



Virginia Dressage Association
Charlottesville Chapter

CHAPTER NEWS

EXTENSIONS

Special Newsletter
Highlighting Chapter
Clinics and
School Show

Chapter Board Zoom
Meeting Scheduled for
10 May 2023

"Everyone is
encouraged to
participate!"

A reminder with Zoom
link and Agenda
forwarded out prior.



April-May 2023
Spring Edition

Message from Chapter President Melyni Worth

Next Zoom Chapter
10 May 2023
7:00 pm

Hi Everyone,

We are well into the spring riding and showing season. We have had two successful clinics, one with Carter Bass and one with Michael Bragdell, both generously hosted by Angela Doolan at Afton Stables, many thanks, Angela.

We have also had a very successful schooling show at Cedar Creek, managed by Erin Fitzwater, and secretaries by Tina Longaker. Nancy Lowey generously donated her time as a judge, so we are doing well so far.

Central Chapter has just finished their licensed show at the Meadows, with much-improved footing.

Upcoming we have MADFest in May at the VHC, hope you all can come, and volunteer/watch as well as ride.

So things are off to a good start. More schooling shows are being planned, one in August in Scottsville, hosted by Kim Schmidt at Grayson. Keep an eye on the calendar.

Our next board meeting is May 10th. Hope you all can attend, it's a Zoom meeting so you can listen in from the comfort of your own home.

Hope you are getting to enjoy riding. See you May 10th.

Yours truly,
Melyni

Afton Stables enjoyed hosting Michael Bragdell for VADA Charlottesville

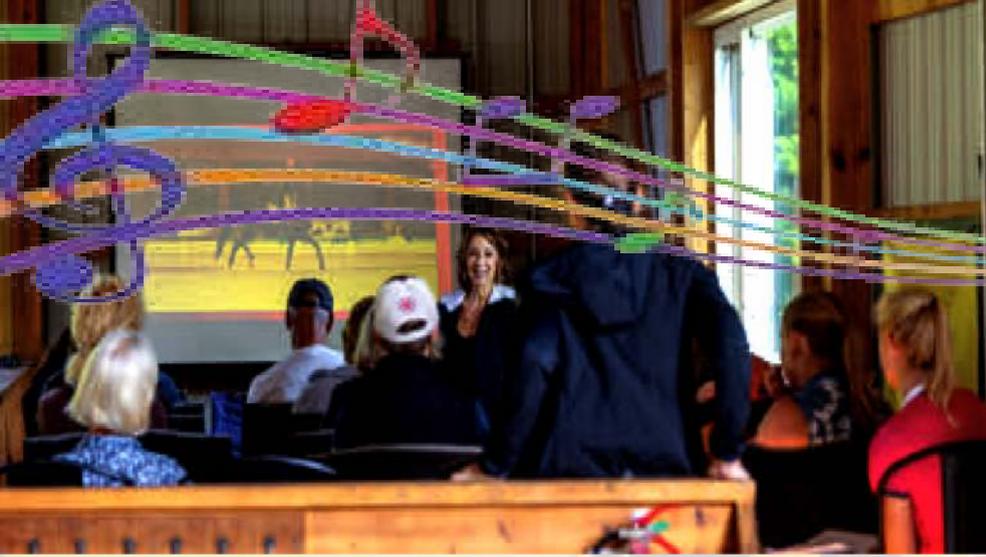


The group of riders and auditors had so much fun and the clinic was well-organized by Laura Berne.

Lovely spring weather, a beautiful facility, and quality instruction all made for a wonderful clinic with Michael Bragdell. We had all levels from young horses up to seasoned ones, and the emphasis was always on correct riding and rewarding the horse. Michael's experience working with so many different types of horses showed when he presented different exercises and solutions to improve on the basics or specific movements. Riders and auditors alike benefited from Michael's generosity in sharing his knowledge.

The Chapter would like to thank Afton Stables for being such a gracious host. We aim to provide education, inspiration, and fellowship to our members and clinics are a big part of this goal.





Musical Freestyle Clinic with Terry Ciottie

VADA-CH, Stave Mill Farm, and The Dressage Foundation hosted a Musical Freestyle Clinic with Terry Ciotti Gallo on April 15 and 16. Terry coupled the sports world with her dance and music knowledge to help a variety of athletes in the development of their freestyle performance. She has developed freestyles for a number of Olympic riders as well as upper-level competitors in many national and international competitions.

The weekend with Terry brought much insight and knowledge to our riders and auditors. Over the two days, we had eight riders (Gardy Bloemers {who also demonstrated a freestyle Terry had developed for her previously}, Andi Kostura, Kim Schmidt, Renee O'Leary, Karen Rice, Logan Harmon, Carla Scarmazzi, and Isabella Rice) and 14 auditors including members and non-members.

Everyone learned about observing and noting the “metronome” of the horse, choosing the correct music to suit the horse’s movement, and selecting choreography movements to align with the music and the horse. We observed riders at different levels and at various stages of developing a musical freestyle work with Terry to make the best selections.

Terry was a wonderful and powerful teacher as her knowledge of music, movement (both human and horse), and understanding of the requirements to produce a competitive musical freestyle was demonstrated and conveyed to each of the riders.

It was a fantastic weekend! The weather was beautiful, the facility was wonderful, attendees and riders were all enthusiastic and everyone said “Let’s do this again!”

Article by Gardy Bloemers & Eleszabeth McNeel



Giving Away Drawings





Rider: Andi Kostura
Horse: Turbo



Rider: Isabella Rice
Horse: Tex



Rider: Gardy Boemers
Horse: Aggie



Rider: Logan Harmon
Horse: Reign



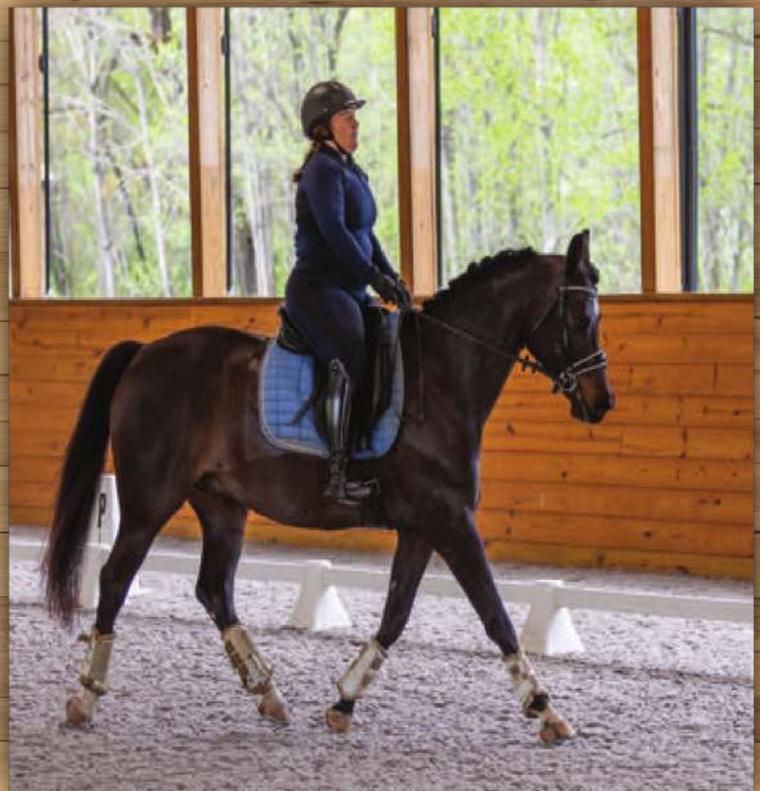
Rider: Karen Rice
Horse: Sumatra in Love



Rider: Renee O'Leary
Horse: Springborg's Device



Rider: Kim Schmidt
Horse: Lydia



Rider: Carla Scarmazzi
Horse: Rockafeller

Up Though Levels with Carter Bass Hosted by VADA CH and Afton Stables

USDF tests have changed in 2023

VADA-Ch was pleased to once again welcome Carter Bass to hold the clinic on 1 April 2023 at Afton Stables. Carter is a USDF licensed 'S' judge and a USDF Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medalist, offering a judge's view of what is new and how to improve your scores. This popular clinic availed the opportunity to review riders demonstrating each of the USDF Tests that have changed. The new tests can be found on the USDF website (usdf.org/download/forms).

Thank you Carter for sharing your in-depth experience, technical perspective, and volunteer time. The Chapter is so appreciative! A fabulous job!

Thank you riders!

Training Level

Denise Bonds

"Imperial Charm" 15-year-old TB mare,
owned by Denise

Malinda Zielke

Jorie 8-year-old Trakehner mare, owned
by Malinda

First Level

Maddie Piplico

DasOokWat 15-year-old Hanoverian gelding
owned by Afton Stables

Sophia Martina

The Monarch 7-year-old Knabstrupper
gelding owned by Sophia

Second Level

Malinda Zielke

CCS Culiwen 2018 Knabstrupper mare owned
by Melyni Worth

Barbara Greber

Weimer 16-year-old Friesian gelding owned
by Karen Waldron

Third Level

Maddie Piplico

Graddus 12-year-old KWPN gelding owned by Afton
Stables

Fourth Level

Bruno Greber

Enieta 14-year-old KWPN mare owned by Carol Bauer
Sabine Desper

Adamek 17-year-old Akhal-Teke stallion owned by the
Akhal-Teke foundation

Bruno Greber

Windchase Aquilla 15-year-old Irish Sport Horse mare
owned by Carol Bauer

The clinic couldn't have been conducted without Angela Doolan, owner of Afton Stables, and Maddie Piplico who graciously hosted/coordinated the clinic. Thank you many times over to both of you!

Lastly, Chapter Volunteers ... THANK YOU!

Karen Rice, Cate Dost, Erin Fitzwater, Cathy Fairbrothers, Lisa Maachi, and Kim Aust

Truly a Successful Day

"Sling into Spring Dressage and Combined Test" schooling show brought spring flowers and showers! But it didn't stop our cheerful riders! It was a full day of rides! On a scale of 1-10, the show was a big 10. Competitors appreciated how gracious and commented on the flexibility of Chapter members to adjust the show format due to the challenging weather to ensure everyone had an opportunity to ride. Have fun!

A big thanks "Great Job" to Erin Fitzwater, show manager, who committed hours with her volunteers to create a successful schooling show down to horse treats and carrots for rider partners. Tina Longaker, show secretary, shared her expertise to ensure the show ran smoothly and accommodated the needs of the riders. Thank you Tina for donating show ribbons. Melyni Worth, our Chapter leader, donated her farm to host the show. A perfect venue! Thank you Melyni! And, our very special Chapter member, Nancy Lowey, dressage judge, and her proficient scribe Karen Rice, and runner Eleszabeth McNeel. Thank you all for keeping the show rolling!

From the jumping perspective, thank you Anna White as jump judge. Competitors were so grateful for you enduring the rain to allow the eventers opportunity to jump the course.

To sum it up, a very successful show. A team effort...

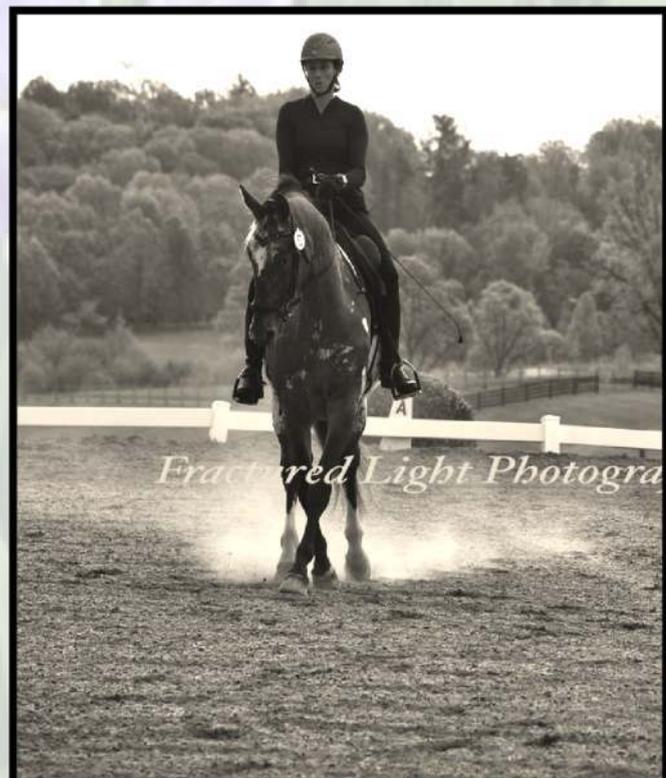
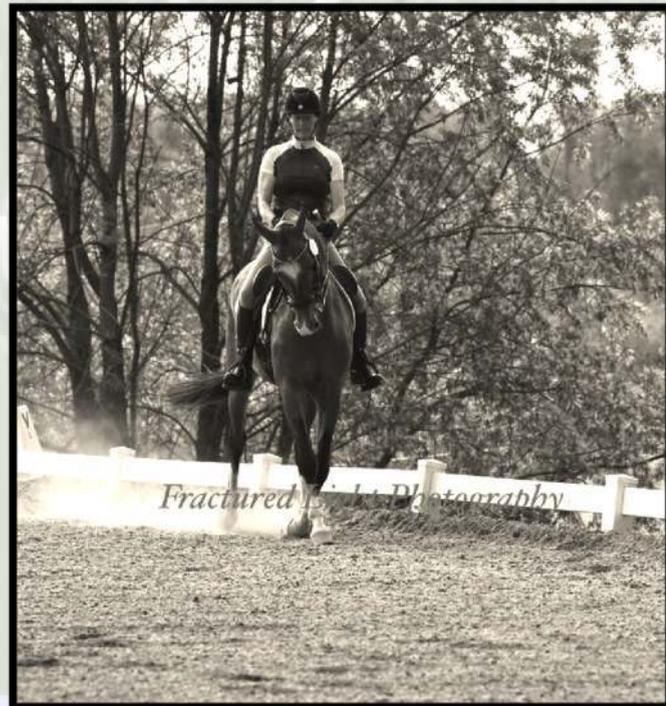
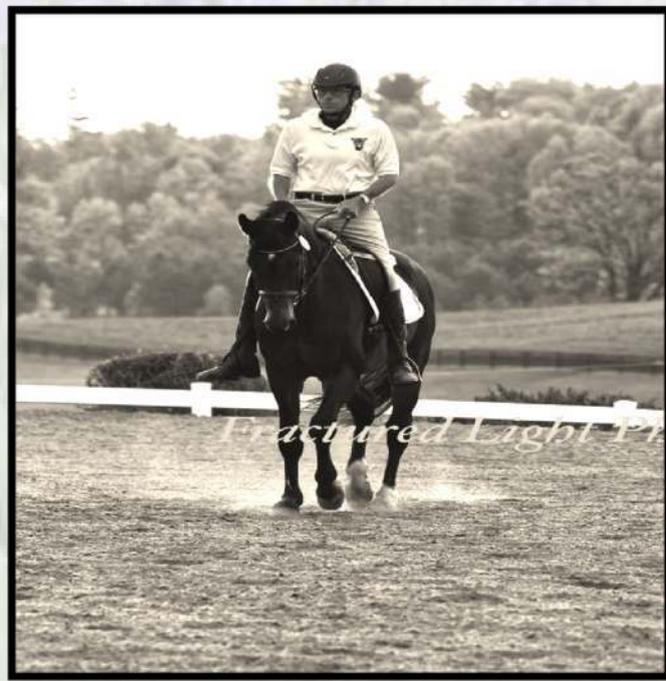
Sophia Martina- ring steward and jump crew

Jerry Schurenk - course designer

Jillian Kirkpatrick- ring steward

Nancy Doody - awards

Sabine Desper, Malinda Zielke, Emily Reno, Aurora Rios - jump crew, set-up and take down. Otherwise known as the CCS crew.





USEF HERITAGE COMPETITION
DRESSAGE AT DEVON

BE A PART OF THE

Heritage



Photo credit to Phelps Media Group

phelpsmediagroup.com

GET TO KNOW MEMBERS ...

James "Johnny" Jackson

Occupation: Farm Manager at Old Raptor Farm

Hometown: Louisa, VA

Personal: Married with kids

Fun fact: Can fix ANYTHING!

Johnny became interested in showing in the breed division after being inspired and encouraged by Carter Bass. He showed Springborgs Device in Maiden Mare classes last summer, culminating in winning the coveted Amateur Handler class at Devon.

Congratulations Johnny!

DRESSAGE AT DEVON

Breed Division



The Dressage at Devon Breed Division is both a USDF Breeders Championship Series Qualifier and East Coast Final. Three days of competition features foals, young horses, and mature breeding stock from all breeds competing for a championship spot in the USDFBCS East Coast Final. Additionally, one day is dedicated to featuring Individual Breed Classes where horses of the same breed compete against each other.



