



January 2007—Happy New Year

## President's Posting

### Season's Greetings

*to all of you, from myself and MDA's board of directors*

I would like to begin my term as your new president, by extending a large **THANK YOU** to Margaret Scarff for her four years of tireless service to MDA. Thank you Margaret for your spirit of volunteerism.

Were you aware that MDA has been in existence since 1982? That means that this is MDA's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday! MDA began with a few dressage enthusiasts who had a vision to form a dressage club in their local area as well as the tenacity to pull it off. Over these 25 years, MDA has waxed and waned, people have come and gone and many have served in office. MDA has encouraged, promoted, inspired, and educated many in the art of classical dressage.

As for the present, what is your new president's view of where MDA is now and where we are going? My answer lies within my personal experiences and feelings about MDA and is summed up in one word—Grateful. I am grateful to belong to a group of people who are like-minded in their pursuit of learning the art of dressage. I am grateful that there are schooling

*(Continued on page 7)*

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### Auditing

### Awards/Work Credits

### Banquet

### Clinics

### Financial

### Freestyle & Gala

### Historical\* OPEN

### Horse Expo Library

### Job Descriptions\* President

### Maryland Horse Council\* President

### Membership

### Merchandise

### National Liaison AHSA & USDF\* President

### Newsline

### Nominating\*

### Programs

### Property

### Public Relations

### Recognized Shows

### Scholarships\*

\*No Work Credit

### Schooling Shows

**2007 Committee Chairs will be announced in the Next Newsline**

This organization is a USDF Group Member Organization and its members are automatically USDF Group Members.



# CLUB NEWS



## AROUND THE CLUB

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**Condolences** to Marta Houkari-Roach on the death of her husband.

**Get well** to Claire Warren, recovering from more back surgery.

**Condolences** to Judi Provencal on the loss of her horse Golden.

Tracey Hurline has a new email address [sterlingtch@yahoo.com](mailto:sterlingtch@yahoo.com)

**The Mill** - will put 1% of your purchase into the "MDA Fund" - **BUT you must tell them BEFORE you purchase** that you're an MDA member, signed up, and want to have 1% of the purchase price go to the "MDA Fund". It will not be done automatically.

**PATRON MEMBERS: Want to ride at MDA clinics and shows?** - Patron members are supporting members only, and for insurance purposes, need to upgrade their membership to senior if they want to ride at clinics and shows. Contact Carol Foreman at (410) 592-9781, or by e-mail to [mdamem@aol.com](mailto:mdamem@aol.com).

### WANT TO SERVE ON A COMMITTEE?

**Schooling Shows** – We need someone to set up MDA's 2008 schooling shows . The shows are run by a team of 3, and this team needs a person to contact farm owners, judges, show organizers and secretaries. Most of this is done in July and August and wrapped up in September and involves communication easily done via e-mail. Brenda Rice has created a comprehensive binder with form letters to e-mail to judges as well as contact information, and the show ground owners are always eager to set up next year's show. You do not have to attend the shows.

**Auditing** --Our Bylaws ask that a person "shall audit the financial records of the MDA on a yearly basis and report its findings to the MDA" This audit is a simple audit that is meant for the club's use only. We have a firm who performs our audit for the IRS.

**Library** -- I'd like to see if I could find two people to serve as MDA Librarians. I'd like to try dividing our books and videos into 2 groups; one for the Baltimore area and one for Harford county area. If the Librarians can take their material with them to the shows they show at, this may give members better access to the Library. If the library makes it to the show for the time it takes you to do your normal horse show activities that would be great. I'd also like to see a list of the books and videos maintained on MDA's web sight as well.

**Hospitality** --This is an important job! Do you like to greet people and make them feel welcome? Would you like to serve the needs of competitors at our Recognized Show? Would you like to help assimilate new members into the club? Can you help organize a potluck meal? I would like to find a special person to help me out in this area.

If you have any interest and/or questions about any of these jobs, please e-mail me at [philjill@juno.com](mailto:philjill@juno.com) or call me at 410-836-3559.

## MDA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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### January 2007

**14 Awards Banquet—MDA's Silver Anniversary — 25 Years Young!!**



# MDA Silver Anniversary Celebration and Awards Banquet

January 14, 2007

2—6 pm



*The Bowman Restaurant and Pub  
9306 Harford Road, Baltimore 21234*

*410-665-8600*

*www.bowmanrestaurant.com*

*\$30 per person*

## *Directions:*

*From 695 North: Take the Harford Road Exit. Bowman's is two blocks on the left.*

## *Menu:*

*Cheese, Fruit & Vegetable Platter*

*Tossed Garden Salad*

*Mini Crab Imperial*

*Beef Burgundy*

*Sliced Turkey*

*Parsley Potatoes or Rice*

*Hot Vegetable du Jour*

*Cranberry Jelly*

*Dessert*

*Coffee, Hot Tea, Ice Tea, Soda*



*A commemorative wine glass embossed with MDA's logo and "25th Anniversary" will be given to all attendees. Extra glasses will be available for purchase. To make your reservations, please fill out the form below by January 5, 2007.*

## *Highlights of the 2007 Banquet and Silent Auction*

The Silent Auction promises to be bigger and better this year. Come and join in on the bidding for these desirable items.

Here is a partial list: USDF Guide to Dressage by Jennifer O. Bryant, Dressage Masters, By David Collins, an Ariat grooming tote, one pair of Ariat Heritage paddock boots size 7, earrings, bracelets, horsy home décor, a coat, a nice grooming bag similar in size and shape to a garment bag filled with pockets for all your stuff, an Irideon Outerwear light-weight jacket (L), halters, trendy saddle pads, polos, pre-tied stock tie, and gloves. Make your horse happy with a horse massage coupon. Make yourself happy with Dressage Classics chocolate, a "classically elegant dressage horse floating across a background of almond butter crunch covered in dark sweet chocolate"(this sentence is dangerous to read, if you know what I mean). If any of this appeals to you (or your horse) make sure you save some of your Christmas money for the auction!

Allow me to make a personal statement about the food. The Beef Burgundy was so delicious that I still remember the sensational taste from three years ago. I tried to duplicate it at home and failed. I plan to see if I can get the recipe from them—a gal can try, can't she?

Inclement Weather: If Baltimore County issues a state of emergency due to ice and/or snow, then the Awards Banquet will be postponed to another day. If you are unsure whether or not you should make the trip, you may call Jill at 410-836-3559. Jill's answering machine after 11:00AM the day of the banquet will have a message indicating whether or not the banquet is to be canceled. The restaurant will not give us a refund, but will allow us to reschedule. We will notify you of that date.

### ***2007 MDA Awards Banquet Reservations***

Mail to:

**Janet Knox**

**81 Windersal Lane**

**Baltimore, MD 21234**

Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 per person = \_\_\_\_\_

***Work credits are not accepted for the Banquet.***



## MDA Quarterline

*Hi everyone! My name is Bess Carlson and I will be the vice-president of the Young Riders for 2007. This will be my fourth year as a member of the Maryland Dressage Association. I am currently showing a thoroughbred named Artie. I've had many great experiences with the Young Riders club and can't wait for the upcoming year!*

*I would like to hold meetings that will be fun as well as educational. While I have many ideas, I am completely open to anyone's suggestions on meeting agendas. I plan on having some diversity in the meetings: some with guest speakers and learning activities, and other more relaxed meetings to simply talk with other Young Riders. I will contact everyone when its time for our first meeting.*

*I can't wait for the upcoming show season, and hope everyone is as excited as I am to get started!*

*ATTENTION YOUNG RIDERS: I need to know a few things about our meetings for the next season:*

- 1) Who is interested in coming to the meetings and being part of the club this year?*
- 2) How often would you like to have meetings? I was thinking we could have them about once a month, with every other meeting being business like, and then have some fun things like a trail ride, mounted meeting, fix-a-test, etc.*
- i3) How many Young Riders are interested in going to Morven Park this year? We need to get teams together early so we can fill out paperwork and maybe have a mounted meeting where you ride with your team members and figure out what each individual needs to work on. If we do this early, we won't be rushed when July comes up. There is also a set number of meetings you have to be at in order to be supported n Morven Park. I will find this out and let everyone know.*

*That is all for now, and please contact me with any input on the above.*

*We are also doing a raffle basket at the Horse Expo this year for the Young Riders, so please let me know if anyone can donate an item for this. I will look around and see if anyone is interested in donating for us. Thanks again.*

*My email address is [laxqueen77@hotmail.com](mailto:laxqueen77@hotmail.com), and my house phone is 410 734-0416. I have everyone's email addresses so I will keep in touch about our next meeting.*

(Continued from page 1)

shows to test my progress, even though they often prove I still have room to grow. I am grateful that these shows keep a goal ever before me. I am also grateful that the shows are so close and affordable. I give thanks that there is a structure within our club that keeps us moving forward and a larger, governing structure whose multi-faceted vision of dressage envelopes this small club and lends us momentum. I am also grateful that the vital backbone of volunteerism is healthy and thriving within this club and that there is a work credit system that says thank you to our volunteers. I am grateful for the friendships I have made and the promise of new ones yet to form. I am also grateful that we can come together and help each other learn. Finally, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve this club as president. The assets I have mentioned above are just some of the many which graces the MDA with their presence. We will take these assets and engage them more powerfully, and move forward with thrust. I think you will like the ride!

If you haven't signed up to attend MDA's Awards Banquet and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on Jan 14, there are still a few days left to do so, but just a few. Reservations to the party can still be made until Jan 5<sup>th</sup>. (please see page 5 for Banquet order form/info.

The Maryland Horse Expo will run from Jan. 18 – 21. There are still spots left for volunteering at MDA's booth. See page 9 for more info on this.

Young Riders & parents, please turn to page 6 to read a letter from you new Jr. Vice President, Bess Carlson. She is looking for input on Y.R. meetings and activities.

## **Tackalong**

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## The Dilemma of the MDA Newslines

To Mail or not to Mail

By Jill Blackburn

Getting MDA's *Newslines* out to its members has been an up and down topic for the board members throughout the past several years. About four years ago we had to decide to stop mailing it out to all the membership. At that time it cost around \$400.00 to mail it to everyone and membership fees did not come close to covering that expense. Therefore, the hard decision was made to send the *Newslines* electronically to all that were willing to receive it through e-mail. Although this current practice does save the club money since there are fewer to mail, we still are sending out enough newsletters by snail mail that it is still a bit pricey. Again it is a yoyo dilemma. This fall we decided to not send any *Newslines* out by snail mail starting in 2007, but have now decided against that idea. It is not fair to the members who do not have a computer or have one that is too slow. Another issue is that most people prefer a hard copy. It is just more practical.

Here is what our plan is. We are hoping this will serve all the members' needs and free up some of the *Newslines* money. We have decided to snail mail a special *Newslines* out to ALL members 3 to 4 times a year. This *Newslines* will be small enough to be mailed for .39 cents. It will have pertinent information on future events, helpful articles and a few other items. It will not have the minutes of board meetings or show results, as these two items take up lots of space and drive the cost up. The minutes and show results will be available in the electronic *Newslines*. Show results can always be seen on the MDA website. See [www.marylanddressage.com](http://www.marylanddressage.com).

During my term as president, I, along with my brilliant editor, Judi Provencal, will be putting an electronic *Newslines* out once a month. It will come out in the first week of each month. The January *Newslines* will still be snail-mailed to those who have asked to receive their newsletters this way. However, we would still like to stop this practice, if there is any way that you can receive it by e-mail.

The *Newslines* can be read on our website. Maybe you have access to that at work or from a library computer. If you don't have an e-mail address, did you know there are ways to have one for free? I may even be able to direct you to a company who can give you an e-mail address and Internet hook up (for just the e-mail), for about 10.00 a year. (See my e-mail address below.)

If you are one of the members who can make the change to receive your monthly *Newslines* electronically, please e-mail me at [philjill@juno.com](mailto:philjill@juno.com).

If you wish to submit articles or news please e-mail or call me at 410-836-3559. E-mail is the best way to get a hold of me. Deadlines be the 15th of each month.

Thank You,  
Jill Blackburn





# 2007 Maryland Dressage Association Show Schedule

Sunday, **April 22, 2007**, Imperial Arabian Schooling Show, Parkton, MD.

Saturday, **May 5, 2007**: (Open) Michael s Run Farm Schooling Show, Delta, PA.

Sunday, **May 20, 2007**, Ships Quarters Schooling Show, Westminster, MD.

Sunday, **June 10, 2007**, (Open) Olney Farm Schooling Show Joppa, MD

Saturday & Sunday, **June 23-24, 2007** Heavenly Waters Equestrian Center, Bel Air, MD.  
USA Equestrian/USDF Recognized Show

Saturday, **July 14, 2007**, New Covert Farm Schooling Show, White Hall, MD.

Sunday, **August 5, 2007** (Open) Liberty View Farm Schooling Show Finksburg, MD.

Sunday, **August 19, 2007** Winter Wind Farm Schooling Show Churchville, MD.

Saturday, **September 1, 2007**, Petticoats Advance Schooling Show, Upperco, MD.

Saturday, **September 8, 2007** Chreglia Manor, Delta, PA.

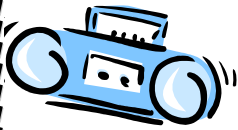
Saturday, **September 15, 2007**, (Open) Rosemont Farm, Port Deposit, MD.

Sunday, **October 7, 2007**, Renaissance Farm, LLC, 15314 Priceville Road, Sparks-Glencoe, MD.

Sunday, **October 14, 2007** (Open/Finals) Heavenly Waters Eq.Center Bel Air, MD.

**Please Note:**

1. MDA Schooling Shows are open to 2007 members only unless designated as open. Entries must be received by the show secretary on or after the opening date and be postmarked no-later than the closing date.
2. Official 2007 entry forms should be duplicated for each show entered.
3. To qualify for all end of year awards and education grants, members must earn 2 work credits during the year: 1 work credit must be earned by working at one or more MDA Show. 2 work credits must be earned by the end of the Finals Show.
4. Modified class list for the Finals Show will be published in the Newslines before the opening date.
5. The entry form and class list for the USDF/USEF Recognized Show will be published in the Region One Omnibus.



## Musical Freestyles

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Michael Matson

301-943-0346



## Maryland Horse Expo



January 18<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>

The Maryland Dressage Association has a booth at the Expo. We need volunteers to man the booth. If you would like to volunteer your time, contact Jill Blackburn at [philjill@juno.com](mailto:philjill@juno.com) (preferred) or call 410-836-3559

Friday time slots are filled already. Thursday, Saturday and Sunday still have openings. Contact me soon ☺

You can work from 2 hours up to the whole day. We have added a ¼ work credit to make it more convenient for you to volunteer and enjoy the demonstrations and sales. Work credits can be spent at our schooling shows, and they count towards year-end awards.

Plus, the day you work we can get you in to the Expo free.

Expo times:

Thursday 12:00 Noon till 8:00pm,

Friday 10:00AM till 8:00PM,

Saturday 9:00AM till 8:00PM,

Sunday 9:00AM till 6:00PM.

Look at [www.horseworldexpo.com](http://www.horseworldexpo.com) for the schedule of events, directions, etc.

## PHOTOS

I'm getting several replies to my photo request. Thank you. However, they are wrecking havoc on my wimpy computer.

I'd like to ask you to send ONE photo to my husband's e-mail address. Pick the best shot and send it to [shrammer@yahoo.com](mailto:shrammer@yahoo.com). He will print it out and give it to me. His work computer has the power mine lacks.

If you missed the last info update, I am seeking photos of you and your horse showing at an MDA show. These photos will be used at the Expo, and If you applied for a year-end award you may see yourself in the Equiry.



### Sharing our experience: Give and take

By Jill Blackburn

Having a riding buddy to share your experiences helps us to grow as riders and horsemen. This column can be a place to share and learn with each other in pursuit of the art of dressage. I learned something I would like to share with you.

In the new book Dressage Masters by David Collins, four dressage masters, are interviewed and ask a series of questions. (This book will be offered in the awards banquet, silent auction). Two of the smaller, yet pervasively common themes, half halted me. Those themes are dedication and patience. Dedication and Patience towards the horse and dedication and patience to the time it takes to learn the lessons of dressage.

These masters thoughts on dedication to study, reminded me to go back to an old practice of mine; taking the time to re write the lesson in my riding journal and then a shortened version on an index card that I can reference as I ride. This helps me get the lesson it in my scattered brain. This, I owe to my horse. He is subject to my attempts to get it right. The poor guy, he is the king of patience.

Through these masters wisdom I gained a new insight into my self. I must have patience with myself as well as my horse. My tendency is to get frustrated and think 'I will never get this' or 'that didn't work', 'now what do I do'. I need to give myself time to practice, time to learn, time for muscle memory to happen.. These fresh insights on patience took shape and meaning as I looked back to a recent battle with myself over shoulder- in. I was forever twisting my body in odd and unhelpful ways, and my horse would slow down, sometimes stop. Ugh! That's not good. Then one day my body lost the odd crooked thing I do. I found my inside seat bone and outside half halt. Charlie let me know he was relived. Forward came. Shoulder in isn't such a battle now. It has a flow to it. It is ready to become perfected for us. I have a newfound hopefulness that I will learn the half pass. I will be dedicated and patient till that happens. (You should see the way I twist in half pass!)

## USDF Region 1 Omnibus 2007 Attention Competitors!

### Would you like to receive the Region 1 Omnibus??

The Region 1 Omnibus is an annual directory that contains prizelists for recognized and special shows in Region 1, as well as complete information on qualifying for championships, junior/young rider information, etc. If you wish to receive the 2007 Omnibus, please fill out and return the subscription from below.

All contributions to Friends of the Omnibus made prior to October 31, 20 receive recognition in the 2007 Omnibus, the remainder will be recognized in 2008. If you contributed last year and did not receive recognition in the 2006 Omnibus, it should appear in 2007. Please contact Melissa Murray with any questions. Join the Friends of the Omnibus and help us provide everyone with a quality resource for Dressage in Region 1.

**Friend of the Omnibus** \$ 5.00

**Bronze Friend** \$15.00

**Silver Friend** \$25.00

**Gold Friend** \$50.00(or more)

Please print clearly:

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Please make checks payable to USDF Region 1 Omnibus All requests will be handled as quickly as possible. However, no order will be filled without payment. Mail completed form with check to:

USDF Region 1 Omnibus  
38595 Purple Martin Lane  
Hamilton, VA. 20158

**Questions** please contact: Melissa Murray (540) 868-2432 [melissamurray@msn.com](mailto:melissamurray@msn.com)  
Alison Head (540) 338-7810 [lookingglassfarm@erol.com](mailto:lookingglassfarm@erol.com)

# The Training Scale

By Judi Provencal

Last year, I felt very fortunate to be awarded the 2006 Joyce Broccolino Award. Part of my responsibility is to share my Scholarship experiences. I used the Award to continue my riding education under the tutelage of Michael Kierkegaard, a S judge and classical instructor based in York, PA.

Those of you who know Michael know that he emphasizes the Training Scale. I learned that you can own the best bred horse on the planet, but if you lack a good training foundation, you just have another horse. The Training Scale provides the foundation needed.

The elements of the Training Scale build on each other. The first element of the Training scale is Rhythm. One might think that *rhythm* means the ability to maintain a good “beat”, but there is more to it than that. Rhythm is impossible without relaxation of both horse and rider. Only when both are mentally & physically relaxed can horse and rider take advantage of natural rhythm in all gaits.

The second element is suppleness. The best definition of suppleness I can find is “looseness and flexibility in the horse’s body”. I like to think this applies to the rider as well. How can we ask our horses to be supple if we as riders are not? There are two “directions” of suppleness. The first is the most familiar: the ability to bend right and left. This is lateral suppleness. The second is “longitudinal suppleness”. This is the ability to lengthen and shorten. I like to think of a Slinky, and compressing the Slinky along its length instead of wiggling it left and right.

The third element is contact. This one is one of the most tricky. To achieve correct contact, first you must have rhythm and suppleness. At this point, the horse will accept the rider’s hands, seat and legs. It took me a while to learn that contact does NOT mean hands alone. In fact, a horse in correct contact should feel light in the hands, should be carrying him/herself and not leaning on the rider’s hands. It is a most amazing feeling. I don’t yet achieve this every instant, but when it happens, I feel as if I can direct my horse into any movement with ease.

The fourth element is straightness. Horses are not naturally straight. Each is stiffer in one direction and their shoulders and hips are not the same width. Straightness is easier to type into this article than it is to actually achieve. The horse must be straight not only when going straight, but also on bends and curves.

The pinnacle of the Training Scale is collection. The nice thing about collection, so I’ve been told, is that if you have truly mastered the first 4 elements, collection is easy. Once again, I think it is easier to type that sentence than to achieve the finished product. Collection involves lightness, a lowering of the croup, and shorter yet energetic steps. Collection can be developed through exercises such as transitions and half-halts. My horse and I have been working on collection in all gaits, but he has a wonderful canter, and we have the most success here. It feels like I’m doing very little and he could canter on in lightness forever!

# NEWSLINE Policy

Members are welcome to submit *camera ready* articles and ads to MDA by mailing to the address on the back of the NEWSLINE, or by sending a email to Jill Blackburn (philljill@juno.com) or Judi Provencal (jlp@udel.edu, please set subject line to “MDA Newsline”).

The NEWSLINE will be every other month, during the first week of the month. Deadline for submission of items is the 15th of the previous month. The NEWSLINE reserves the right to reject or edit material. If your ad becomes invalid please notify one of the editors ASAP.

*You can now publish your ads directly on the MDA website.  
Just go to [www.marylanddressage.org](http://www.marylanddressage.org) and click on “Classifieds.”*

## Advertising Rates

**Classified** ads are free to MDA members.

**Non-classified** ad rates are as follows:

**One full page** (one sheet folded in half, 5 3/4 wide X 7 1/4 high) cost \$25

**One half page** (one sheet folded in half, 5 3/4 wide X 3 1/2 high) cost \$15

**One quarter page** (one sheet folded in half, 2 3/4 wide X 3 1/2 high) \$10.

**Business Cards** will be printed for the same cost as **One quarter page**.

These costs are for a single issue. The Ads are due on the 15th of the month prior to publishing, and must be camera-ready, and the actual size to be printed. If you need to have us create the Ad for you, we can do so for an additional \$15 one-time charge. Make checks payable to **Maryland Dressage Association, Inc.**

## Classifieds



### HORSES FOR SALE/LEASE

**FOR SALE:** 6 yr Hanoverian gelding, bay, 16.3h, Donnerhall grandson, imported and trained by Hilltop, currently training 1st level, 71.2% in Training level with 9 on gaits, loads, clips, could also be used for jumping, \$22,000 contact Ruth at [Halfpass44@hotmail.com](mailto:Halfpass44@hotmail.com) or 717-880-6081

**LEASE:** 1/2 or full lease on Eclipse, a Danish Warmblood gelding. Has been shown successfully. Owner has too many horses. Also possible free registered TB broodmare prospect. Good home essential. Contact Lauren: 443-504-5894.

### LESSONS/TRAINING

**LESSONS:** Accomplished Dressage and Event rider offers flatwork or jumping lessons. BFA education. Assisting pony clubbers w/increasing their ratings.

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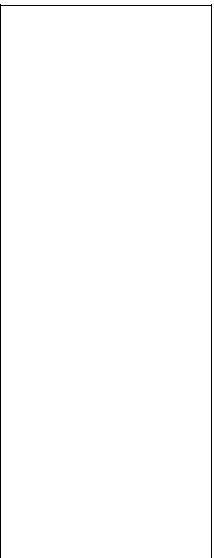
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