

USDF Region 1 Spring Meeting March 17, 2013 at Hassler Dressage at Riveredge

Meeting began at 9:10AM

GMOs represented: DVCTA, SGSDS, PVDA, French Creek, LVDA, ESDCTA, LVDA, OVCTA, VADA, NCDCTA, IEO

(11 out of 16 GMOs in the region)

Scott Hassler welcomed the group.

2013 Regionals: VADA - Plans are underway. There will be a dog show returning with prize money. VADA is hosting a competitors' party and stall decorating contest. VA horse center is continuing to improve the facility. Stalls and outside footing have been redone. Dates are October 17-20.

2013 BLMs: NCDCTA first time hosting - Negotiations for sponsorship is underway for prizes and they are continuing The Taste of Martin County. The community really wants to be involved and donate a lot to the show. Show management is working on a system to have scores published as they happen. Indoor footing will be refurbished this year. This will be the first year for the Training level freestyle championship. Dates are October 31-November 3.

2013 National Dressage Championships: November 7-10, 2013 in Lexington, KY & November 6-9, 2014 (more than likely in Lexington as well).

Bids submitted for 2014 GAIG Regional Championships and BLM Championships:

NCDCTA – Either Harvest Moon October 2-5 (either Regionals or BLMs) or Autumn Leaves October 30 – November 2 (too late for the regionals so BLM only). Both shows are held in Williamston, NC. Good facility management. Good parties, Good volunteers

VADA – October 16-19 (either Regionals or BLMs) at Virginia Horse Center. VHC is working on maintenance of the facility. Indoor warm-up, good facility management in older facility, dog show, good volunteer base, efficient award ceremony

ESDCTA – Oct 10-12 (either Regionals or BLMs) at the Horse Park of NJ. Smaller facility with 5 arenas and 294 stalls. Facility has a covered pavilion for viewing and parties. ESDCTA is working to improve PR and sponsorship. Centerline events is the management team. The Horse Park has raised money to improve the footing for rings 3 and 4.

After voting among the 11 GMOs and 8 PM delegates, NCDCTA Harvest Moon (Oct 2-5) was awarded GAIG Regional Championships and VADA (October 16-19) will host the BLMs. Voting was very close between NCDCTA and ESDCTA for the GAIGs.

Adult Team Competition: July 6-7, 2013 hosted by PVDA at Prince Georges Equestrian Center. Will use the indoor facility so one area will have climate control. GMOs sending a team must send at least one volunteer. The competition is run as part of PVDA's Summer Showdown.

2013 Youth Team Competitions:

NCDCTA – May 31-June 2, 2013. They are doing an unmounted test again and may do pas de deux or quadrille. Also having a Breyer model horse contest. Will have a parade of teams at the awards ceremony.

VADA July 27-28, 2013, More inquires have come in earlier this year than ever. Looking for Friday night entertainment. Pizza party and prizes. More divisions have been developed. Equitation classes are offered. Great stall decorating.

2013 NAJYRC: July 17-21 (conflicts with Lendon's youth program). Debbie Delgiorno is the new FEI JR/YR Coordinator. Six people have already applied and 6 or so more should apply. Two youth from our region qualified for Lendon's three month program in Florida. Qualifying season ends at the end of June. Anne Moss is not going to be Chef this year but Eliza Sydnor has agreed to be Chef and we will have co-chefs including Debbie (budget permitting). Debbie is trying to get new equipment this year. Skylands Saddlery will give us a 25% discount on our equipment but there still is not enough money. Debbie is trying to get a Title sponsor this year and needs \$5000 in total for a 5 year commitment: \$3000 up front and the other \$2000 over the rest of the time. If anyone has suggestions, please contact Deb DelGiorno debbdel@aol.com She will send information to all of the GMOs for their websites. Silent auction in 2012 was a success for fundraising and will be done again at the ESDCTA's CDI (Memorial Weekend). Any items (judging time, clinic time, training time, etc.) that anyone can think of, please contact Debbie.

For DSE clinic/ Youth clinics she would like to have something in different areas in the region and is looking for judges/clinicians to do this and would like to get as many GMOs involved as possible. If a GMO is interested in hosting one of these, please let Debbie know. This will be done in a group format.

2014 would be Region One's year to host a USDF youth clinic. A possibility would be early May with George Williams as the clinician. We are looking for venues and/or a GMO to host. It is about \$1200 -\$1500 to host this clinic. It is open to auditors (USDF education credit) with a fee. Tentatively, May 3-4 or May 10-11, 2014 at Riveredge if it's ok with the Hasslers and we can get a clinician. If all the GMO's will chip in, it would not cost much for each.

2014 Adult Clinic: PVDA is hosting the clinic with Hilda Gurney, scheduled for April 12-13, 2014 at Windham Oaks in Boyd, MD (DC area). There is a huge indoor with plenty of room for auditors.

L Programs in Region 1:

VADA just finished Session C. D1 is April 6-7 at Morven Park Leesburg, VA, D2 is June 1-2 Raleigh, NC. Final Testing is Sept 14-15 at Morven Park Leesburg VA

DVCTA is holding Session C this weekend, D1 is Memorial Weekend at the New Jersey Horse Park. Final Testing in October.

PVDA is holding session D1 May 18-19 at Morven Park and D2 in July at the Prince George Equestrian Center in MD.

Instructor Certification: Both Averett University in NC and Hilltop Farm in MD are hosting programs and exams. Lunging, Teaching and Riding Workshops will be held April 3-6, 2013 at Averett University with a final exam September 7 and 8. At Hilltop, a riding workshop will be held July 6 and 7, a teaching workshop will be held November 23-24, a lunging workshop will be held in 2014 on January 11-12, a refresher workshop will take place March 15-16 with the final exam on April 11-13.

Dressage at Devon report: Lori Kaminski reported. Dressage at Devon 2013 will be held September 24 – 29, 2013. Prize list will be available in late May or early June, but will be essentially the same as in 2012. Classes include 3 year old prospect award (highest scoring 3 year old in combined in hand and materiale)
For the next 3 years, Dressage at Devon will be the presenting sponsor and Hassler Dressage as supporting Sponsor of the USDF Sport Horse Prospect Development Program. This new program will provide a correct, fundamental system for starting sport horse prospects. The program is intended for trainers, owners and breeders, with the goal of developing a consistent training foundation for all sport horse prospects. This program will bridge the current educational gap related to the training of sport horse prospects as they progress from in-hand to under-saddle and eventual competition. This program will feature live forums strategically placed across the county in our sport horse communities. The first program will be September 14-15, 2013 at Apple Knoll Farm, Millis, MA with Scott Hassler and Ingo Pape.

Dressage at Devon donated \$5000 to the Patsy Albers Award Fund which will provide one annual Award to the highest placing dressage rider at the United States Equestrian Federation's High Performance Championships who was also a rider competing for the U.S. at a North American Junior/Young Rider Championship. The Award will provide financial support for continuing education and training.

Digital Omnibus: Dianne Boyd reported. Thanks to everyone who has wholeheartedly supported this program and helping make it a success. All delegates need to spread the word to competitors that they need to sign up for the E-blast to get the monthly news of opening and closing dates. She is also looking for advertisers in the e-blasts and digital omnibus. Contact Dianne greyhorse11@gmail.com for information and feedback. For competitors concerned about not having easy access to tests, Equitest 3 and FEI Equitest 3 are two apps for smartphones that have all of the tests available.

Awards: Debby Savage reported. Region 1 is focusing on only Volunteer (contribution) awards. There are two awards, Adult and Youth. Deadline for nominations is November 1 and will be voted on at the convention. Anyone who is a USDF member can make a nomination to Debby.

USDF Regional GMO Volunteer of the year award. Adult and Youth, due by August 30. This nomination must come from a GMO president and submitted to USDF office.

Website: Shari Packard is the webmare. When GMOs have an event, please get pictures to Lisa Schmidt for the website. There is a place on the website to submit events to the website or an eblast. Lisa and Shari encouraged all to submit events there and not email to Lisa or Shari. Anyone in the region can suggest submissions for a front page item and the region is also looking for more advertisers for the website.

E-Blast: Lisa tries to get them out monthly and welcomes suggestions for articles and information in the eblasts. There are close to 1000 people on the email list and more people were encouraged to sign up on the website by clicking on the far right "sign up" section.

USDF Convention: November 4-7, 2013 in Lexington, Kentucky. In 2014 it will be at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge MA. The region is allowed 13 PM delegates. The deadline for nominations is April 15.

USDF Report: No controversial items or big news to report. The Dressage Foundation has sent out an email with all of the deadlines for all of the grants. Check their website at www.dressagefoundation.org.

Treasurer's Report: The following are the balances in the accounts as of February 28, 2013: FEI JR/YR \$13,881.90, Education \$2113.20, General \$3843.27 Total Liabilities and Equity \$19,838.37.

Committee Reports:

Regional Championship – Bettina Longaker reported that closing dates are a lot closer than they should be.

Competition Management – Bettina Longaker reported that questionnaire about what the committee can do to help the membership will be coming out.

Adult Programs –Sheli King reported that the committee is working on Convention Education sessions. Morning Fitness sessions will be held again, maybe with a different instructor this year. No symposium in will be held in Kentucky or Massachusetts. The committee is starting discussions as to who will be the next Adult program clinician.

GMO Reports:

PVDA – Betty Thorpe reported. Tea for Training happened last week to train volunteers. There were 34 trainees. There was a focus on conflict resolution. Four licensed shows will be held in 2013. Ride For Life will celebrate its 10th anniversary. They are holding an Axel Steiner clinic. 2014 is the 50th anniversary of PVDA.

DVCTA – Lauren Annet reported. They are hosting Dressage at Fair Hill, schooling shows and horse trials. Youth teams are active. Online survey says more educational opportunities are needed. Quadrille is active. L programs in 2013.

Garden State – no report

ESDCTA – Terry Masters reported. They are focusing on a Membership drive and concentrating on the annual Memorial weekend show CDI and AA special awards. Centerline and ESDCTA are committed to having AA Sweepstakes awards for 3 years and are planning a combined overall award. They are repeating the combined dressage and eventing championship in September and the Garden State Classic and Horse Trials in October. There is a new Education chair for 2013 who is working on a 5-lecture educational series. The GMO has a large youth program including a judge shadowing program. Their website is being redesigned.

LVDA – Nancy Krial reported. They are having schooling shows and one recognized show, a centered riding clinic, a fix a test with Lisa Schmidt, a volunteer day, clinic for members at Riveredge with Susanne Hassler. Their year ends with their October championship show.

French Creek- Fay Selzer reported. They are changing their name to French Creek Equestrian Organization and added western dressage to schooling shows this year. NAWDA tests will be used. They hold schooling shows, jumper shows as well as a 5K fun run and walk fundraiser. A Pierre St Jacques clinic will be held April 27 and 28 in Elverson, PA.

OVCTA – Bobbi Soos reported. They will hold 6 Shows (dressage, CT, event derby), a JJ Tate clinic, a spring show and November Championships at Ludwigs Corner plus an eventing clinic in the fall.

NCDCTA – Carol Kelly reported. Great Eventing chair, Timex series, Medal program, sponsor water complex jumps at two shows, eventing clinics. Last year's focus was on juniors, 5 scholarships to juniors (either \$500 or \$250) articles must be written in order to give back. Horseman's youth day at veterinary college. Special classes for juniors and ponies. Dressage for Everyone symposium, cavaletti clinic, added Autumn Leaves dressage show, 3 learn and earn seminars. Contributed to the Patsy Albers Fund.

VADA – Bettina Longaker and Alison Head reported. Their Fall show is the big effort with 6 licensed shows, 2 breed shows, many schooling shows and fix a tests scattered around the state. They are holding a new Rider Test fix a test combined with a schooling show the next day with a judges continuing education session. Canadian Jaqui Brooks will give a clinic in June.

IEO – Margaret Scharf reported. This is the oldest club but USDF small club with 5 schooling shows offering Western Dressage and looking to do more educational sessions. They are pushing to have a young rider program but conflicts with pony club rallies.

Fall meeting – Lisa initiated a discussion of Web meetings vs. face to face and the possibility of On line voting.

There was a discussion of web meeting companies. Webex.com is easy to use and has an online tutorial for use.

The group agreed to a web meeting on November 16 from 1:00-4:00. Lisa will research cost and online tutorials.

Discussion of on-line voting. An idea was brought up that for information purposes could the presenters of the championship bids post a Youtube video prior to the voting meeting, or could that information be presented at a Webex meeting. It was decided that the Spring meeting is an important face to face meeting, but in extenuating circumstances the region may need to design a system for voting for delegates unable to attend.

Spring meeting: The meeting was tentatively scheduled for, Sunday, March 16, 2014 9:00 pending availability Riveredge.

New Business: Members of the Adult Amateur Dressage Initiative were going to make a presentation, but did not attend.

Meeting adjourned 3:00PM