

# TVDCTA BITS

Contact us at  
tvdcta@gmail.com.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

When?	Where?	What?
<b>May 8</b>	<b>Steel Prize Stables</b>	<b>Kids Pre-Show Pizza Party</b>
<b>May 9</b>	<b>Steel Prize Stables</b>	<b>TVDCTA Dressage Schooling Show</b>
June 6-7	Brownland Farms	Tennessean Dressage Show
<b>June 14</b>	<b>Cotton Meadows Farm</b>	<b>TVDCTA Combined Training and Dressage Schooling Show</b>
July 11-12	Riverdale Farms	Greystone Dressage Show
Apr 11-12	Steel Prize Stables	Dressage Clinic with Debbie Rodriguez "S"
<b>Apr 21</b>	<b>Jane Dougert's House</b>	<b>April Meeting</b>
<b>Aug 8</b>	<b>Flint Ridge Farm</b>	<b>TVDCTA Schooling Show</b>
Aug 22-24	Miller Coliseum	Ole South Dressage Show
Aug 29-30	Riverdale Farms	Greystone Dressage Show
Sep 12-13	NE AL Agri-Bus Center	Mountain Music Dressage Show
<b>Oct 24</b>	<b>Flint Ridge Farm</b>	<b>TVDCTA Halloween Show</b>
Nov 14-15	Riverdale Farms	Greystone Dressage Show

\*Events in bold are hosted by the TVDCTA. All others are local events that can be audited for free, but are not directly affiliated with the TVDCTA.

\*\*These events are not set in stone. Check back for changes.



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The entry form for the May 9th show has been posted online.
- Ciera Foley will be our official show photographer for the May 9th show. Details to follow.
- There will be a kids' party at Steel Prize Stable the night before from 6-8:30pm. TVDCTA kids who are competing are asked to bring their tack for a big tack cleaning party. Non-competing kids are welcome to come hang out and eat. Please send them over with \$5 for pizza and either a drink or a dessert to be shared. Parents will be asked to fill out a quickie emergency contact form on site. Please let us know if your child is attending so that we can arrange an appropriate number of chaperones.

## PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

**What:** Best Friend Comfort Plus Bareback Pad

**Where:** State Line Tack

**How Much:** ~\$60

**Why:** This is a great alternative to true bareback for horses with boney backs or for riders who are too pansy to go for real bareback. Or maybe you like the feel of no saddle, but hate the sweaty horse hair butt patch you get from riding truly bareback. The seat is super comfy. Make sure to have the girth truly tight before getting on or else this pad may slip some. Also, the girth may interfere slightly with the lower leg, but it's not thick enough to be truly troublesome.



## INSPIRATION FROM ROLEX

I am a total dressage queen, but I've always loved watching Rolex. Each phase makes me reflect upon my own riding, and helps me establish new goals with which to move forward into the summer.

Of course the dressage days are my favorite. The difference between a beautiful dressage test and a mediocre one is made so obvious because the riders can't hide behind extravagant movement. Although the horses were correct in their movement, event horses simply aren't as WOW as most high end dressage warmbloods. Consequently, the wolves are really cut from the sheep. Jackie Brooks summed up the difference between the two types of riders brilliantly. She said that some riders RODE the test, and

### MISSION STATEMENT

TVDCTA is a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging a high standard of horsemanship through the use of classical dressage techniques. The TVDCTA will disseminate educational material, sponsor and promote activities (such as clinics, seminars and competitions), and cooperate with other local and national organizations in developing and promoting better horsemanship.

other just sat behind the wheel and steered. I think the components of a RIDE is a combination of precision, great transitions, and fluidity. Watch Time Price or Michael Jung. They are ON the markers for every movement, and it is perfectly clear exactly what movement they are riding. They are collected—extended—collected, and there is no weird vague moment in between. They ride to a high standard. It is not good enough to just ride a half-pass from B to G, the half pass must be at the right angle, crossing, etc. The horse must be through, not just kinda sorta on the contact. They prepare, prepare, prepare before each change so that the horse is perfectly balanced and ready for the new movement. This makes the test look flowing and beautiful. Lastly, they use every inch of that arena — absolutely no cut corners. Watch average tests. Yeah, the riders get through it, but it either looks too casual or way too mechanical.

Of course, XC is the meat of the sport. Watching these rounds instill some suck-it-up in me. These guys are flat galloping at some seriously scary jumps, that their horses have never seen, and there is no room for waffling. They just get the job done. Makes me feel a little ridiculous for getting nervous over my horse spooking at that tree in the corner.

Cross country also makes me look at my fitness as well as my horses. This is not a sport for wussies, and it is a SPORT. Notice that the top placing riders were all super fit athletes. The softer riders were all relegated to mid-pack at best. Also notice that certain soft riders who had good dressage and XC days, had horses that were too tired to keep the rails up in SJ, possibly because of the extra they were carrying around the day before. Sometimes dressage seems too peaceful and polite for us to think of it as a sport, but we must remember that if we want our horses to be hard athletes, we need to be hard athletes too. Sure, I'm not galloping over 4.5 miles, but I am using my body to hold a 1200 animal into an uphill balance. That takes some muscles, and those work better without this nice little insulation layer I've acquired during the winter. Time to get fit.

Show jumping day always thrills and kills me. Here, I'm going to say it. I think the majority of American event riders are HIDEOUS over fences. So much praying mantis, so many flapping wings, soooooo much getting left behind. Straight up, these people need some George Morris in their lives. Maybe it's because I grew up in the hunter/jumper world and not the eventing one, but good lord it's bad. Perhaps that's why the Europeans come on over and slaughter them. Tim Price and Michael Jung would have been totally at home in any equitation class — beautiful riders! Maybe that's why they win everything, because they realize the value of form and style. They go beyond just getting the job done, being "scrappy," but will continue to push for perfection. This is what I take from show jumping — that form and function are the same. It is not enough to simply be "effective," one must also be correct in their mechanics. So, yank off those stirrups and look in the mirror. It's time to get that chest out, those arms long, and those heels down and out.

So I'll never be an event rider. I have zero interest galloping at jumps, and I don't want to participate in a sport where horses and riders dying is somewhat normal (it's getting better!). But I still love Rolex, and it comes at the perfect time of year for me. Coming out of winter and school, I need a good kick in the pants and Rolex always does that for me. Having Jung come this year was a serious bonus. I mean, I love Fox-Pitt and the Silver Fox, but Jung is in a league of his own.

Go Rolex! Go Terminator! Go eventing!

~KLA



TVDCTA Dressage Schooling Show with Judge Andrea Pappano "L"  
 May 9, 2015 — Steel Prize Stables  
 Closing Date: My 5, Ride times will be posted the week of the show on TVDCTA.org

Horse:	Owner:
Rider:	Birthdate (JR/YR):
Address:	Phone:
City:	Email:
State/Zip:	Date of Coggins:

2015 USEF tests will apply. Only mailed-in entries will be accepted. Entries must be in hand by the closing date, or will incur a late fee and will not be guaranteed entry. Entries will be given ride times on a first come basis. Negative Coggins (within 1 year) MUST accompany entry form. Please print clearly. Please submit separate form for each horse/rider combination.

	Test	Fee Amount AA/O: \$25, JR/YR: \$22
Ride 1		
Ride 2		
Ride 3		

**Show Policies**

Management may refuse any entry for any reason. Management reserves the right to make any changes necessary to the efficient running of the show. Entries must be complete, with Coggins, before show day. Riders may not enter the arena until directed by gate-keeper. All riders must wear ASTM/SEI approved helmets (with harness fastened) at all times while mounted. **No dogs allowed on show grounds.** Contact Judith Fiorentino at [SteelPrize@knology.net](mailto:SteelPrize@knology.net) or 256-682-1200 for stabling information.

<b>Class Fee Total</b>	
<b>Non-Member Fee (\$10/test)</b>	
<b>*Join TVDCTA and Avoid Non-Member Fees*</b> (Adult=\$40, JR=\$30, 2 Rider Family=\$50)	
<b>Late Fee (\$25)</b>	
<b>Total</b>	

In making this application and entering in equine activities at Steel Prize Stables, the undersigned agrees and acknowledges that participating in equine activities may result in injuries or death as a result of the inherent risk of equine activities. The undersigned on behalf of herself or himself, and as the parent or guardian of any minor entered does hereby agree to assume any and all risks, known or unknown, associated with all equine activities held at, or sponsored by, Steel Prize Stables and TVDCTA. The undersigned on behalf of herself or himself, and as the parent or guardian of any minor entered does further agree to indemnify and hold harmless TVDCTA, Steel Prize Stables and its employees, agents, volunteers and officers from any and all damages and losses, whether known or unknown, occurring to any person, horse, pony, vehicle or property, of the undersigned or any minor that the undersigned is a parent or guardian for.

**Rider Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to TVDCTA. No refunds after closing date.**

**Mail entries to Show Secretary, Steel Prize Stables, 125 Christopher Drive, Madison, AL, 35757.**

OFFICE USE	Check#	Coggins?	Member
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# CLASSIFIEDS

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## MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

FREE TEXT ADS FOR CURRENT MEMBERS GO HERE!!!!

### TVDCTA Bits Advertising Rates

- Business Card.....\$ 5/mo.
- 1/4 Page.....\$10/mo.
- 1/2 Page.....\$17/mo.
- Full Page.....\$30/mo.
- Classified.....\$2/line/mo.

<p><b>Judith Fiorentino</b>                  USDF Bronze, Silver, Gold</p>	<p><b>Kelly L. Arnold</b>                  USDF Bronze</p>
<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">Steel Prize Stables</p>	
<p>125 Christopher Drive                  Madison, AL 35757</p>	<p>256-837-5475                  SteelPrize@knology.net</p>