



Happy 2020!

Not only is this the start of a new year but 2020 brings along a special "start anew excitement" since we're beginning a new decade as well. The OVCTA board and committee members have been working hard to instill this excitement in the activities and events slated for the 2020 OVCTA calendar and here is what we have so far:

If the weather cooperates, there will be two, always popular, dressage clinics with Lauren Annett at Dunmovin Farm in February and March. We've already had our first educational seminar, "Pulsed Electromagnetic Field Therapy (PEMF), Promoting Healing and Pain Relief" presented by Cherie Trego on January 12th and have a saddle fitting panel discussion with local professionals and a clinic/seminar on how to prepare a horse for sale with Richard Malmgren in the works for late winter early spring. The OVCTA calendar will also include the usual favorites: our Annual meeting and Year End awards Banquet at Spring Hollow Golf Club on March 13th, the Summer Fun Horse show at Hunter Hill Stables in June and the Dressage at the Beach Show (where Hawaiian Shirts are welcome) at Hunter Hill Stables in early July.

Most likely the number one, most exciting event on this year's calendar has got to be our first recognized dressage show in eons, the OVCTA Spring Dressage Show at Ludwig's Corner show grounds on May 24th! Long time OVCTA members will remember like proud parents the initiation of our championship show at the Romano Center, which gave rise to the Big Fall show at Ludwig's Corner, that grew in the last 2 years to be the Big Spring Show at Ludwig's Corner. And now, at the urging of many members and local dressage riders, the board and show committee are taking a great leap of faith to go beyond a local club show to a USDF recognized dressage show. It is both scary and exciting and I hoping our club members will all step up and support this effort in some way; enter to ride, volunteer and/or sponsor a class. Let's start this decade with a huge successful recognized dressage show, GO OVCTA! Let's have a wonderful 2020!!

Nancy Peltier
President of OVCTA

USEA Area 2 Meeting

On Sunday, January 5th I attended the Area 2 Annual Meeting. It was held in Kennett Square and the organizers did a wonderful job filling the day with meetings, awards and a seminar. It was very well attended by organizers, adult riders, teenagers and lovers of the sport.

When I arrived I choose to attend the organizers meeting. The meeting centered on planning and dates for 2021. This years Area Championships will be held on October 10-11 in Maryland. A discussion was brought up about the test changes in 2022 and that some people want the organizers to have the option to offer tests in large arenas at the lower levels. We'll see if this gets approved.

The second meeting I attended was the Adult Riders meeting. I learned there is a great group of adults who enjoy getting together at events and cheering each other on. If you join Area 2 and the Adult Riders you have the opportunity to attend some clinics at reduced rates with topnotch instructors. You are also eligible for year-end awards and the ribbons and trophies are beautiful!

Before the lunch and the award ceremony, Dr. Mark Donaldson gave an interactive talk on kissing spine and how often poor performance can be attributed to pain in the axial skeleton. The most common areas are the 14, 15 and 16 vertebrae. Some signs to look for are: can't hold the canter, shifting weight, difficulty with lead changes, and difficulty with the farrier. Continued on page 7

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OVCTA Calendar 2020

2020 OVCTA Calendar

This calendar is a list of OVCTA Activities. This calendar is incomplete. Additional events will be added as they are scheduled. **There are no more Ovcta Point Shows** we will accept any CT or Dressage scores, from both recognized and schooling shows, as long as they were judged by at least a USDF "L"/USEA "r" judge or above and follow the USDF/USEF tests and criteria

February 9th, 2020 and March 8th 2020 -Dressage Clinic with Lauren Annett, Dunmovin Farm, West Chester, Pa. The 2nd in a series of Dressage Clinics with Lauren Annett. Lauren is an "r" judge for both traditional and western dressage. She has both her USDF bronze and silver medals. Lauren is a positive instructor who challenges both horses and riders while not intimidating them. Horses from USDF, FEI, and western dressage will enjoy benefit from her instruction. See page 1 for more details. Visit OVCTA.org for more info and entry form.

February 28th Carpool to the Horse Expo in Harrisburg Pa. 8 AM Contact Kim Hennessy jhenness@verizon.net

March 13th, 2020-OVCTA Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet. Spring Hollow Golf Club Spring City, Pa, 6:30 PM. Special guest speaker Maia Ramirez Aitken, DVM, DACVS-LA, DACVECC, Assistant Professor - Emergency & Critical Care, University of Pennsylvania - New Bolton Center

May 24th 2020 OVCTA's 1st recognized dressage show in a long time. Ludwig's Corner Horse Show Grounds, Glenmoore Pa. Judges: S Sara Schmitt, "R" Susan White

The OVCTA board of directors and the Big Spring Show committee have taken the steps to offer a recognized dressage show, the 1st in many years. We have received a license for a level 2 dressage show for May 24th 2020 to be held at the Ludwig's Corner horse show grounds. Unfortunately, this means we cannot hold a combined test at the same time. Therefore, we are looking for an alternative date for that.

There will be many volunteer opportunities and we are also looking for more help on our show committee. If you are interested in being on the committee contact Deb Mueller debrmm@gmail.com. To volunteer at the show contact appattack@aol.com

Don't Forget to send in your Ovcta Year Award End Show Results for 2020

We Have a new OVCTA Points Tabulator!

Ovcta members will be required to send their results and volunteer hours to our points person **Merrilyn Ratliff: points@ovcta.org or 301-518-2562** Results can be sent in e-mail (take a photo with your phone and send)

"OVCTA makes it easier than ever to qualify for year-end awards ". The rules for the high point and achievement year end awards will stay as printed on the website, however the board decided that we will accept any CT or Dressage scores, from both recognized and schooling shows, as long as they were judged by at least a USDF "L"/USEA "r" judge or above and follow the USDF/USEF tests and criteria. Incomplete submissions will not be accepted. For more info on how our points are tallied visit: <http://ovcta.org/index.php/awards>

Local Calendar & News

February 13th—Forage Seminar Pughtown Agway, 819 Pughtown Rd, Spring City Pa. 6-7PM. Free hay testing if you get your sample to the agway by 2/7/20. (Several handfuls from center of bale in gallon size zip lock bag)

February 29 - Dunmovin Farm Schooling Show. dunmovin.net

February 27-March 1st—Horse World Expo Pa Farm show complex, Harrisburg, Pa. FMIhorseworldexpo.com

March 1st - Blue Goose Stable Snow Flake Series. bluegoosestable.com

March 15th - Blue Goose Stable Snow Flake Series. www.bluegoosestable.com

March 21 - Dunmovin Farm Schooling Show dunmovin.net



**Please Join us: OVCTA Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet
Friday March 13th, 2020 6:30 PM
Spring Hollow Golf Club, 3350 Schuylkill Rd. Spring City Pa.**

**Special Guest Speaker Maia Ramirez Aitken, DVM, DACVS-LA, DACVECC
Assistant Professor - Emergency & Critical Care
University of Pennsylvania - New Bolton Center
“Tales From the Emergency Room”**

Dr. Aitken is an Assistant Professor of Large Animal Emergency and Critical Care at the New Bolton Center Campus of the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Veterinary Medicine. Prior to joining PennVet, she received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Cornell University in 2009. She moved to New Bolton Center for a large animal surgical internship followed by a surgical residency and obtained board certification in large animal surgery (Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgery) in 2015. This was followed by a fellowship in large animal emergency and critical care and resulted in board certification in this specialty (Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care) in 2019. Dr. Aitken’s professional interests include all areas of emergency medicine and surgery, with a particular focus on colic surgery and neonatal emergencies.

Join us for good food, an interesting talk, year end awards presentations, club election of board members, a silent auction, and camaraderie

Price: \$25.00 per person Time: 6:30PM

Open to the public—All Are Welcome!

It is necessary to RSVP

Directions: Route 422 east to the route 724 exit. Left onto route 724 for 4.3 miles to entrance on the right. Route 100 N to Route 23. Right (east) on route 23 for 4 miles to Bridge Street. Make left onto Bridge Street and follow to route 724. Make left onto route 724 for 1 block to the entrance on left. 3350 Schuylkill Rd. Spring City , Pa. 19475

RSVP BY: March 4th, 2020 ***Payment must be received by this date

Please mail check (payable to OVCTA) and this form to:

OVCTA C/O Criss Brown, 106 Norway Drive, Mohnton, PA 19540

Name: _____

Email: _____

Number of people attending: _____ X \$25 = _____

USDF Convention by Ange Bean

This year's convention was held in Savannah, GA. The weekend was full of a mix of dressage business and dressage education.

Dressage Business

Business was the topic of the welcome meeting on Thursday evening, the Region 1 meetings, several committee meetings, and the BOG meetings. Brief synopsis is below.

- Splitting JR/YR different division, under 15 and 16-21 for training to 4th level at national shows. Ken Levy felt that more fairly divide young people based on their cognitive development. This was sent to the rules committee for more discussion.
-
- Considering a rule to divide AA into age groups, at 55. This is in the "task force" phase of rule proposals, so very early on.
-
- After much discussion regarding re-naming the education membership, it was voted down. Several names were discussed, and in general show managers felt naming it any kind of "membership" created potential problems. Much discussion surrounded how to gear this group towards GMOs.
-
- Opportunity classes at USDF/USEF shows now can be offered through 4th level, with the same limitations as the training-2nd level classes. This rule change is in effect.
-
- USDF Nationals will offer Jr classes training level to 4th level starting in 2020. Freestyle will still only be offered open/AA.
-
- LVDA will offer a JR team competition at Culpeper the last weekend in June. Region 1 put \$500 towards expenses of the show.
-
- George Williams and Sarah Geike lead a committee discussion on how to improve the USDF Instructor Program and to attract more young professionals to the process.
-

Dressage Education

This year's convention offered educational classes on judging freestyle and materiale classes, instructor education discussing showing from the view of the instructor, the competitor or the judge, a lecture on advances in long-term joint health plans, and Hillary Clayton talked about biomechanics and neuromotor function, behavioral signs of lameness, and advances in bridle fit. Below are notes from the bridle fit lecture.

New in Bridles -- Dr. Clayton

Most of this information was gathered using pressure pads on different types of bridles.

High-nerve sensitivity areas of the horse's face that a bridle should avoid -

- tmj
- facial ridge
- nerves just below the ear
- trigeminal nerve, on the nose

Lessons learned from swimmers, who develop headaches from goggles, that can be applied to our bridles -

- Padding needs to be soft
- Straps need to be snug enough, but not too tight
-
- Changing goggles regularly can help change pressure points
-

In bridles, because the crownpiece carries the weight of bridle, a bigger, softer crownpiece is best. Noseband strap should go over the headpiece or integrated, not under the crownpiece -- too many nerves there. Crownpieces should also be shaped around the horse's ears.

Continued on Page 5

USDF Convention continued...

Additionally, browbands need to be long enough to not pull crown piece into the ears. There are many sensitive facial nerves in that area.

Throatlatch's purpose is to keep the bridle on if the horse shakes his head. A jowl strap is ok as a substitute for throat latch according to the rules.

Cheek pieces need to be adjusted correctly. Too long and bit will flop. Too tight creates poll pressure.

A correctly fitting bridle has buckles lower, at or below the level of the eye. If buckle is too high it lays over the tmj joint.

In a double bridle, the lever effect on the curb separates out the two cheek pieces.

Flash nosebands are the most common noseband. The cavesson should about 2 cm below facial crest. An integrated flash is better, the add-on pieces create a pressure point.

Noseband pressure is on the edge of the facial bone and on the jaw. A tight noseband pushes the cheek against the molars, increasing the risk of biting the cheek. A drop noseband avoids this.

Bits should be ¼ to ½ inch wider than the distance between the corners of the lips. If it is too narrow, the bit pulls corners of mouth in towards the teeth. If the bit is too wide, it pulls too far out of the corner of the mouth and lies incorrectly on the bars.

Horses can have a flat palate or an arched palate. Arched palates are easier to fit.

Horses will show resistance if he's trying to keep bit on their tongue and away from their palate.

Cheek lesions are common with incorrect snaffle fit and/or tight noseband. Lesions on the bars more common with a curb bit.

Many thanks to Ange for relaying all this good information!

This publication does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Oley Valley Combined training Association Board of Directors or its members

OVCTA MISSION STATEMENT:

The purpose of the Oley Valley Combined Training Association shall be to inform and educate its members and the general public on horsemanship and horse care and to promote the equestrian disciplines of Combined Training and Dressage.

**OVCTA 2019 END OF YEAR AWARDS
ACHIEVEMENT & HIGH POINT AWARDS**

2019 Dressage High Point Awards

DRESSAGE - INTRO

	Rider	Horse
Champion	Alice Morse	Ezekiel
Reserve	Eliza Herman	And Miles to Go
3rd	Alice Morse	Fearless
4th	Merrilyn Ratliff	Shootmetothemoon

DRESSAGE - TRAINING

	Rider	Horse
Champion	Lauren Annett	Ezekiel
Reserve	Merrilyn Ratliff	Keeper of the Stars
3rd	Merrilyn Ratliff	And Miles to Go

DRESSAGE - FIRST LEVEL

	Rider	Horse
Champion	Alice Morse	Afghan NTF (Taka)
Reserve	Eliza Herman	Eliza Herman

DRESSAGE - SECOND LEVEL AND ABOVE

	Rider	Horse
Champion	Nicole Newlin Brady	Fearless
Reserve	Kim Hennessy	LR Ami B-Line
3rd	Annemarie Cochrane	Where'd It Go
4th	Kymberly Pullen	Geometric Art
5th	Sarah Erush	Knight Heir
6th	Kymberly Pullen	Hot Date

2019 Combined Training High Point Awards

CT Elem/Intro

	Rider	Horse
Champion	Merrilyn Ratliff	Shootmetothemoon
Reserve	Merrilyn Ratliff	Koda

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OVCTA 2020 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

I hereby apply for membership in the Oley Valley Combined Training Association for the Year 2020. Membership expires on November 30th 2019. All memberships include group membership in the United States Dressage Foundation (USDF). Please mail your membership application form along with payment in the form of a check made payable to 'OVCTA' to:

OVCTA Membership Chair,
Lin Braddick, 216 Neiffer Rd. Schwenksville, Pa. 19473 For further questions you can
 contact Lin at membership@ovcta.org or 610-716-1471

Or Pay your membership with PayPal account!
Visit Ovcta.org for details (under membership)

Primary Member

Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work/Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Do you wish to receive club info by email? **Y/N**

Birth Date: _____

Additional Family Members Name: _____ DOB: _____

Additional Family Members Name: _____ DOB: _____

No.

Primary Member ____ X \$50.00 = _____

Additional Family Member ____ X \$40.00 = _____

TOTAL DUE = _____

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO 'OVCTA'

Please answer a few questions. Thank You!

Can you volunteer at OVCTA Schooling Shows? **Y / N**

Can you volunteer at other OVCTA functions? **Y / N**

(For example: Annual Meeting, Summer Picnic, Clinics, etc.)

Would you like to be listed in the directory (for FREE!) as:

An instructor ____ XC Facility ____ Boarding Stable ____ Horse Service Provider ____

Please specify service (i.e. farrier, dentist, braiding, etc.) _____

**OVCTA IS A USDF GROUP
 MEMBER ORGANIZATION (GMO). ALL OF OUR
 MEMBERS ARE AUTOMATICALLY USDF GROUP
 MEMBERS.**



***OVCTA is a USEA
 Affiliate Organization***

Year End Awards continued

CT Beginner Novice

	Rider	Horse
Champion	Merrilyn Ratliff	Keeper of the Stars

CT Novice

	Rider	Horse
Champion	Kymerly Pullen	Homer

CT Training and Above

	Rider	Horse
Champion	Eliza Herman	Shootmetothemoon

2019 Combined Training Achievement Awards

Rider	Horse	Level
Merrilyn Ratliff	Keeper of the Stars	Intro
Merrilyn Ratliff	Koda	Intro
Merrilyn Ratliff	Keeper of the Stars	Beginner Novice
Kymerly Pullen	Homer	Novice
Eliza Herman	Shootmetothemoon	Modified
Eliza Herman	Shootmetothemoon	Preliminary

2019 Dressage Achievement Awards

Rider	Horse	Level
Alice Morse	Ezekiel	Intro A & B
Lauren Annett	Ezekiel	TR2&3
Annemarie Cochrane	Where'd It Go	Second
Nicole Newlin Brady	Fearless	Second
Kim Hennessy	LR Ami B-Line	Second
Kymerly Pullen	Hot Date	Grand Prix

Congratulations!!!

Send us your pictures!!

OVCTA would like to do a slide show showing off its members and winners at the year end banquet March 13! You can submit a photo of any horse you rode during your membership in OVCTA this year, even if you didn't submit for an award.

If you'd like OVCTA to include a photo of you and your horse (s), please email it to Merrilyn at merrilyn.ratliff@gmail.com by March 6, 2020. Please clearly indicate which horse and rider is in each photo (or even better, make that info the file name) and include photo credit information.

For the end of year award winners, OVCTA will include that information in the slide. If you'd like to include a brief caption ("My favorite horse ever," "Benny in his debut at [level!]") please make sure it is clearly associated with a specific photo. Looking forward to seeing everyone's pictures!

USEA Area II Meeting continued

After a delicious lunch, the program shifted to Melissa Stubenberg's Kealani's Farm where Sally Cousins gave a talk and demonstration on "activating your horses"

She showed some videos on lunging, discussed saddle fit, hill work, pole work and stretching. All of these things help make a stronger athlete. Her demonstration was done over poles where she warmed up over some trot poles and then set two poles 7ft apart in a straight line and three poles in a fan with 10ft on the outside and 3ft on the inside. These were canter exercises, which ideally help develop responsiveness to the aids, thoroughness and adjustability all while strengthening the core.

The meeting was very inspirational and if you are not already an Area 2 member I encourage you to join.

Respectfully Submitted By: Annemarie Cochrane
USEA Representative





**OLEY VALLEY
COMBINED TRAINING
ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 116
Saint Peters, Pa. 19470-0116



**OLEY VALLEY
COMBINED TRAINING ASSOCIATION
OVCTA NEWS**



OVCTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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