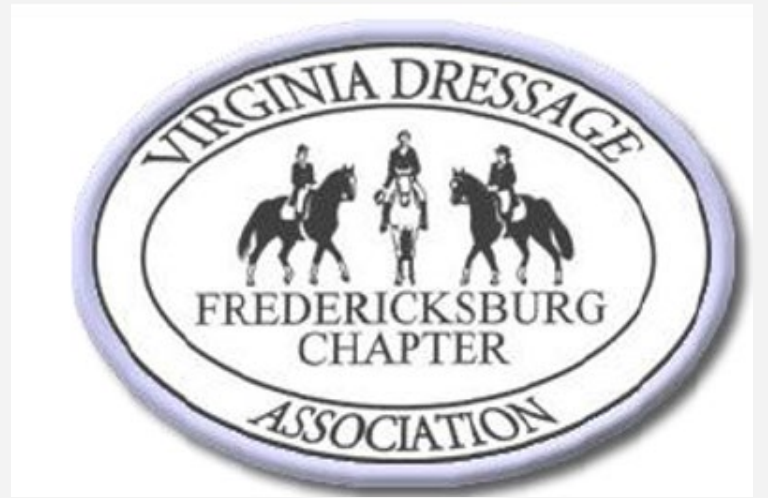


Fredericksburg Chapter of the Virginia Dressage Association September 2023



Collective Remarks

By Anna Fox

It is that time of year again: Dressage at Rose Mount is in nine days!

Every year I can't believe we are here, already. It seems like summer is gone in a flash! Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to help us with Rose Mount. It's a big event for a little club!

The schedule for show week begins on Wednesday, September 7th. We will be gathering our arenas and other show supplies from Valley Storage in Thornburg and toting it over to the show grounds **IN OUR BRAND-NEW TRAILER!** Yes, we now have an official VADAF equipment hauler. Which means if you are signed up to help with tear down on Sunday, we don't have to go back to Valley Storage and unload everything!! I'm really excited for all of us that have suffered through that tragedy, and for Sharnette, who usually reorganizes our mess.

Thursday, we will set everything up, we have planned to start at 9:30 am, but it is supposed to be HOT, so we may get going earlier. If you have even a little bit of time to lend a hand on Thursday, it will be much appreciated. We have a great crew lined up but setting up 3 full-size arenas and putting shavings out in the blistering heat is tough. If you aren't signed up already, feel free to come out and lend a hand! We will feed you! Friday, the competitors will start to arrive, and the secretary will be on the grounds, so we like to have everything in place on Thursday.

If you are volunteering Saturday and/or Sunday, please look for an email from the volunteer coordinator with instructions and arrival times. With three arenas running, there will be plenty to do and see. Please encourage your friends and family to come out and support us.

See you there!

**“99% of lawyers give
the rest a bad name.”—
Steven Wright**



VADA-F Officers

President: Anna Fox

Vice President: Karen Rice

Secretary: Hannah Bowers

Treasurer: Sharon Ackley

VADA-F Committee Chairs

Membership: Sharnette Atkinson

Awards: Angela/Gracelyn Martinez,
Sharnette Atkinson

Licensed Show Manager: Sharon Ackley

Education: Megan Irby, Jamie Ramirez

Volunteer Coordinators: Tara Dean

Adult Team: Teresa Crater

Youth Team: Sarah Grady

Newsletter: Karen Rice

Sponsorship/Fundraising: Chris Balasi,
Hannah Bowers

Publicity, Website: Cambray Walmer

State Reps: Anna Fox, Karen Rice

Historians: Barb Ellis, Sharon Kipping

Member Column—Teagan Niles

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The 2023 USDF Region 1 Youth Dressage Team Challenge, held at HITS, Commonwealth Park in Culpeper, VA on June 24th-25th, was a fun schooling show that allowed young riders to experience the atmosphere and get the feel of a bigger show. There are many fun and amazing things to participate in, even some that I personally had never heard. This event allowed young riders to show our individual dressage skills, participate in new challenges, and learn how to work as a member of a team. Opportunities were provided for riders to compete from Introductory through FEI levels both individually or as a member of a 3–4-member team, Leadline, Musical Freestyle, Pas De Deux, and Quadrille. Riders could participate in either English or Western riding styles. Organizers also provided various fun avenues to work on our team building and bonding to include: barn management, themed stall decorating, and costumed final turn out at the awards ceremony.

Though the days spent competing and supporting each other may have been hot and muggy, we all enjoyed ourselves thoroughly. It was nice competing with a team and supporting others and having support from them as well. I loved getting to know my teammates while we sat in the aisles of the barn by our horses and ate and talked. We would also take the time to get the horses out to graze and we would chill and watch our horses do silly things. I think where I realized that I had really gotten to know them well was when we all went out to dinner and we had time to relax and have a lot of laughs.

Region 1 VADA leadership and coaches were there to support riders and teams not only in all classes but with horsemanship and team building. I took a mini braiding clinic with our Chef d'Equipe, Heather Escobar (VADA-CC). It was pretty cool learning from her and I know I can do it myself one day on my horses. She taught us about barn management, working as a team, and coached our individual riding skills. We were also able to participate in a mini In-Hand clinic with Lisa Powers where we learned how to show our horses to look their best while leading them in-hand.

I was really excited to try some things that I had never competed in or even heard of, like Prix Caprilli, In Hand Classes, and Dressage Seat Equitation. Prix Caprilli is essentially a dressage test with a series of jumps laced into the test. It was weird to be jumping in a dressage saddle instead of my normal jump saddle. For the Handler class, the horse is led from the ground in hand at the walk and the trot while being judged on grooming and turnout, conformation, walk presentation, trot presentation, presenting and handling, and overall general impression. It was nice being able to do something different with my horse without having to ride him in the heat of the day. I never realized that there was such a thing as Dressage Seat Equitation. Dressage Seat Equitation is a little different than a regular dressage test as it is ridden in a group and judged on your seat position and how effective you are in using your aids to communicate with your horse. You are being judged on how well you ride your horse. You will be asked to show walk, trot, and canter and halt. It was so fun to ride dressage in an arena with others.

At the end of the last day, we dressed up in our costumes and ogled at how cool everyone else looked and received our team awards. The team I was on earned 2nd place ribbons for our hard work! I would definitely do this event again. I had a blast and learned so many new things! As we took our victory lap, I could not help but to think about how grateful I was to so many people to have participated in this experience. I am so grateful to the VADA-CC team members who welcomed me to their team: Ayla, Claire, Kelsey, Ellie, and James. I am really grateful to the amazing coaching of Heather Escobar and Nina Cwirko (VADA-F). Our Team had additional amazing support from Mr. Matt Escobar and Garrett Escobar and the other team members' parents. Rachel Rice (VADA-Nova) gave great advice and supportive words throughout my days of competing. She helped ease my nerves of trying new things for the first time in a competition setting and competing on a team. I am also grateful to Anna Mitchell (VADA-F and Nova) who taught me how to do the In-Hand class allowing me to practice his new skill prior to the competition. I am always so grateful to my coach, Stevie LeCain (VADA-Nova) for all she does for my horses and me every day. And I wanted to thank VADA-F for sponsoring me to compete at my first ever Region 1 Dressage Youth Team Challenge. There were so many wonderful volunteers and none of this could have happened without the amazing organizers who make sure this opportunity exists for young riders. Lastly, I am grateful daily to my horses, Olaf and Opal (Quiet Wildcat), who step up in every way to allow me to live the dream of riding horses. (Photo courtesy of the author).



VADA-F NEWS

We are the proud owners of our very own equipment hauler! Those of you who have experienced the tragedy of unloading the equipment at the Thornburg self-storage unit after a long (and usually HOT) weekend at Rose Mount will know that this is a momentous event! Many thanks to Anna for working out the details to obtain the trailer for the club!



**USED TACK, RIDING APPAREL,
& BLANKET SALE
AT ROSE MOUNT FARM**

In 9 days, our club will host two days of exciting competition, a variety of vendors with their wares for display/sale, and an area under the big tent with a variety of used tack and clothing for sale. Dust off and clean up that saddle you've replaced with a new one, shine those bits and boots no longer in use, and entertain thoughts of having some extra Christmas money from your efforts. Outgrown or unused blankets and sheets are a "hot" item with the approaching cooler season. Be sure all saleable items are clean with repairs made. As in years past, VADA-F will receive 15% of each item, owner gets 85%.

Thank you for participating in the Used Tack Sale. In order to ensure a successful sale, we ask that you follow these guidelines for submitting items. You will find a submission form on the next page of this newsletter for listing your sale items.

1. All items **MUST** be string tagged by owner. We will be removing the tags at the time of sale, so please do not use tape to mark your items.

2. Tag your items in the following manner:

Description of the item, price, your last name, and item #. Please use a 2-digit number, such as the month of your birthday, followed by the line number on your submission form.

EXAMPLE:

Item 1: Leather dressage girth, \$40.00, Smith, 0801.

Item 2: Black polo wraps, \$5.00, Smith, 0802.

3. Place a copy of the submission form on top of your items for the sale when you bring them to the tent the morning of the show. A club member will help with questions about sale items, should there be any. All items to be checked in after 8:00 a.m. both days of the show.

*****All items must be picked up by 4:00 p.m. on Sunday*****

If you wish to donate unsold items to USERL, mark your form accordingly.

Please address any questions you may have to Barb Ellis, 540-903-9049 or Chris Balasi, 540-273-1740.



VADA-F Member Column

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VADA-F members Sharnette Atkinson, Chris (and Vic and Mitsy) Balasi, and Hannah (and Colby) Bowers and other friends enjoy an outing to watch the Great Meadow International cross-country competition August 27th and to size up the jumps. (Photos courtesy of Vic Balasi).



VADA-F Business

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The Fredericksburg Dressage Chapter of the Virginia Dressage Association (VADA-F) is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization

created to serve the needs of the dressage community in Fredericksburg and the surrounding area.

The VADA-F's Mission is to:

- Advance the discipline of dressage
- Promote the welfare and care of equines
- Offer and develop educational clinics and seminars
- Sponsor Adult and Youth Teams
- Sponsor an annual Licensed Show
- Support schooling shows

VADA-F is a chapter of the Virginia Dressage Association, which is a GMO of Region 1 of the United States Dressage Federation (USDF); all VADA members automatically become USDF Group Members. The 2023 membership year runs from December 1, 2022 through November 30, 2023.

VADA-F Meeting Minutes—August 8, 2023

Participants: Anna Fox, Karen Rice, Jenny Lamb, Carolyn Briggs, Heather Crawford, Jamie Ramirez, Cambray Walmer, Barb Ellis, Teresa Crater, Tara Dean

Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m.

Minutes from July meeting approved

Treasurer's report:

Checking: \$11,829.07

Savings: \$1,841.45

Paypal: \$3,277.45, entries are coming in!

Membership: 27 individual, 12 youth, 3 youth affiliate, 9 affiliate, total = 51 members

Education: Proposed bit fitting clinic with Stephanie Brown-Beamer--Spreiser Sport Horses hosted her the end of July. Could do zoom or in person.

Youth Team: thank you for the awesome recaps for the newsletter!

Rose Mount: if anyone has pictures of the show to share on Instagram, email to Cambray or Anna. Barb and Chris and another person are doing the tack sale; and Jamie is a floater. Tara has sent messages to people to sign up to volunteer. Sponsorships are coming in. Start time for set-up on Thursday the 7th is 9:30, lunch will be provided. Jamie is bringing the trailer on the 6th.

Meeting adjourned: 7:54 pm

Respectively submitted by Karen Rice

End VADA-F Meeting Minutes

VADA Meeting Minutes – August 15, 2023

Participating: Sheli King (VN); Tina Longaker (C'ville); Alison Douglas (Central); Jessie Ginsburg (NOVA); Robyn Nunally (SVDA); Angie Stanaway (NE); Nancy Doody (C'ville); Nancy Lowey (C'ville); Sandy Monolo (NE); Laura Nelson (SWVADA), Diann Carpenter (NOVA); Muffin Smith (SWVADA), and members Rachel Rice, and Diane Boyd

Minutes: Laura Nelson made the motion, seconded by Nancy Lowey, to approve the June minutes. They were then approved by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report: Jessie reported that our combined balance is \$161, 981.25. She also mentioned that chapters should make sure that their checks have the legal name of the chapter (i.e., not just VADA), to make it easier to identify when she and other payees receive funds. Jessie also brought up the reminder that, for this year, there is a supplemental \$400 for Chapter Grants. To qualify, the chapter should submit an article summarizing the teaching points/highlights of the clinic. It is recommended to assign or solicit one or more volunteers to do this before the clinic so that they can be attentive and take notes and photographs for this purpose. Please submit the article and photos to Jessie Ginsburg, with the name and address of the person who should receive the check and cc Nancy Doody so she can post the article and photos on the website.

Membership Report: Our official membership with USDF is currently 547 members.

2024 Clinic: Sheli has learned that Sabine Shut Kery is waiting to figure out her show dates for 2024 before she commits to clinics as it will be an Olympic year. In light of this, the board discussed having another clinician for 2024 and contacting Sabine for 2025. Lilo Fore was brought up as a possible clinician. Tina will check with VHC for available dates.

DAL Update: Sheli reported that the show lost money this year. The final number will be shared at the next meeting. There were several contributing factors including a decrease in entries and thus fees, and an increase in general expenses overall. She has several ideas regarding generating more revenue which she will share at a later date.

GAIG Update: Dates are Oct 5-8. Dianne reported that everything is on task. We will be restricting some of the warmup areas to championship classes. All the FEI classes except for freestyles will be in the DD. All the freestyles will be inside, and awards will be upstairs in the coliseum as usual.

Year End Banquet: Nancy Doody reported that visits were made to other venues, and they were not feasible. The committee held a meeting and proposed that we remain at the Greencroft Club, which the board agreed with. The date will be Sunday, February 4th.

USDF Convention: This year's convention is in Omaha, NE from November 29th thru December 2nd. Tina reported that there will be more educational forums in the agenda this year. Also, all the council chairs are up for election. Based on our current membership, we will have 2 GM delegates and they will be Jessie and Diann Carpenter. Alison made a motion, seconded by Nancy Lowey, that we give each VADA PM/GM delegate a stipend of \$500 towards expenses. With Sheli and Jessie abstaining, the motion carried. For clarification, VADA elects the GM delegates based on membership and the PM delegates are elected on the USDF website from the Region. We only reimburse PM delegates that are VADA members.

Donations: Sheli opened a discussion regarding lending the VADA rings to the Youth Competition next year as there has been a change in management and the show will be in Rosemont, which is logistically challenging for Tina. Also, it will no longer be affiliated with a GMO. It was suggested that perhaps the Fredericksburg and Charlottesville chapters could lend their rings instead. As Sheli briefly mentioned in our last board meeting, she also wants the executive board to formulate donation policies and guidelines. We will have a meeting after the GAIG show in the fall.

Chapter Updates: PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE SENDING INFO TO NANCY DOODY FOR THE WEBSITE

Central- Oct 21-22 clinic with Nicole DelGiorno at Old Raptor Farm. The two-day licensed show April 27-28, 2024, will be held at Deep Run in Manakin-Sabot.

Charlottesville-

Fredericksburg – Their licensed show will be Sept 9-10 at Rose Mount. It's the last qualifier for GAIGS and the next to last for CBLM. Entry information is available on horseshowoffice.com.

NEVADA – Sept 16th clinic with Nikki Vogel at Edgehill Farm. Schooling shows at Edgehill- Oct 29, and Nov 12. They will also have one at the State Fair – date tbd.

NOVA – Aug 26-27 two one day licensed shows at Morven.

ShenVADA –

SVDA- Schooling shows- Aug 27 at Kelly Conye's farm in Virginia Beach, Sept 24 at River Birch Farm in Courtland, and Oct 29 at Airfield Conf Center in Wakefield.

Southwest- October 15 schooling show at Green Hill Park.

NEXT MEETING September 21st AT 8pm

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Alison Douglas

End VADA Meeting Minutes

Upcoming Events:

September

9, **VADA-F** Dressage at Rose Mount I, Spotsylvania

10, **VADA-F** Dressage at Rose Mount II, Spotsylvania

October

5-8, USDF Region 1 GAIGs, Lexington



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