed on Sunday







Ways and Means

Stay tuned for information on fundraisers and SVDA items for sale.

Orders will be taken for shirts and other items at specific times throughout the year.

Interesting Facts

