



Mountain Empire Dressage Association

Ride-A-Test / Clinic

June 11th at Four Pillars Farm, Chilhowie VA
(Virginia Intermont College indoor arena if seriously raining)

June 12th at Shadow Ranch, Pulaski VA

******Judge: Gillian Muir of Boca Raton, FL******

***** Informal attire encouraged*****

*****Helmets & boots MUST be worn when mounted*****

***** drinks provided courtesy of MEDA*****

*****BYOL (bring your own lunch)*****
(Subway and Food City nearby in Chilhowie)

Formats:

Option A - Ride a test (scribed), receive session with the clinician, then ride the test again (scribed)

Option B – Ride a test (scribed), receive longer session with the clinician, then ride the test again (scribed)

Option C – 50-minute session with clinician; no tests ridden or scribed

Fees:

Option A = \$35 for 35 minute session

Option B = \$50 for 50 minute session

Option C = \$50 for 50 minute session

Contact information: Betty Lou Domjahn, moccasinridge@wildblue.net
517.242.8577 (cell)

Entry Deadline: **Wednesday evening, June 8th** -- E-mailed entries will be accepted **only** if entrant agrees to produce entry form, Coggins, and payment at clinic. 50% of registration fee will be retained for any scratches unless reserved time slot is filled by another rider.

Ride Times: Will be e-mailed to exhibitors on **Thursday evening, June 9th**



Info about the Judge/Clinician:

Gillian has been teaching and riding professionally for over 20 years.

Her interest in Dressage began very early. Totally captivated by Dr. Reiner Klimke's LA Olympic ride, she watched it over and over until the tape wore out. She read the limited resources available at the time and tried to practice on whatever horse was available to her. However, hunter training seemed to be the only option. Then when she received Ali, her Arabian gelding, after graduating high school, she turned to dressage to solidify his basics. "Ali was a weanling when I got him and when it came time to start him under saddle I didn't want to make mistakes. He was the first horse I trained myself and I knew dressage would give him the foundation to go in any direction that he was most talented in. Lucky for me, that turned out to be dressage! I felt very lucky to find the trainers I had to start me in the right direction. They believed in a solid foundation and the basics I learned with them have helped carry me forward with a horse on many occasions". Ali is now 24 years old and is teaching many new riders and still competing at lower levels.

After running her own stable for several years, she moved on to be the Director of the equestrian program at North Broward Preparatory School. Although she got away from her own riding there, having an average of 40 students a day going through the barn over a six year period, she learned a tremendous amount about teaching and how important and influential a trainer is in people's lives. "Working with so many kids, I got to see time and time again how horses can turn a person around. I worked to teach the kids to put the horses first and keep the animals welfare ahead of their ambitions".

After leaving the school 6 years ago, she has been happy to focus back on dressage training. She is currently working out of Blue Sky Stable in Boca Raton. Since then she has been very lucky to ride a variety of horses in different levels. Arabians will always be her first love but she has had the privilege of working with a wide variety of horses from warmbloods and fresians to gypsy vanners and quarter horses. "My favorite thing is to try to unlock every horse's potential. They are like a new puzzle and to see horses open their minds and bodies to the 'dance' of dressage are always breathtaking, whether it's a trot circle or a half-pass." She is very excited to be carrying forward with her own horse, the talented half-Arabian GSF All Time High and is hoping to earn her USDF bronze medal this show season.

Her training philosophy is to use classical methods to create a happy partnership between horse and rider. Ellen Stein, a student of several years says: She is dedicated, has excellent communication skills and is able to break down and explain the "hows" and "whys" of every movement in a way the rider can understand, at a level they can execute. She is able to pick up on subtle nuances between horse and rider to fine tune their training. She has a unique ability to know exactly how to push both. She is kind, compassionate, and perhaps most importantly, she keeps riding FUN which motivates riders to be the best they can!

MEDA Ride-a-Test/Clinic Registration Form
Saturday, June 11th & Sunday, June 12th, 2011

Rider's Name: _____ Age (if under 18): _____

Address: _____

*E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

**ride times and registration confirmation will be sent via e-mail notification*

Horse's Name: _____ Age: _____

Owner: _____

Option A: (35 min)_____ Option B (50 min)_____ Option C (50 min)_____

Test you are riding for the clinic (Option A or B): _____

Day registering for: Saturday in Chilhowie (Bristol) _____ Sunday in Pulaski _____

Preferred ride time: AM _____ PM _____ No preference _____

Coggins: Copy of current negative Coggins MUST be presented when arriving at the facility

Entry Fees: 35-minute session: \$35 (Option A) 50-minute session: \$50 (Option B, Option C)
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Liability release:

I attest that I am participating voluntarily in this competition, fully aware that horse sports and this competition involve inherent dangerous risk. By participating, I expressly and solely assume any and all risk of injury or loss suffered during, or in connection with, the competition. I further understand that neither the organizers, property owners, Virginia Intermont College, Four Pillars Farm, Shadow Ranch, MEDA, volunteers, employees nor clinic management accept any responsibility for accidents, damage, injury, death, or illness to horses, owners, riders, employees, spectators, or any other persons, animals, or property in connection with this competition. (Parent or guardian must sign for minors under 18 years of age)

Signature of rider: _____ Signature of parent/guardian: _____

Mail entries (signed forms, check made out to MEDA and Coggins) to: Betty Domjahn, 3246 Flats Circle, Castlewood, VA 24224. Call 517.242.8577 (cell) with questions. May bring entry form, check and valid Coggins on day of clinic if registering via e-mail.