

MDA NEWSLINE
MARYLAND DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION, INC

President's Posting
 November 2009

I now have even more proof that I am of a 'different than normal' demographic. While in treatment for a bad back, my Physical Therapist asked what type of shoe I walk in most of the time, then he asked to see them on my next visit. I realized that this man is thinking "ladies shoes", hah! More often than not, I wear tall rubber boots for winter wear and in the summer its "Muck Company" shoes for this horsey gal. And while I think the smell of them is heavenly, I knew he would not be as impressed. I had to explain to him what Muck meant! I offered that they are a well made shoe and are quite comfortable. Needless to say, he has never forgotten me. Yes, we MDA members fall into a seriously driven demographic that obsesses over horses, pays up to five dollars per minute to keep learning an art/sport with a name that many cannot pronounce and often wear strange clothing.

Transition to walk.

In 2010 some new rules and constructive plans will be implemented. Schooling show entry fees will remain at \$16.00 per class for MDA members. Non Member entry fees have been raised to \$23.00 per class. Why? When MDA holds 'member only' shows, the insurance covers the farm owner and not the club. Reason being, our bylaws state a member cannot sue another member. When MDA holds an open show, our insurance will cover us. In 2010 all of our shows will be open. Members who use a work credit can show two classes for \$22.00 compared to the non member fee of \$46.00. Join the club and save money.

This year, the show management team was plagued with last minute entries. We have allowed this because the bottom line is the income. We need enough entries to pay for the judge, Port-A-Pot, and ribbons. Hence, the acceptance of late entries -- which results in show management mental illness. To fight the onset of said mental illness, we have plotted to add a late fee of \$5.00 per class for all entries post marked after the closing date. A larger bank account is not what we are after, save your money and remember to mail your entries post haste. For your convenience I always list Opening Dates for shows in the club e-mail blitzes.

We are still in need of volunteers for several shows next year. We need entry secretaries and organizers for Liberty View on Aug. 1 and Winter Wind on Aug. 21. If no one can volunteer to for these positions, we will have to cancel these shows in 2010. We will not cancel the Finals show, but we do need an organizer for this show. Please consider volunteering-- We need these positions filled by Nov 11th.

Send All RIDER ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL and MDA END OF YEAR HIGH SCORE Applications to: (includes Musical Freestyle) Mary Butler 5310 Carroll Warhime Rd., Lineboro, Md 21102 mbutler500@aol.com

Please Note: MDA's Perpetual Awards do not require an application. These winners are selected from those who apply for MDA's other awards.

Send APPLICATIONS FOR THE JOYCE BROCCOLINO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP and the CAITLIN BEN DROR MEMORIAL GRANTS TO: Lauren Comish 639 Gairloch Place, Bel Air, Md. 21015 showmda@yahoo.com

Happy Rides to one and all, Jill Blackburn

Club News.....	2	A Mustangs New Life in Dressage.....	6
Conversations with a Vet.....	3	Awards Banquet.....	7
Finals Open Show Results.....	4	An Adult Amateurs Who Made it to Devon	8
Show Notes: Divisions Explained	5	MDA August Board Meeting Minutes.....	10
Winter Wind Show Results.....	5	2010 MDA Membership Form.....	11



CLUB NEWS



Congratulations:

Aime Morrill will wed Tom Hartland on November 14th of 2009.

CALENDER

November

11 MDA Board Meeting

21 & 22-MDA Clinic with Christopher Hickey Auditor spots available. Auditing- Free to Volunteers -\$20.00 for everyone else. Bring a chair and your lunch and warmth. Please register with Jill at philjill@juno.com by Nov. 14th. Ride Times for the clinic will be posted on MDA's web site the week before the clinic.

January

10-MDA Awards Banquet at The Bowman Restaurant , Please see page 7.

21-24 Maryland Horse Expo Timonium Fair Grounds For more information and to volunteer, email Carol Bossone at carol.bossone@us.army.mil

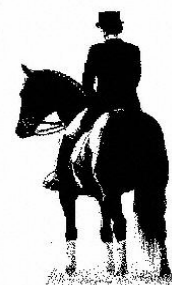
A Fantastic Website to Check Out by Jackie Caldwell

In the cold months coming, do you spend more time reading books and searching the web for information on becoming a better rider?. If you like to read or web surf, check out the website called "Dressage Mentor with Jane Savoie" It is chock full of information with videos, articles, and inspiration by Jane herself. If you've ever had a bad fall off of a horse, she has a great inspirational article to help overcome your fears and build confidence as a rider.. She provides training techniques that you can re-create with your horse. There are examples of the right and wrong way to train. The videos are of normal horses and riders working through relatable training issues. There are a variety of guest experts to help you learn a variety of techniques to work with your horse, as well as a community board to share experiences and receive feedback. The link is www.dressagementor.com. Enjoy!

Year End Applications are due BEFORE NOVEMBER 14th, 2009. Information and applications for Year End awards are found in MDA's 2009 Omnibus on page 20 through 32. Several Perpetual Awards are awarded among the members who apply for the Year End Awards see page 22. MDA awards five \$300.00 scholarships, see pages 23 & 24 in your Omnibus

Dressage Tests. <http://www.dressage.net.au/natestdia.html#traintests> Thumbs up on this site. Each test shows diagrams of every movement and offers the test written for callers.

If you plan to join MDA in order to gain membership into USDF and show at USDF Licensed shows, please understand that it takes at least six weeks for your membership to process through USDF. In other words, join MDA now so that you can gain entry into our USDF shows.



Southern States S.H.O.W Fund Raiser for MDA Young Riders

The MDA is now participating in Southern States SHOW program! This is a really easy fundraiser for us. All members (and friends, relatives, or neighboring trash piles) need to do is save the proofs of purchase from bags of Reliance, Legends, or Triple Crown horse feeds. Reliance proofs are worth 10 cents each; Legends and Triple Crown are worth 25 cents each. (If you get feed delivered in bulk, we'd need the original receipts, but I'd be happy to make copies to return! Bulk Reliance purchases are worth \$4/ton, and bulk Legends are worth \$10/ton.) While that doesn't sound like a lot of money, it builds up very quickly. A very few people in a club I used to be associated with could raise between \$500 and \$700 a year! Scott and I will collect the proofs. Feel free to hand them to us at any MDA function, or mail them to us (5135 Meadowstream Garth, White Hall, MD 21161) when you get a collection. If you have a big pile of bags collecting in the corner of your barn, we'll even come clip out the proofs. The year for the SHOW program runs from July 1 - June 30, so this is the start of a new year for us. Please let me know if you have any questions! linda.nickel@gmail.com, or 410-299-2848. Thanks!

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

CONVERSATIONS WITH A VETERINARIAN

By Dr. Carol Bossone DVM

“Big Red”

This month I thought I'd present a sentimental story. Of course, this may depend on your point of view but a little humor is the best medicine.

I first saw her, in the back of the pack, behind all the other shiny gray, black, and brown young girls. She was only 2 years old but well seasoned for her age. She had seen her short years of use and her owner did not think she would sell because of this, but she certainly was sound and the owner even gave me a short term guarantee for her performance. She was that rich red color, the one you always dream you could get in a good coat color, and it was love at first site. I named her “Big Red”. Her price (in retrospect) was probably somewhat high given her use, but I had to have her. I've never regretted it since.

Our first outings were trail rides in and around San Francisco and Marin county where I was stationed. I had wonderful adventures with her. We rode along the coast, on the beaches and national parks. I even got into ride and ties with her, my friend and her horses. My friend and I were avid runners and so we packed horse, running shoes, and comfortable clothing and headed for the Sierras several times on breathtaking rides in the mountains. She did it all in stride never failing me. She was great in combined training events, dressage and hunter shows. Big Red was nothing fancy but she stood her own against the bigger competitors. Then came vet school and at one point I thought I'd sell her. By this time she was 7 and well proven and although I found a suitable place to keep her the costs to maintain her care would bite into my limited budget. In the end, I decided to keep her and again I never looked back. I remember one very hot summer in Sacramento valley she became overheated and I had only limited access to water. I applied my first year veterinary skills as best I could and was able to cool her off and get her to the town over a hill for attention and she recovered well. My fault. I was devastated and learned my lesson. After graduation we had yet another adventure. My friend and her horse, Big Red and I were going to travel from Sacramento to Oregon visiting the sights. We all had a great time.

Her real test came when I got my new orders to report to Washington DC. I prepared her well for the long ride (and packed plenty of water this time). The trip took us 3 weeks and our stops included Lake Tahoe, Reno, Yellowstone National Park, Mount Rushmore, and then through the Central Valley, Illinois, Ohio and the Appalachians, Pennsylvania and finally DC. I found a great place for her in Maryland although I had to opt (because of expenses) to keep her outdoors. When she was 14 I received orders for overseas and so she went to live with my parents in PA and once again was forced to live outside. When I returned she was 16 and was beginning to show signs of her age. Her heart seemed to be the hardest hit and she became a hard keeper (lots of bills). I turned her over temporarily for some much need rest and relaxation while I trained my new horse. After about 8 months she was returned to me in much better health but I was forced to back off her normal workload.

Today she enjoys an easy life- just local shows. Her rich red color has faded to a dull red, she's shabby looking, coughs a lot, is temperamental, hates the winter, and sometimes refuses to work but at 25 yrs old she has hit a great milestone. She is still capable (when she wants to) of doing her job and I finally committed to “consider” selling her but no one would take her. You see she was too old for the cash for clunkers program and I can't find a mechanic who will fix her California parts. I have a new replacement for her now but I can't part with “Big Red”. Maybe it's all those memories. Maybe I'm sentimental. Maybe it's a sense of pride that she is now a historical vehicle still working. Maybe I should send this article to Ford. I'm sure we've all had a favorite truck without which we'd never be able to get out with our horses to wonderful adventures. So the lesson learned here is take good care of these workhorses. Keep up with their maintenance schedules and above all make sure you have plenty of coolant on hand when you cross desolate hot areas with no one around for miles. Winter is coming, check your antifreeze.

Finals Show, Bel Air, Md.
 Oct 11, 2009
 Judges ,Deri Jeffers (r), Karen Ramsing-Bixler (L),

USDF Intro A Novice Test A

1 Country Bumpkin Suzanne Veltri 62.5

USDF Intro A Open Test A

1 My Silver Majesty Laura Ruark 68

2 JC's Keely of Texel Jackie Caldwell 67

3 The Lumberjack Kelsea Blazek 63

USDF Intro A Young Rider Test A

1 Zip's Country KC Samantha Baker 70.5

2 Kalookan Code Kelly Creswell 68

3 Almost Magic Erica DeGele 67

USDF Intro B Open Test 2

1 JC's Keely of Texel Jackie Caldwell 69

2 My Silver Majesty Laura Ruark 68

USDF Intro B Young Rider Test B

1 Zip's Country KC Samantha Baker 70

2 Almost Magic Erica DeGele 68.5

3 Kalookan Code Kelly Creswell 67

Training Level Novice Test 1

3 Skies Autumn Star Jodi Bayliss 54.4

Training Level Open Test 1

1 Odin's Raven Lauren Comish 66.521

2 Fifer Shelley Caplan 66.086

3 Wallstreet Rising Claudia Kleinsmith 65.652

4 Brio Brenda Selby 63.478

Training Level Young Rider Test 1

1 Country Bumpkin Elizabeth Loundas 69.3

2 Ace of Spades Morgan Cillo 68.26

3 CMT Full Throttle Carmen Torres 57.826

5 An Obvious Bear Megan Thomas

Training Level Novice Test 2

1 Skies Autumn Star Jodi Bayliss 66.8

2 Riddle Me This Heather Hobbs 65.29

Training Level Open Test 2

1 Odin's Raven Lauren Comish 69.285

2 Wallstreet Rising Claudia Kleinsmith 68.214

3 Fifer Shelley Caplan 66.785

4 GVF Cool Expectation Marcy Wachter 64.642

5 Brio Brenda Selby 64.285

Training Level Young Rider Test 2

1 Ace of Spades Morgan Cillo 69.285

2 Country Bumpkin Elizabeth Loundas 56.785

3 CMT Full Throttle Carmen Torres 55.652

4 An Obvious Bear Megan Thomas

Training Level Finals Test 3

1 Finnigan's Wake Mary Sue McCarthy 64.4

2 Onyx Carol Bossone 64

Training Level Open Test 3

1 Pluto Matina Melanie Adams 63.6

2 Touch Of Cowboy Kelsea Blazek 63.6

3 Wap's Dido Jodi Bayliss 62.8

4 GVF Cool Expectation Marcy Wachter 62.4

5 Riddle Me This Heather Hobbs 59.84

Training Level Young Rider Test 3

1 Fidlin' Star Anne Matthews 66

2 Feiner Flash Elizabeth Loundas 63.2

3 Odin's Raven Erica DeGele 61.2

Training Level Open Test 4

1 Onyx Carol Bossone 66

2 Touch Of Cowboy Kelsea Blazek 64.4

3 Pluto Matina Melanie Adams 60.8

4 Wap's Dido Jodi Bayliss 60.8

Training Level Young Rider Test 4

1 Fidlin' Star Anne Matthews 68.4

2 Odin's Raven Erica DeGele 61.2

3 Feiner Flash Elizabeth Loundas 57.2

First Level Open Test 1

1 Bel Sole Toni Over 66.7

2 Beicko Debra Mitchell 62.2

First Level Open Test 2

1 Bel Sole Toni Over 64.4

2 Beicko Debra Mitchell 62.2

First Level Finals Test 3

1 Rianna Susan Peterson 67.4

First Level Open Test 3

1 Riviera Holly Van Sant 55.4

2 GW Ranchman Judy Provencal 54.9

First Level Young Rider Finals Test 3

1 Bionic Gun Alix Day 65.7

First Level Open Test 4

1 GW Ranchman Judy Provencal 55.5

2 Riviera Holly Van Sant

First Level Young Rider Test 4

1 Bionic Gun Alix Day 63.947

Second Level Open Test 1

1 Rianna Susan Peterson 63.9

2 Personal Boy Scott Nickel 61.6

Second Level Young Rider Test 1

1 Liam Anna Schmitt 63.09

Second Level Open Test 2

3 Personal Boy Scott Nickel 54.6

Second Level Young Rider Test 2

1 Liam Anna Schmitt 64.596

Prix St. George Open

1 Royal Drama Queen Susan Brooks 67.65

High Score Senior: Lauren Comish 69.285

High Score Junior: Elizabeth Loundas 69.3

Winter Wind Farm Schooling Show

Oct 25, 2009 Churchville, MD

Judge, Karen Adams R

USDF Intro A Open Test A

- 1 KC's Texel of Texel Jacqueline Caldwell 65
- 2 Thunder BJ Carol Bossone 60.5

USDF Intro B Open Test 2

- 1 KC's Keely of Texel Jacqueline Caldwell 66
- 2 Thunder BJ Carol Bossone 62

Training Level Novice Test 1

- 1 Nina Val Mills 60.434

Training Level Open Test 1

- 2 KC's Keely of Texel Jacqueline Caldwell 57.826

Training Level Young Rider Test 1

- 2 Peppermint Patti Hannah Conway 56.521

Training Level Novice Test 2

- 2 Nina Val Mills 59.285

Training Level Open Test 3

- 1 Odin's Raven Lauren Comish 64.4
- 2 Onyx Carol Bossone 59.6
- 3 Peppermint Patti Brianne Conway 58

Training Level Open Test 4

- 1 Odin's Raven Lauren Comish 66
- 2 Onyx Carol Bossone 60.4
- 3 Peppermint Patti Brianne Conway 54.8

First Level Open Test 1

- 1 Bel Sole' Toni Over 63.666
- 2 Onyx Carol Bossone 60.4
- 3 Beicko Debra Mitchell 54.666

First Level Open Test 2

- 1 Bel Sole' Toni Over 63.333
- 2 Beicko Debra Mitchell 58.333

First Level Open Test 3

- 3 Riveria Holly Van Sant 51.714

First Level Open Test 4

- 3 Riveria Holly Van Sant 52.368

Second Level Open Test 1

- 3 Personal Boy Scott Nickel 52.631

Second Level Open Test 2

- 3 Personal Boy Scott Nickel 53.513

Prix St. George Open

- 1 Royal Drama Queen Susan Brooks 62.631

High Score Senior: Lauren Comish 66

High Score Junior: Hannah Conway 56.521

Show Notes: The Divisions Explained

By. Lauren Comish
showmda@yahoo.com

What is a division? A division is a classification, or sub-group, of riders based on age and experience. Examples of divisions include Junior Rider, Young Rider, Adult Amateur, and Open. The MDA has 3 divisions: Young Rider, Novice, and Open. When entering a show, MDA or otherwise, it is important that you know to what division you belong. At present, MDA does not charge any fees for incorrectly filled out entries, however, the same does not hold true for USEF licensed shows.

Within the MDA, how do I know what division I am?

Young Rider – Riders are eligible to compete as a Young Rider until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 21. For example: Rider A turns 21 on Jan 2 and Rider B turns 21 on December 2. They can both show as Young Riders until the end of the year in which they turned 21.

Novice- This division is often confusing. Within, MDA, this division applies to the rider and not the horse. So, experienced riders with young and/or green horses are not eligible for this division. Riders in this division may not have won more than 3 blue ribbons ever. There is some debate over whether or not the 3 blues ever applies to dressage only or any discipline. Either way, we rely on truthful self-reporting. We do not have access to scores from every other club in the area. This division is intended for beginners and inexperienced riders to gain confidence without the pressure of competing against more experienced riders. As a rider, you know your skill level and experience.

Open- This division applies to most of our riders. Open division starts at the beginning of the calendar year in which one turns 22 and does not have an age limit. This applies to those who ride and train for money as well as those who ride and show for pleasure. Experienced riders showing young and/or green horses must enter in the open division.

What does it mean to ride HC?

HC (hors de concours) means that you are riding for a score, but are not getting a ribbon or placed against the other competitors. Scores from HC rides do not count for Year End Awards. If riders wish to ride the same test twice, the second attempt is automatically HC. Also, if a horse is dropped back more than one level (Second to Training for example), the lower level test must be ridden HC. The purpose of HC is to allow schooling of the upper level horse at lower levels or to allow additional practice without compromising the integrity of the class in question.

A Mustangs New Life in Dressage

By Brenda Selby

Last year, at the first Ship's Quarters Dressage Show, a small horse came and created quite a stir. Little did I know at that time how much attention my new mount was going to get. Main reason, he looks different than the other horses people are used to seeing. Why...he's a "Wild Horse" or otherwise known as a Mustang. Many people questioned what he was, and typically the first question from every judge was about his breeding. Even with his freeze brand, most people didn't identify him as a Mustang.

I bought Brio in February of 2008 after he had been living in captivity for about three and a half years. He was initially "captured" in the area of Challis, Idaho on August 20, 2004. He was adopted September 25, 2004 and relocated to Maryland. At the time of his adoption he was approximately 5 months old. When captured the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) freeze brands the horses with a series of lines and angles that correspond to an ID number.

The past two years have been a great learning experience with Brio, and things never go as expected with a "wild horse". Mainly due to his instinctive self protective nature and issues with trust. He tends to be overly sensitive to noise, especially when he can't identify where the noise is coming from, thinking it is a predator that he needs to escape from. His ears seem to always be on over drive, trying to determine whether he is safe or needs to run (even the adding machine being used in the shed at Ships Quarters!) This is where his trust issues come into play – if the rider is not right there reassuring him that the world is OK, he is very agile and may end up across the ring before you realize it. This created significant issues, as the more he spooked the more worried I became and lost my "leader of the herd" role, and would have to re establish the trust with him. But, once you establish that trust, he will follow, but is always remaining on high alert.

His overly protective nature caused an interesting issue while beginning to take him over jumps. During one of our first lessons, I accidentally leaned forward with pressure on his neck to re balance myself. Apparently, he thought I was a wild animal trying to attack him, as he stopped in his tracks and started shaking his head back and forth until I came off. At that point he went a few steps away, only to look back and apparently realize that it was actually me. And this occurred a few more times before he became desensitized to my periodic loss of balance. By the time of the dressage finals I was able to lean forward and remove all his braids without any concern from him.

Even a simple task like placing splints boots on for the first time became a return to the wild scenario for us. I managed to get one boot on when he almost sat down in the aisle and began to shake – fearing that a predator had clamped on his leg. He actually had to be placed back in his stall to "chill" before getting the second one on. Once the second one was on, he was convinced that he couldn't move – not that he took exaggerated steps- he wouldn't move. He managed to pivot on his hind end to get back into the safety of his stall. Training him to tolerate splint boots actually took a 2 weeks period. Now at the first few dressage shows this created quite an issue. Taking him to unfamiliar arenas, with

continued on page 7

Maryland Dressage Association
Awards Banquet and Silent Auction

To be held at

The Bowman Restaurant & Pub

On

January 11 from 2PM to 5PM
(Doors will not open before 2PM)

\$35.00 per person. One work credit may be used.

Banquet Menu: Deluxe Hot Buffet: Cheese & Fruit & Vegetable Platter – Tossed Green Salad – Mini Crab Imperial – Beef Burgundy – Sliced Turkey – Parsley Potatoes – Hot Vegetable Du Jour – Asparagus -- Cranberry Relish – Cheese Cake or Chocolate Cake, Hot Tea, Iced Tea, & Sodas. The cash bar will be open.

No payment will be accepted at the door! Please send a check for \$35.00 per person, (or include up to one work credit per member and adjust fee. (\$5.00 off for a half credit, \$10.00 off for one credit) and a list of all the members your party, to Brenda Selby **before January 4th.**

Please mail to

" **Brenda Selby, 716 Grant Dr. Hanover, Pa 17331**

" ***You may request a confirmation of your reservation by e-mailing Brenda at bselby12@comcast.net***

" A \$50.00 Raffle will be drawn at the banquet. To enter place your old work credits in the raffle box.

Location of The Bowman Restaurant: 9306 Harford Road, Baltimore, MD. 21234

Directions to Bowman: Take the Harford Road exit off of I-695 and head north, Bowman Restaurant will be a few blocks on your left.

Inclement Weather: If Baltimore County issues a state of emergency due to ice and/or snow, a last minute notice of cancellation and date change will be posted on the Events page of MDA's web site. The restaurant will not give us a refund, but will allow us to reschedule. We will notify you of that date through www.marylanddressage.org

many new sights and sounds; it was difficult to have him always pay attention to me. But as time and the shows went on, he became more trusting and started to show his natural talent. Brio appeared to have a lot of natural talent in his gaits and jumping since the time that I bought him, but he doesn't demonstrate it easily. Although he doesn't appear to do anything mean, he's also not about to show off his talent for free. Some times he will just get down right stubborn, and want things his way. He is also smart enough to realize when he can control a situation and get his way – and repeat it over and over again. So trying to get things right with him on the first try is extremely important.

Over this past year we have made significant gains through hard work, including successfully showing in Training Level. It is amazing to see how much he loves to show off and how much he has matured over the past 2 years. He still attracts a significant amount of attention at shows, especially from those who haven't seen him before, and I'm sure he doesn't mind the attention.

Our goal is to continue to progress through the levels and perhaps qualify for BLM and / or All Breed awards. I'm actually very proud to be showing a "non conventional" horse and having him perform so well.

An Adult Amateurs Who Made it to Devon

By Christie Scotch

Dressage at Devon - The horse show of horse shows in America that many revere as the most prestigious America has to offer. For adult amateurs, it is something we dream of going to watch one day, but few of us dare to dream to actually compete at Devon. This year, this adult amateur got the wild hair to go to Devon with her 8 year old Oldenburg mare, Kontessa, and compete at Prix St. George. What might set us apart from others in our situation was the following: Kontessa is my first dressage horse whom I bought over the internet as a 4 year old from North Carolina with 3 weeks of backing. How I ended up at Devon, was a dream I never imagined would come true, but it did! I didn't have a trainer to train my horse or to help me move up the levels.

How I ended up at Devon, was a dream I never imagined would come true, but it did!

I somehow managed to learn and move up by reading, practicing a lot, watching a lot, and at one point being able to afford about 10 lessons/month with Jason Canton for 2 months. I also managed to get the privilege of riding with Conrad Schumacher at Poplar Place.

Without a regular trainer or coach, Kontessa and I learned to do flying lead changes (from reading a "how to" article on the internet). We started practicing tempi changes, etc. Along the way, we won the Region 3 Championships at First Level in 2006. We went on to ride Second and Third level with scores in the upper 60s and low 70s. We were able to get occasional lessons with Jason and clinics with Conrad every once in a while when we could afford to ride with him when he was in the country.

We earned our USDF Bronze Medal and went on to work on our Silver. In the meantime, my husband lost his job, and he decided we needed to sell Tess. In order to do so, I told him we needed to show her some. So in June of this year, after riding with Conrad Schumacher in April in North Carolina and my last lesson with Jason being in January of this year, I decided to try to show Tess at FEI Prix St. George to increase her value and hopefully get our USDF Silver Medal. At our first show, we scored a 66.579% both days winning High Score Adult Amateur, and 2nd and 3rd Place High Score overall (after Jason Canton). We showed at Conyers the following weekend (PSG and Fourth Level) and earned our Silver Medal in 2 shows! And we did this without lessons or coaching since the April clinic with Conrad. (My friend, Lucile, did serve as an "eye on the ground" a couple of times before showing Tess and really helped us make sure we were on the right track.)

It was at this point that my mind started getting crazy notions like going to Devon. I won't go into the details of how this came to be, but suffice it to say that we managed to qualify as well as get some people to sponsor us so that we could defray some of the costs associated with going. We needed a truck and trailer too, since we owned neither. A dear friend offered to let me use her trailer, and we were able to rent a truck very cheaply.

So, off we went. We were going to Devon to "represent" Alabama and Adult Amateurs everywhere!

It was a fantastic experience and one I'll never forget. We packed up and pulled out of Birmingham heading north around 7:30 pm on Sunday, September 25th. After a very long night of driving through rain, rough traffic in D.C., expensive toll roads, and confusing roads in Pennsylvania, we finally pulled into the showgrounds at Devon at 12:30 PM, Monday. Needless to say, we were all very tired...Darren, Tess, and me.

We used Monday and Tuesday to recover from the long trip and to enjoy the beginning of the show which included seeing a lot of foals and weanlings in the "Breed Division" of Dressage at Devon. Wednesday and Thursday were spent settling in and schooling for our big Prix St. George class on Friday. The best part about those days was the fact that I did not get the feeling of being "out-classed" or "out of my league." Tess and I were able to hold our heads up high amid the myriad of professionals on spectacular horses knowing that we too had earned the right to be there. (That was a special surprise and a huge answer to prayer.) If you are familiar to any kind of competition, you know that the mental part of competition is usually the biggest obstacle to overcome. Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning, the FEI vet came around to each of our horse's stalls to inspect the horses and confirm that the horse represented in their FEI Passport matched the horse that we were competing with. (Yes, horses have to have passports too. Go figure!)

Thursday afternoon was the soundness "Jog." This is where each of the competitors has to show up with their horse "in-hand" before a "jury" who would inspect your horse for soundness in order to compete. It included the FEI vet and some of the judges for the show as well as the USDF Technical Delegate and several other important people.

This was the Judges' first time to see our horses, so first impressions are very important. Not only did we need to

make sure our horses were braided and groomed to perfection, but we too needed to be very nicely “turned-out.” After each horse does their jog before the jury, they pronounce whether your horse is “accepted,” needed to be “re-inspected,” or “not accepted.” After our jog, the judges quickly pronounced, “Horse #707 – ‘accepted!’” Yeah! We were clear to compete!

Later that Thursday, they did the “draw” for ride times on Friday. Our class started at 8:00 in the morning and wasn’t over until around 4:30 that afternoon. Out of a total of 44 entries, I was one of only two adult amateurs. Everyone else in our class were “professionals.” My ride time was later in the afternoon. My sister and her husband drove to town Thursday evening from New York City, and we enjoyed dinner with them at a local restaurant in Devon. It was so special to me that they would take time out of their busy schedules to come visit us and cheer us on as we competed.

Schooling your horse and warming up at Devon is an “experience” all in its self. There is very limited area for warming up, and so all of the horses and riders had to use that small area to get ready for their rides. What made it even more “tricky” is that all of us were in the FEI Level of competition, which meant that horses were not just going in straight lines like they do at “normal” horse shows. We were all working half-passes across the diagonal, working tempi changes across the diagonal, medium and extended gaits...also across the diagonal, and doing small circles, etc. It was impossible to predict what anyone was going to do before-hand, so trying to do your own movements amidst the chaos and avoid collisions was quite an experience. As I was told in advance by others who have been to Devon before, the atmosphere was “electric.” And so it was!

When we went into the ring, Tess and I were really excited. We rode our test and scored a very respectable overall 62% placing us in the middle of our class and beating a lot of the professionals. I learned a lot about what the judges are looking for when I got my score sheets back. (It is amazing how exact each movement has to be and what the judges expect.)

While I would have LOVED to have won the class or at least placed, I know that that was a very long shot. Thanks so much to my dear friend, Lucile White, for her encouragement and perspective on the entire experience.

Later that evening, I was encouraged by another friend to try to enter an extra class on Saturday and Sunday...to fill any scratch that was free. We did and ended up placing 2nd on Saturday at Fourth Level...also beating a lot of professionals.

Overall, we had such a great time at Devon. And we were very pleasantly surprised to find out that the majority of people that we met were very friendly. We were able to develop friendships with a group of people from Washington who drove 4 days to get there as well as a young rider from Michigan and many professionals like Dr. Cesar Parra, George Williams, Scott Hassler, and Chris Hickey...just to name a few.

Darren was especially instrumental in helping us meet people. I believe almost everyone in our stable area knew him by the time we left. He always found time to help others when they needed to borrow a wheel barrow, help clean a stall, walk or hold a horse, etc. And he was an amazing help to me as well. I certainly couldn’t have done any of this without him and his support.

Many people started packing up on Sunday and leaving the show. We along with others who had a long drive ahead of us packed up on Sunday but planned to leave early the next morning. And on Monday morning, around 4:00 am, we said goodbye to Devon. We didn’t pull into Windwood in Birmingham until 7:00 that night, and it took us until 9:00 before Darren and I got to our house. What a great feeling it was to sleep in our own beds!

I could go on for hours about our various experiences at Devon, but I won’t bore all of you with those details. Suffice it to say... The atmosphere was electric... The people were friendly and fun... The competition was world-class... And the memories and the things I learned...priceless. Thank you so much for everyone who played a part in making all this happen.

Tess is still for sale, and my husband still doesn’t have a job. But she proved that she is an amazing horse to be able to take this adult amateur from both of us being as ignorant as rocks to competing at Prix St. George. Take away from my experience: Don’t let anyone tell you that you can’t do something because of limitations. Dream big. Hope big. And live victorious.

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Sept 9 MDA General Meeting

In attendance: Jacqueline Caldwell, Lauren Comish, Susan Peterson, Phoebe Devoe-Moore, Claudia Kleinsmith, Erica DeGele, Carol Forman, Linda Seybold, Jill Blackburn, Sue Van Norman, Susan Brooks

August 9, 2009 Meeting Minutes read by Jacqueline Caldwell. Lauren Comish approved corrected minutes. Seconded by Sue Van Norman.

YR Report- Read by Erica DeGele. Interest in setting up YR committee.

Motion made by Lauren Comish to amend motion to allow use of YR Team Competition scores for MDA year end awards. Seconded by Sue Brooks. Vote was unanimous.

Membership report of 157 members read by Carol Foreman. Sue Van Norman approved report, seconded by Lauren Comish. Vote was unanimous.

Treasurer's report read by Sue Van Norman-YR funds \$978.00

Motion made by email vote to approve Christopher Hickey clinic on Nov 21 and 22 for 1 free ride for members who volunteered in past year and are members prior to Sept. 1st and \$110.00 for 2nd ride. Members may audit for free if volunteered in past year and \$20.00 for other auditors. Vote was unanimous.

Motion made by Lauren Comish to close meeting. Seconded by Carol Foreman.

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Susan Brooks
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Chair-Jill Blackburn
Committee members
Open positions
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Kathy Plummer
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Nominating*

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Marylin Mcfadin

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Linda Seybold
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Omnibus

Board

Public Relations

Paula Bollinger
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Recognized Show

Jill Blackburn

Scholarships

Schooling Shows

Chair—Lauren Comish 443
-504-5894
Committee members
Linda Seybold ribbons/tests

Silent Auction

Debra English

Web Committee

Linda Elliott

Work Credits

Marie Burns

Writing Awards

Linda Elliott

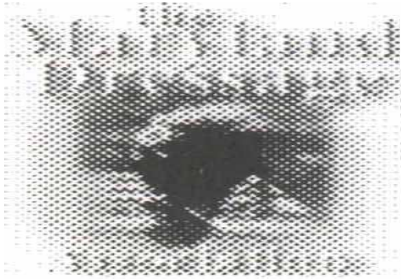
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Maryland Dressage Membership Application Form 2010

MDA is a USDF Group Member Organization and members are automatically included in USDF. Membership year for USDF is December 1 to November 30th. Our membership year is January 1 through Dec. 31st. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for your membership to process from MDA to USDF. Applications received after October 1st are renewed for the following year. Please make out checks to Maryland Dressage Association, Inc.

Mail to: Carol Foreman, 6712 Lewis Road Baldwin, Md. 21013

Visit our website at: www.marylanddressage.org.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: State: Zipcode: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Please be sure to spell your email address correctly so that we can reach you if your application does not process completely

Membership Type:

Senior - \$35 Junior - \$30 Birthdate _____

Family - \$35 for an adult and \$17 each additional person (If Junior, include date of birth.)

Primary name above-additional family members below:

First, Last _____ Junior Birthdate _____

First, Last _____ Junior Birthdate _____

Indicate each member that is a rider for USDF purposes.

Are you a new member? Yes

How did you hear of us? Internet MDA Member Horse Expo Trainer USDF

Please select the following skills or jobs that you would like to help with:

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Show Organizer. | <input type="checkbox"/> Scribing | <input type="checkbox"/> Gatekeeper | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Show Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> Setup at Shows | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Other skill (please specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scoring at shows | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality at | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Web site | |

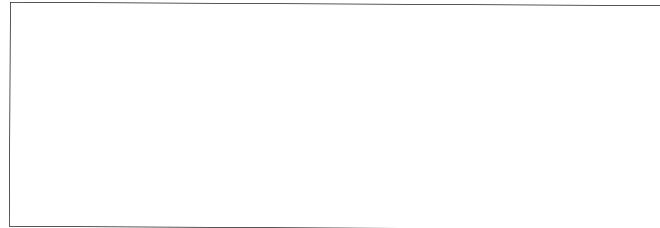
If you would like to contribute to the following please indicate amount:

_____ Young Riders Championship _____ Trophy Fund

_____ Joyce B Broccolino Memorial Fund



c/o Jill Blackburn
1814 Poole Road
Darlington, MD 21034



We have you in site!
www.marylanddressage.org