



Half-halt



The Newsletter for the Southeastern Chapter of the Virginia Dressage Association
Volume Number 36 Issue Number 8 August 2024

Happy Summer!

Seahorse Run Show



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New goals for SVDA members at our schooling shows: earn bronze, silver, gold, and ebony charms with scores of 70% or higher! 🏆🥈🥉🖤 Celebrate with a little bling ✨

We now have an online shop for SVDA logo items:

<https://southeastvda.itemorder.com/>

You can place orders directly to the shop, pay, and items will ship right to you.



Don't forget that for all schooling shows and clinics sponsored by SVDA - a CURRENT negative coggins must be received or you will not be allowed to participate. SVDA must submit a report listing all horses, owners and coggins accession numbers to the Va Dept of Agriculture for every sponsored event. We cannot make exceptions. So please get your coggins drawn early to allow processing time so that we don't have to refuse your participation on the day of a show or clinic.





Kathy Rowse
USDF "S" Judge
USDF "L" Faculty Member
USDF Bronze, Silver & Gold Medalist
Grand Prix Rider, Instructor & Trainer
Teaching Beginners thru Grand Prix



Also available to teach at Silverleaf Farm:

Kate Knick, USDF Bonze & Silver Medalist

www.silverleaffarm.org

1468 Peppercorn Lane
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SVDA 2024 Calendar

Schooling Show Schedule

Date	Location	Judge	Open	Close
07/28/24	Seahorse Run	Kat Sepka 'L'	07/01/24	07/15/24
08/25/24	Kelly Coyne Dressage	AnnMari Ingersoll 'L'*	07/29/24	08/12/24
09/29/24	River Birch Farm	Elise Enoch 'L'*	08/26/24	09/16/24
10/27/24	SVDA Championship Show Wakefield 4H Center	Robyn Nunnally 'L'@C Kris Hamilton @B Heather Hamilton	09/30/24 Ring 2	10/14/24

*L Graduate with Distinction

**USEF WD "R" Judge

Sanctioned schooling shows

Wakefield Airfield 4-H Center

10/26/24 TBA

Crescent Bay Pony club held at Northwest River Park

08/18/24

10/20/24

Deep Creek Stables

Licensed Show 2023

August

10/11 Tryon Fall Dressage 3 & 4 – Mill Spring, NC

24/25 VADA/NOVA Summer Wind down I & II – Leesburg, VA

30/01 NCDCTA Labor of Love I

Cool Down Dressage – Pinehurst, NC

SVDA Board Meeting

25 July 2024 @ 7:00 pm via Teleconference

Secretary Minutes

Call to order by Cookie at 7:00 PM

Roll Call:

P	Cookie Parsons	A	Beth Ripple	P	Deb Sweetman	A	Shari Cutchin	A	Susan Gaston
A	Amanda Britton	P	Lora Gibson	P	Charlene Jensen	A	Whitney Kelso	A	Kim Bliefertich
A	Sarah Miller	P	Wendy Wilde	P	Amanda Hard	P	Karen Barnard	A	Joanne Smith
A	Sandy Toby	A	Katherine Gardner	P	Pinki Hipp	P	Robyn Nunnally		

Old Business: Motion to approve May 9th minutes and seconded.

VADA Rep(Robyn):

- The DAL show was a success with 202 horses and almost 400 entries. No word yet on the financials of this show.
- The R1 Youth Team Championships in Fredericksburg, was well supported with riders. After some discussion otherwise, I believe this show will continue at Rosemount in 2025.
- GAIGS October 10 - 13, also in Lexington
- SVDA did not sponsor anything at DAL and is assumed will not sponsor anything for GAIGS. At this point, the VADA treasury is much healthier than SVDA's.
- Lilo Fore clinic is planned for spring 2025 in Lexington. VADA will once again sponsor team jackets for the NAYJRC R1 teams. There has been some discussion of making a large donation to the VA Horse Center for continued facility improvements, as well as making a \$500 donation to the R1 Youth Team Championships.
- There still remains a few openings for the L Grad program.

President (Cookie):

- Seahorse show for July 28th is cancelled due to rain. Laura Gladden is going to try and reschedule.
- Due to SVDA's treasury being so low a post was placed for an online auction. A few items have been received for the auction but if anyone has items they would like to donate please contact Cookie.
- The proceeds from the Seahorse show will go to the juniors as they are working the show. Entries are very low so there is a concern as to how much the profit will be.

Vice President (Beth):

- Will cancel the insurance for the July28th show due to cancellation.

Treasurer (Shari):

- Current balance is \$11,555.72 as of 23 July 2023.

Secretary (Deb):

- Minutes were posted in the Half Halt Newsletter

Membership (Susan):

- Memberships continue to be submitted but at a much slower pace than at the beginning of the year. The vast majority of the members have been using the online payment option rather than submitting checks.
- Continuing to work with Nancy Doody and VADA to ensure the information being submitted on behalf of SVDA is accurate and correct format. I also am working with Nancy on the electronic version of VADA's "purple book."

Scholarships (Whitney):

- No one has used any of the scholarship funds for this year to date.

Juniors (Charlene):

- Six out of seven riders attended the Region 1 Youth Team Challenge. One horse had a fracture and there was no substitute. This occurred after the closing date so there was no refund.
- Thank you to Kate Knick and Katie Miller for coaching.
- SVDA group won the tack stall decorating contest. Every horse/rider combination represented a different county and decorated with airline and country themed decorations. SVDA's Airline slogan was "Exceptional Service for Exceptional Horses".
- Team 1: 1st place for 13 and under grouping –
 - o Peyton Connolly and Yoshi – 2nd place for Pony Cup

- McKinley Smith and Alexander Hamilton – 6th place Pony Cup, DSE Champion for 13 and under.
- Ava Miller and Whispering Keepsake – 5th place Pony Cup
- Team 2: 4th place for 14-18 age group
 - Alyssa Henkle and Wiley Coyote
 - Addie Henkle and Cayman
 - Mackenzie Smith and Risky Business
- Fundraising:
 - The SVDA Junior team will be having concessions for the remaining SVDA shows. They were to work the July 28th show but it has been cancelled due to rain.
 - The Juniors will be hosting the USDF Judging Education on Collective Remarks on August 27th 7:30pm-9:30pm. There are 4 judges signed up and 2 auditors. That puts us at the breakeven point with \$300 income minus the Instructor cost \$250 and application fee was \$40. That leaves \$10 profit and any additional registration will go toward the team expenses from the Region 1 show. Please share the information on your Facebook page and sign-up to support the Junior Team as well as improve your knowledge of what the collective marks mean and how judges score that area.
 - Silent Auction – Several donations from Rhea Matson have been received. Please contact Charlene to let her know who will be coordinating the auction.

Newsletter (Sarah):

- Nothing to report.

Website (Wendy):

- Nothing to report.

Clinics and Programs: (Kim):

- Lauren Sprieser Clinic at Silverleaf, Nov 2nd and 3rd, is active on the website and is open for people to sign up. Lauren will also be doing a lecture on the rider biomechanics during the membership meeting.
- General Membership meeting will be held on Nov 3rd during the clinic.

Volunteer Coordinator (Amanda H.):

- Volunteer hours are up to date through July 7.
- In need of Entry Secretaries for August and September shows.
- In need of volunteers (pretty much all positions) for August, September, and October shows.

Volunteer of the Day Program (Robyn):

- Nothing to report.

Schooling Shows (Lora):

04 Aug	Seahorse Run	2733 Whaleyville Blvd, Suffolk, VA This is a rescheduled show from 07/28	Laura Gladden	Kat Sepka, L Grad w/Distinction
25 Aug	Kelly Coyne Dressage	1492 Pleasant Ridge Rd, Virginia Beach, VA	Kelly Coyne	Annmari Ingersol, L Grad w/Distinction
28 Sep	River Birch Farm	30470 Camp Parkway, Courtland, VA 23837	Ann Gayle	Elise Enoch, L Grad w/Distinction
27 Oct	Wakefield Championship	15188 Airfield Rd, Wakefield, VA 23888		Robyn Nunnally, L Grad w/Distinction, USDF WD "R" Judge
				Kris Hamilton, "I" Judge Heather Hamilton. L Grad w/Distinction

Championship Show (Cookie):

- Still in need of volunteers to help with show. Pinky and Cookie will work on this show but can use more help!!
- Working on Championship ribbons.

Awards (Amanda B.):

- We will work on these later in the year unless there are suggestions.

Ribbons: (Karen):

- No change with the ribbons...there are plenty!

Q&A:

- Concerning shows in July/August, is there any way to alter the schedule to start in late Feb, skip July and August and then pick up for September, October and November? Amanda H. will create a survey to membership input.

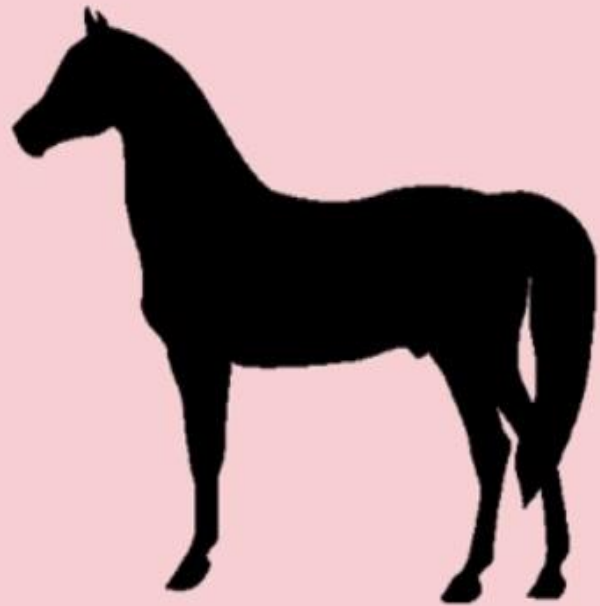
Meeting Adjourned at 7:24 PM

Next meeting September 5, 2024 at 7:30 PM

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- Mucking stalls
- Feed and Hay pickup
- Horse grooming and bathing
- Blanketing
- Misc barn/pet chores
- Minor first aid treatment



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Hope Hughes (757)-613-0794

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Rider Responsibilities and Roadblocks in the Debbie Rodriguez Clinic, by

Sonya Hunt (From the VADA website)

VADA/Nova's Debbie Rodriguez Clinic was held at beautiful Windswept Farm. It started with brief illumination from the sun before fleeing into the spacious indoor due to the rain. However, the rays of light continued to shine as each rider stepped through Debbie's method of discovering their partnership in a new light. Debbie listened to each rider on where she struggled, but had everyone start in walk. Lower-level horses tended to perform leg yield to a halt and then a turn on the forehand. The walk was eliminated after several repetitions. More advanced horses started in "baby" half pass to turn on haunches. "Baby" half passes have no leg crossing and serve to loosen up the horse and encourage forward motion. A few horses were nervous and so Debbie had them walk figures to relax and focus the mind. One horse walked a 10-meter circle at each letter to focus his thoughts so his body could relax.

Why such a slow start? Debbie explained she was looking for losses of balance and the rider's coordination of aids in response to the loss of balance or lack of flexion or bend. Next steps were exercises to strengthen the weak limb or fix the loss of balance. A neck strap was used for a few people to be conscious of their hands and for a young horse that wanted to chest dive. Half halting with the neck strap first, helped a mare understand the request and be more responsive to the bit aid. All riders were reminded to keep our upright balance and be purposeful with the aids. Most riders mentioned uneven rein contact and stiffness as being something they wanted to correct. Debbie reminded riders to use personal phrasing when speaking about their horse and Roadblocks in their minds. Instead of saying "he's locked on the bit and won't flex," she said to remember, "I need to flex the horse and release versus pulling my horse." "Lubricating the ball joint between their ears," was commonly mentioned. She also emphasized correcting and moving past it, saying we should give an aid and expect a response, even if the response given isn't our goal, but it's part of the journey.

After warm up, the exercises diverged greatly. Balance, correct aids, and feeling for the horses' response were firmly put into Rider Responsibilities! Debbie quietly, but firmly, insisted each rider move past the Roadblock. For some it was pushing for more sit in the canter or trot, which felt awkward as the horse fumbled to figure out the steps and trust its strength. Haunches-in on a circle, and performing two steps of walk or canter pirouette at A, E, C, B to form a diamond were a favored exercise for strengthening horse. For several, getting flexion or bend and not letting the horse dictate when or where was a huge Roadblock. One mare would threaten to kick out or bounce in place, another gelding just stood like a statue. Debbie shouted with encouragement, "it's my rein, I decide what to do with it, sucker," emboldening the rider to not release that rein and to displace the horse's haunches as they had been shown. The opposite rein was allowed, but how much depended on the circumstances. Both horses were better the following day with this straightforward technique and, "letting the moment fall behind you." Switching between lateral movements and the diamond exercise described above became building blocks versus Roadblocks. The "my rein" phrase rang out encouraging rider to be bold, but fair.

Pairs not ready for diamond exercise found purpose in creating a steady tempo and consistent stride on the 20-meter circle. Getting six strides for every quarter of a circle is harder than it seems when the horse is distracted or tense. Taking this tempo to the rail and maintaining it throughout lateral movements or changes of direction highlight the foundation, which must be laid no matter the location. I found it easier to maintain my suddenly tense, distracted "Barbie" palomino by bringing my elbows close and using my leg to insist on maintaining direction and tempo. At shows, I can become a distraction and he can tune me out when I get busy and compromise my Rider Responsibilities. The circle was used by all as a tempo and stride check the second day. Some even to the tune of a metronome! Watching one combination gain uphill push while collecting and extending to the same beat highlighted the importance of the exercise - six strides per quarter circle. It all builds from this foundation and watching Debbie use the same tools in various ways was enlightening and encouraging.

I enjoyed the positivity and expectation from Debbie to, "school your horse like perfection is possible." She agreed that compromises may have to be made at competitions to give the horse courage and mileage. However, when schooling, she encouraged each rider to ride a few more repetitions of the exercise as we feel it improving to encourage ourselves and our horse to reach for more. When schooling, flexion can be adjusted during a movement to encourage balance and stop the stiffening just as we may combine half pass to leg yield or forward motion to a halt to preserve balance.

Finally, I realized I seldom audit clinics. However, as I was taking photos and waiting for my ride toward the end of the day, I realized I was absorbing a lot of valuable tools and mindset that Debbie Rodriguez brings to her clinic. There was no speaker so we couldn't hear every word but that kept us focused too. In between riders, Debbie would ask if we had questions and thoughtfully answer. Balance is now in the spotlight for me and knowing I will remember Debbie and her purposeful movements as I dance with my horse each ride.

Old Mill Dressage



Suffolk, VA

757-582-2939



Sandy Toby

**USDF Bronze, Silver & Gold Medalist
"L" Graduate w/Distinction**

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August

2024 Schooling Show at Morven Park

VADA/NOVA

3 August 2024

Morven Park Equestrian Center Leesburg, VA

Southwest Biomechanics Clinic with Stacy Patterson

9-11 August 2024

Virginia Tech Alphin-Stuart Arena

Blacksburg, VA

Northeast VADA Schooling Shows

19 August 2024

Edgehill Stables, Aylett, Va

VADA/NOVA Summer Wind Down I and II Licensed Show at Moren Park

24-25 August 2024

Morven Park, Leesburg, VA

SVDA Schooling Show

25 August 2024

Kelly Coyne Dressage

Virginia Beach, VA

Southeast (SVDA)

Continuing Education Judging Program "Collective Marks"

August 27, 2024, 7:30pm – 9:30pm EST Webinar Lecture

September

42nd CBLM Championships

13-15 September 2024

Carolina Horse Park, Raeford, NC

VADA-Fredericksburg

Dressage at Rose Mount

14 & 15 September 2024 (Last week for qualifying)

Rose Mount Farm, Spotsylvania, VA

Northeast Virginia Dressage Association Schooling Shows

22 September 2024

Edgehill Stables, Aylett, Va

SVDA Schooling Show

29 September 2024

River Birch Farm Equestrian Center

Courtland, VA

October

Northeast VADA

Dressage @ The State Fair of Virginia

2 October 2024

Doswell, VA

VADA-Central

Emily Donaldson Clinic

5-6 August 2024

Chestnut Oak Stable, Ruther Glen, VA

Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 1 Championships and VADA Fall Show

10-13 October 2024

Virginia Horse Center. Lexington, VA

SVDA Schooling Show

27 October 2024

Airfield Conference Center

Wakefield, VA 23888

November

VADA/Nova Fall Open and Schooling Show Championship

2 November 2024

Morven Park Equestrian Center, Leesburg, VA

Southeast Lauren Sprieser Clinic *(New)*

2-3 November 2024

Location TBA

US Dressage Finals

7-10 November 2024

KHP Lexington, KY

Northeast Virginia Dressage Association Schooling Show

10 November 2024

Edgehill Stables, Aylett, Va

VADA BOARD MEETING MINUTES 7-31-24 VIA ZOOM

Participating: Sheli King (VN); Tina Longaker (C'ville); Jessie Ginsburg (NOVA); Alison Douglas (Central); Robyn Nunnally (SVDA); Nancy Doody (C'ville); Rachel Rice (NOVA); Christina Arrington (Central); Muffin Smith (SWVADA); Sandy Toby (SVDA); Anne Draine (NE); Eleszabeth McNeel (C'ville) and member Dianne Boyd

Minutes: The minutes from the June meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report: Jessie reported that the combined balances are \$219,383. This includes deposits for the L program but no expenses.

Membership Report: We currently have 580 members with USDF.

DAL: We lost about \$3100 this year but that's much better than the \$15,000 we lost last year with about the same size show. We saved money with the competitor party and purchasing our own breakfast treats and having a volunteer drive the breakfast cart. We also raised some class fees. A couple of things that we'll be looking at before next year are to try to get the SHAC program sponsored and taking a look at the financials on the breed show- is it making money. Dianne reported that the show ran well- we dealt with the heat by having water at every ring. We had good participation in the challenge classes as well as SHAC. The social media campaign helped.

On-line Educational Dentistry Clinic: Dr. True will be holding the zoom clinic on August 7th at 8pm. The format will be 50 minutes of lecture followed by a question-and-answer period. Signup is available on the website. We currently have 17 people signed up. If this type of program is well received, we can work on some ideas for next year.

Annual GMO Awards: We had two submissions. The board decided to nominate both for different categories for newsletter awards.

Charitable Donations/Sponsorships: Sheli attended Carter Bass' memorial service and reported that the family identified the Dressage Foundation as their choice for donations. Jessie made a motion, seconded by Rachel, that VADA make a \$500 donation in honor of Carter. The motion passed unanimously.

Lending Library: Patty Howell, from the Central Chapter, reached out to Nancy Doody with the idea to make the lending library that she runs for Central open to all VADA members. In exchange for volunteer hours, she will absorb the cost of shipping books to those requesting. Some books need to be returned, some do not, and some are rare books that are for review only in person. Nancy will work with Patty to create an online form.

L Program Update: Kat has filled 29 of the 30 slots for participants. She is researching a hotel with a classroom area that is feasible. The format will be one day farm and one day classroom.

Chapter Updates: PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE SENDING INFO TO NANCY DOODY FOR THE WEBSITE. It's free advertising for any shows and clinics you're holding.

Central-

Charlottesville- Dressage fundamentals clinic on August 24th at Cedar Creek with Erin Sweeney.

Fredericksburg – Licensed show September 14-15 at Rosemont.

NEVADA – Schooling show series at Edgehill Farm-Aug 6th (evening show), Nikki Vogel clinic August 17th with a schooling show on the 18th judge Joanna Gray-Riddle, September 22nd judge Robyn Nunnally, October schooling show with be at the State Fair with judge AnnMari Ingersoll date tbd, November 10th judge tbd

NOVA – Aug 24-25 Summer Wind Down I and II Licensed shows at Morven Park, Nov 2nd 24 Schooling Show Championship and Fall Show at Morven Park

ShenVADA – They will be holding a clinic with date tbd.

SVDA- Schooling Shows- August 25th at Kelly Coyne Dressage with Annmari Ingersoll judging, Sept 29th at River Birch Farm with Elise Enoch judging, Oct 27th at Airfield with Robyn Nunnally and Kris and Heather Hamilton for Western Dressage. They are also having a Continuing Education Webinar with Joan Darnell on the Collective Marks on Dressage Tests August 27th from 7:30 to 9:30.

SWVADA- Biomechanics clinic with Stacy Pattison August 9th thru 11th at the Alphin Stuart Arena at VA Tech. They are also funding grants to young rides for them to use for educational/show opportunities. Information regarding submissions will be on their website.

NEXT MEETING Wednesday August 29th at 8 pm

Respectfully submitted by Alison Douglas



2024 Show August 4-20th
 Judge: Pat Beck's, Chairman
 Location: Nashville TN
 2731 Whiteside Blvd
 Nashville, TN 37207

Class Name	Number	Age	Name	Sex	Price	Days	Photo
Two B Groups (20)	8:00	11	Bernady Nichols	Female LBA	66.029	229.50	1
Fourth Level Test 2 (AA)	9:10	25	Hannah Saker	Female	63.684	292.50	1
Second Level Test 2 (B)	9:18	25	Caroline Newham	Male	64.923	361.00	1
First Level Test 2 (C)	8:24	75	Sandy Tilly	Female Fair Star Saddle	67.121	281.00	1
First Level Test 2 (AA)	8:34	241	Jenna Karchenal	Male	63.854	246.00	1
	8:42	199	Morgan Burton	Male	61.818	209.50	2
Training Level Test 2 (B)	8:50	244	Jennifer Cobb	Female	69.827	302.50	1
	8:58	434	Ellie Enock	Female Dark Smart Hood	63.565	185.50	2
Second Level Test 2 (AA)	9:06	241	Jenna Karchenal	Male	64.286	333.00	1
Two B First Level Test 2 (AA)	9:14	189	Morgan Burton	Male	61.217	202.00	1
Training Level Test 2 (C)	9:22	244	Jennifer Cobb	Female	73.244	190.50	1
Training Level Test 2 (B)	9:28	434	Ellie Enock	Female	62.600	126.00	1
First Level Test 2 (AA)	9:26	89	Kimberly Stefenich	Female	Scratch	-	-
Working Break 10 min 9:44-9:59							
Introductory Level Test 2 (AA)	9:59	77	Jacquelyn Bushong	Female	65.537	101.50	1
Training Level Test 2 (AA)	10:05	88	Kimberly Stefenich	Female	59.600	144.00	2
	10:12	88	Patsy Gifford	Female	64.200	140.50	1
	10:19	404	C. Elizabeth	Female	Scratch	-	-
Working Level Test 2 (B)	10:28	77	Jacquelyn Bushong	Female	62.187	98.50	1
	10:32	128	Jennifer Cobb	Female	Scratch	-	-
Introductory Level Test 2 (AA) 800	10:38	355	Dannon Buekow	Male	800	800	800
Training Level Test 2 (AA)	10:44	25	Denise Lautenschlager	Female	61.324	179.00	1
	10:52	404	C. Elizabeth	Female	Scratch	-	-
	11:00	404	Kathleen Conner	Female	Scratch	-	-
Introductory Level Test 2 (C)	11:08	128	Jennifer Cobb	Female	65.000	130.00	1



Training Level Test 2 (AA)	11:14	355	Dannon Buekow	Male	67.214	140.00	1
	11:21	25	Denise Lautenschlager	Female	60.384	131.00	2
Working Break 20 min 12:08-12:28							
Introductory Level Test 2 (AA)	11:48	40	Kathleen Conner	Female	Scratch	-	-
	11:54	88	Art Thompson	Male	61.250	115.00	2
	12:00	80	Nancy Jones	Female	64.285	119.00	1
	12:06	12	Karen Stirling	Female	63.185	101.00	2
Two B Groups (AA)	12:12	67	Tammy Wood	Female	62.088	219.50	1
Introductory Level Test 2 (AA)	12:22	88	Art Thompson	Male	63.187	107.50	2
	12:28	40	Kathleen Conner	Female	Scratch	-	-
	12:34	80	Nancy Jones	Female	64.092	110.50	1
Introductory Level Test 2 (AA)	12:40	12	Karen Stirling	Female	63.000	126.00	2
	12:46	88	Art Thompson	Male	64.200	140.00	1
	800	355	Dannon Buekow	Male	65.000	140.00	1

Show Ends 12:30

Licensed Show schedule for 2024

August

- 03/04 **Early Morning Blues** – Pinehurst, NC
10/11 **Tryon Fall Dressage 3 & 4** – Mill Spring, NC
17/18
24/25 **VADA/NOVA Summer Wind down I & II** – Leesburg, VA
30/01 **NCDCTA Labor of Love I**
Cool Down Dressage – Pinehurst. NC

September

- 30/01 **NCDCTA Labor of Love II**
Cool Down Dressage – Pinehurst. NC
07/08 **Whispering Miracles Dressage I & II** – Va. Beach, VA
14/15 ***Tryon Fall Dressage 1 & 2** – Mill Spring, NC
NCDCTA Harvest Moon Dressage – Reaford, NC
VADAF Dressage at Rosemont I & II – Spotsylvania, VA
21/22
28/29

October

- 05/06
10/13 **Great American Insurance Group** – Lexington, VA
19/20
26/27

November

- 01/03 **NCDCTA Autumn Leaves & 2024 NCDCTA
Championship** – Reaford, NC
09/10



FIRST OF ALL YOU MUST GET YOUR PONY BALANCED



HE WILL NOT GET FAR OTHERWISE

Life is short...



Fergus
© Jon Abernethy 2013

...stop and smell the horses.