



# Half-Halt

The Newsletter for the Southeastern Chapter of the Virginia Dressage Association

Volume Number 38 Issue Number 4 April 2026



## 2026 Board of Directors

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Ljane77@hotmail.com

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**Awards:** Amanda Petroski-Britton,

[Amanda.petroski@verizon.net](mailto:Amanda.petroski@verizon.net)

**2026 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:** If you have not already done so, please plan to renew your membership. Membership period is January 1 - December 31. You can renew and pay online: <https://fs27.formsite.com/vablond25aolcom/form2/index.html>.

**2026 Rates:**

Senior Member \$57

Youth Member (21 and under) \$47

Farm/Family Membership \$110

(Farm/Family includes two members - additional members can be added at \$50 each-maximum four members)

## Members at Large:

Dahlia Jenson-dahliajensen0113@gmail.com

Amanda Chaves-amandachavesrealtor@gmail.com

Katherine Gardner-Katherinegardner7@hotmail.com

Mary DiJoseph - marydijoseph95@gmail.com

**VADA Rep:**

Robyn Nunnally

[robynnunnally@aol.com](mailto:robynnunnally@aol.com)

Sandy Toby

[omdressage@gmail.com](mailto:omdressage@gmail.com)

Lorna "Cookie" Parsons

[Ljane77@hotmail.com](mailto:Ljane77@hotmail.com)

## ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS:

### SVDA Volunteer of the Day Program

In addition to receiving volunteer hours for volunteering at a show, SVDA is implementing a Volunteer of the Day program at schooling shows. All volunteers' names will be placed in a hat (one time for half day volunteers, two times for whole day volunteers) and one name will be randomly drawn. The winner can select their choice from a variety of gifts and gift cards, each with a \$25 value. Available choices are gift cards from Chick-fil-A, Wawa, Starbucks, SmartPak, Sugar Shack at the Mingle, and a gift bag from Cypress Saddlery. At the first 3 shows, we also have vouchers for free Chick-Fil-A sandwiches for some randomly selected volunteers.

### SVDA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

Each year, SVDA members are eligible to apply for Scholarship and Foundation funds to further their advancement in dressage.

The SVDA Board of Directors votes on the applications received and can award up to two (2) Scholarships in the amount of \$400. If less than two (2) scholarships are given out in one (1) year, or there are additional funds, the Board may vote to give out additional scholarships that year.

See website for eligibility requirements or contact for details:

Whitney Kelso, Scholarship Chair

[horsegalwhit@gmail.com](mailto:horsegalwhit@gmail.com)

<https://southeastvirginiadressage.org/wpII/scholarship-program/>

## News from VADA:

Dressage at Lexington  
Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, VA  
July 10-12, 2026

### **New for 2026! Introducing Select Performance Breed Awards at Dressage at Lexington**

Awarding High Score ribbons to the following breeds:

Danish Warmblood, Dutch Warmblood (including KWPN), German Riding Pony, Hanoverian, Iberian Warmblood (Andalusian, Lusitano, PRE), Oldenburg (GOV, ISR), Thoroughbred, Westphalia.

Great American Insurance Group/USDF Reg 1 Championships and VADA Fall Competition, Lexington VA  
1-4 October 2026

*"A Qualifying Competition for the 2026 US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan"*  
<https://www.virginiadressage.org/>

## Member Notice - Upcoming USEF changes:

Beginning December 1, 2025, administrative fees (formerly \$8) will increase to \$10. Show passes (formerly \$45) will increase to \$85.

Beginning April 1, 2026, the following fee changes will apply:

- Competing Membership Fee will increase from \$95 to \$115
- Subscriber Membership Fee will increase from \$25 to \$35
- Annual Horse Recording will increase from \$95 to \$115
- Lifetime Horse Recording will increase from \$300 to \$500
- Individual Lifetime Foal Recording will increase from \$35 to \$50

You can save on your competing membership by enrolling in a three-year membership for \$285

## UPCOMING SVDA EVENTS:

SVDA Spring Flower Power Fundraiser is underway: SVDA wants to welcome Spring with our Spring Flower Power Fundraiser for 2026! SVDA receives 50% of the proceeds of your purchases and will go to support clinics and events for our local dressage community! Place your order today! Check on FB and website homepage for the link.



## SVDA FALL CLINIC WITH DONNA GATCHELL & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Sat-Sun, November 7 & 8 - 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Clinic Location, details and costs are forthcoming so mark your calendars!!





# MAAPP

## MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION

REQUIRED OF ALL PARTICIPANTS

### LEARN ABOUT MAAP POLICIES



Safe Sport Training



Travel



One-On-One Interactions



Social Media & Electronic Communications



Read about these & more at [usef.org/MAAPP](http://usef.org/MAAPP)

### REPORT MAAPP POLICY VIOLATIONS



[usef.org/safe-sport/reporting](http://usef.org/safe-sport/reporting)

859-225-6915 or Text Anonymously 2USEF (28733)



U.S. CENTER FOR  
SAFESPORT™



**Please note:** In accordance with Safe Sport guidelines, all Juniors should be accompanied to SVDA events by their parent or legal guardian. In cases where a parent or legal guardian cannot attend, the parent or legal guardian should complete and sign a waiver, which is available at [www.southeastvirginiadressage.org](http://www.southeastvirginiadressage.org)

## **SVDA 2026 SCHOOLING SHOW SCHEDULE:**

Date	Facility	Location	Open	Close	Judge
5/24/2026	Hill Creek Stables	Virginia Beach, VA	4/27/2026	5/15/2026	<i>Margaret Little, USEF R</i>
6/14/2026	White Acres Farm	Chesapeake, VA	5/18/2026	6/5/2026	Kat Sepka, L Grad w/Distinction
6/28/2026	Gryphon Run Farm	Chesapeake, VA	6/1/2026	6/19/2026	Donna Gatchell, L Grad w/Distinction & USEF "r"
8/9/2026	Harmonia Equestrian	Suffolk, VA	7/17/2026	7/31/2026	Lorraine Evans Klepacz, L Graduate
8/30/2026	Seahorse Run	Suffolk, VA	8/3/2026	8/21/2026	AnnMari Ingersoll, L Grad w/Distinction
9/20/2026	RiverBirch	Courtland	8/24/2026	9/11/2026	Jane Kelly, L Grad w/Distinction
Championship TBD	Airfield 4-H Center	Wakefield, VA	10/5/2026	10/23/2026	TBD

ENTER ONLINE: <https://fs27.formsite.com/vablond25aolcom/q6gtyzijfb/index.html>

### **Sanctioned Shows:**

<p><b>MAY 17, 2026</b>  <b>Crescent Bay Pony Club</b>  <b>SVDA Sanctioned Show</b></p> <p><b>LOCATION:</b>            Northwest River Part            1733 Indian Creek Road            Chesapeake, VA 2322</p> <p><b>JUDGE:</b>            Elise Enoch, L Grad w/Distiction</p> <p><b>ENTRY SECRETARY:</b>            Rebecca Greifenberger            326 Brisa Drive            Chesapeake, VA 23322            rtoth21@hotmail.com</p>	<p><b>SEPTEMBER 13, 2026</b>  <b>Crescent Bay Pony Club</b>  <b>SVDA Sanctioned Show</b></p> <p><b>LOCATION:</b>            Northwest River Part            1733 Indian Creek Road            Chesapeake, VA 2322</p> <p><b>JUDGE:</b>            Annmari Ingersoll, L Grad            w/Distiction</p> <p><b>ENTRY SECRETARY:</b>            Rebecca Greifenberger            326 Brisa Drive            Chesapeake, VA 23322            rtoth21@hotmail.com</p>	<p><b>NOVEMBER 15, 2026</b>  <b>Crescent Bay Pony Club</b>  <b>SVDA Sanctioned Show</b></p> <p><b>LOCATION:</b>            Northwest River Part            1733 Indian Creek Road            Chesapeake, VA 2322</p> <p><b>JUDGE:</b>            Robyn Nunnally, L Grad            w/Distiction</p> <p><b>ENTRY SECRETARY:</b>            Rebecca Greifenberger            326 Brisa Drive            Chesapeake, VA 23322            rtoth21@hotmail.com</p>
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### **Entry Form**

<https://southeastviriniadressage.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Crescent-Bay-EntryForm.pdf>

## **2026 LICENSED SHOW SCHEDULE (partial):**

April 18-19	Prime Time Dressage - Raeford, NC
April 25-26	Dressage at the Deep Run - Manakin-Sabot, VA
May 2-3	Tryon Spring Dressage - Mill Spring, NC
May 2-3	Whispering Miracles, Spring Opener, Virginia Beach, VA
May 5-8	Dressage in the Sandhills, Pinehurst, NC
May 14-17	Mid-Atlantic Dressage Festival & CDI3, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, VA
May 23-24	Mayday Dressage, Pinehurst, NC
May 30-31	Whispering Miracles by the Beach, Virginia Beach, VA
June 20-21	HITS Commonwealth Park Dressage, Culpepper, VA
July 10-12	Dressage at Lexington, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, VA
July 18-9	Whispering Miracles Summer Festival, Virginia Beach, VA
Oct 1-4	GAIG/Reg 1 Championships and VADA Show Fall, Lexington, VA

Partial list - See USDF website for full schedule of shows - follow Region 1 - <https://www.usdf.org/calendar/competitions.asp>

**IMPORTANT SHOW REMINDER:** 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. Please upload at time of show entry or upload at:

<https://fs27.formsite.com/vablond25aolcom/form1/index.html>



**ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS WITH SVDA**  
(discount applies to annual agreement)

SIZE	RATES	
	MONTH	YEAR
Full page	\$15	\$150
Half page	\$10	\$100
Quarter page	\$7.50	\$75
Business card	\$ 5	\$50
Classified	\$ 5	\$50

**SVDA MERCH - ORDER DETAILS! PERFECT ITEMS FOR 2026 SHOW SEASON!**



Visit our 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.

## VADA BOARD MEETING MINUTES 3-25-2026 VIA ZOOM

**Participating:** Sheli King (VN); Bettina Longaker (C'ville); Alison Douglas (Central); Jessie Ginsburg (NOVA); Angie Stanaway (NEVADA); Robyn Nunnally (SVDA); Hannah Bowers (F'burg); Christina Arrington (Central); Laura Nelson (SWVADA); Eleszabeth McNeel (C'ville); Rachel Rice (NOVA); Anne Draine (NEVADA); Sheryl Wyatt (NEVADA); Muffin Smith (SWVADA); Megan Irby (F'burg) and member Dianne Boyd

**Minutes:** The minutes of the February meeting were unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jessie reported that our combined balances are 196K. This includes some expenses for the shows, the banquet, and year end awards.

**Membership Report:** We currently have 244 members. Membership chairs, please make sure you send in your updates to Nancy Doody so that we have for eblasts and send your payments to Beth Rippel. Beth doesn't update to USDF and VADA until she has the payments.

**VADA Safe Sport Policy:** Christina is going to go ahead and create a new spread sheet for the date of completion of Safe Sport training by the required individuals so that chapters can keep track of that information on an on-going basis. We still need SW to complete the form.

**DAL Update:** Dianne gave a big compliment to Nancy Doody on the work she has done for the website. She is working on an automated PowerPoint that highlights different aspects of the show. Nancy Lowey and Nancy Doody have been working diligently to secure prizes and cash for sponsorships and awards, but it's been difficult. We are trying to keep expenses in line with the budget. We haven't secured sponsorship for the cash awards for the challenge classes yet. If we don't have them sponsored, we won't be able to award the cash prize- we'll still have the nice ribbon and some sort of prize, but no cash. SHAC has been fully sponsored. The prize list will be available sometime in April. Rachel is soliciting volunteers and sign up is on the website. Sheli reported that as part of our donation for the renovation of the VHC show office, we will have a new sign that has now been designed and will be hung in the show office in the near future.

### **Sponsorship of the Region 1 Youth Dressage Team Challenge and National Youth Recognized Dressage Awards:**

Sponsorship opps for both were discussed. Rachel made a motion that, for, the Region 1 Youth Dressage Team challenge, we once again sponsor the ice cream social. Anne seconded the motion and it was approved. The cost will be \$400. Regarding the National Youth Recognized Dressage Awards, Tina made a motion that we sponsor the lowest available level and age group. Rachel seconded the motion and it was approved. Rachel contacted Jen and that will be the Teen Level, Intro Division, at a cost of \$250. This is a great program with no cost for the participants. Last year there were almost 200 kids that signed up.

**New Business:** If anyone wants to sign up to be a PM delegate for Region 1, contact Lori Kaminski by April 10<sup>th</sup>. It does require a commitment to go to the USDF convention and attend the Region 1 and the Board of Governors meetings. The other meetings are held via zoom.

**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:** Two one day licensed shows April 25-26 at Deep Run Hunt Club in Manakin Sabot, First Aid Clinic June 27 location tbd, Lonesome Dove volunteer days August 28-29, Debbie Rodriguez clinic October 17-18 location tbd

**Charlottesville:** Schooling shows May 31<sup>st</sup> at Cedar Creek Stables in Staunton judge Beckie Lynne Mitchell, July 26<sup>th</sup> at Toad Hollow Farm in Charlottesville judge Michelle Anderson, September 13<sup>th</sup> at Grayson Farms judge Nicky Vogel

**NEVADA:** Schooling shows at Edgehill Farm- April 12 judge April Rivers, May 10 judge Robyn Nunnally, June 7 judge Jeslynn Vaughn with a free eq class to prep for jr teams, July 19 judge Kat Sepka, August 9 judge Nancy Lowey, September 20 judge

Elise Enoch, September 30 judge Annmari Ingersoll (tentative State Fair), October 18 judge Lorraine Evans, November 1 judge April Rivers. Registration for all of these is on [www.competeeasy.com](http://www.competeeasy.com).

**Fredericksburg: Clinic** with George Williams May 2 at Hillbrook Farm, Licensed show Dressage At Rose Mount will be held September 5-6

**NOVA:** April 4 Spring Licensed Show, May 2 Michael Always Clinic, May 6 Midweek May Licensed Show, June 6-7 Summer Dressage Festival Licensed Show, Aug 2 Schooling Show, Aug 21 Lilo Fore Judge Education Classroom Session, Aug 22-24 Summer Wind Down Shows I and II

**SVDA:** Schooling Show Schedule- April 12 at Weeping Oak Farm judge Elise Enoch, May 24 at Harmonia Equestrian judge Margaret Little, June 14 at White Acres Farm judge Kat Sepka, June 28 at The Horse Park at Gryphon Run judge Donna Gatchell, August 30 at Seahorse Run Farm judge AnnMari Ingersoll, September 20 at Riverbirch Farm judge Jane Kelly

**SWVADA:** May 1-2 clinic with Cesar Torrente at Hill of Dreams Farm in Wirtz, May 29-30 clinic with Holly Linz at Green Hill Park, Schooling shows at Green Hill Park on May 31, June 28 and September 27

**NEXT MEETING Monday April 27th at 8 pm**

## HEAT INDEX vs HORSES

### “COOL” FACTS:



- **Horses heat up 3-10 times faster than humans.**
- **Exercise is a major source of body heat;** even 17 minutes of gentle exercise in hot weather can raise a horse's internal temperature to dangerous levels.
- Horses, like people, need to sweat for thermoregulation (cooling); **sweat is more efficient at removing heat when it evaporates.**

### How HOT is TOO HOT to work your horse?



**Heat Index > 180**  
USE EXTREME CAUTION  
Normal cooling is almost ineffectual



**Heat Index > 150**  
USE CAUTION  
Watch for signs of heat stress



**Heat Index < 130**  
ENJOY YOUR RIDE!  
Your horse can keep its body cool



Temperature + Humidity = Heat Index

### HOT TIPS

**Heat exhaustion should not be underestimated as it can advance to heat stroke quickly.**

If you suspect your horse is developing heat stroke, or if your horse's body temperature does not drop to 101F or lower despite your best efforts to cool him off, call your veterinarian immediately!