

To the VADA Nova Board:

The dressage camp was WONDERFUL! I just had to let you know that I had a terrific time, and that I can't wait to do it again!

The clinicians were just terrific. Jim and Kathy work very well as a team - a lesson from one set us up for the lesson with the other. They remained focused and energetic through some very long and hot days, and were still ready for more. I have a very clear understanding of what I need to work on with my horse! They were also excellent in that they were very positive when things went well - which happened often under their instruction.

But to make everything click along, the volunteers were the champs. Stephanie and Susan guided us to our stalls and dorms; showed us where other "necessities" were; retrieved keys for a certain someone who locked hers in her room; they and others were there at every juncture to provide water - despite the trying conditions, we all stayed hydrated thanks to them. Helpful, cheerful, and coordinated, they are responsible for how smoothly everything ran. There must have been hundreds of details to plan for, and others to deal with on the spot, but they did just that with a smile on their faces. Thanks to Bob Whitmire too for his good cheer!

As one of the other activities at camp, Jessie Ginsberg took time out of her weekend to teach us how to braid. As a rookie in the braiding area, I thought that was such a great idea! Now I think I can save some money and go to a few more shows by braiding myself (we'll see - I'm headed to Cedar Run Saturday....) But that wasn't all! At the (really fun) awards part of the weekend, Jessie made up little braiding starter kits for us. Now I can't wait to get out there with my stuff, and practice!

Finally, the accommodations were perfect. Thank heavens for AC! The indoor was sizeable and had lovely footing - and the outdoor provided just the right combination of privacy and distraction so we could "test" our horses.

So - I want to THANK YOU for providing this wonderful opportunity. I hope that it becomes a regular part of the VADA Nova routine. I, for one, think it's one of the best riding experiences I have had as an adult.

Kathy Davis

Dear Editor,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the VADA/NOVA Board and especially the Adult Rider Committee for Summer Camp '07. To be honest, I have never worked so hard, sweat so much, or been so dirty as I was that weekend. And had absolutely the most fun! The clinicians, Kathy Rowse and Jim Koford, were a dynamite team. They made all of us move out of that "comfort zone" and push ourselves to try something new. Some of us even did a new level in our fix-a-test and were quite surprised by the results. The Adult Committee deserves a huge pat on the back for this effort!

Sincerely,
Trish Conk

August 8, 2007

Dear Sheli,

Returned home yesterday from the finest horse event I have ever attended-Madeira summer camp.

Jim Koford and Kathy Rowse helped me enormously with my green horse. They gave me exactly the techniques that will help me to fix what he has been lacking. And the clinicians' manner of teaching was so graceful. They always remembered from one lesson to the next exactly what you had done and what you needed to do. They showed interest in each and every horse/rider pair throughout the whole camp period.

The schedule and timing worked perfectly. I am sure the Fix-A-Test was hard to plan, but it worked just right. Jim schooled us for the test, we rode it in front of Kathy, and then Kathy had us fix the "broken" parts.

Madeira was gracious and hospitable, being sure that we had what we needed. Accommodations were more than adequate, and we all had separate rooms.

Stephanie and Sue were volunteers of the highest order. They worked tirelessly every day to make everything work well and helped all participants and horses to be comfortable.

We 12 participants became friends-and so did our horses. Blueberry became a good camper and really liked the lifestyle. It was the perfect camp experience.

We all so hope you will plan this event for next year. I will sign up as soon as you say the word.

We all want to see more of Jim and Kathy. Could the Board consider sponsoring more clinics with them in the Northern Virginia area? They were so good-and they were 100% helpful 100% of the time.

Sincerely,

Julia Gribble