



**OVCTA Year End Award Point Standings as of November 15, 2016**

Get you OVCTA points scores to Sara Erush by 1/25/17. Our awards will be presented at our annual meeting on March 17th.

Dressage

Introductory

- Alice Morse & Fearless - 20
- Nancy Peltier & Lord Chesterfield – 16
- Meg Knysh & Call Me Lonesome – 4

Training Level

- Alice Morse & Afgan NTF – 50
- Meghan Rosser & Orion Lucky Star – 20
- Ericka Killian & Stella – 9
- Nicole Newlin and Fearless – 6
- Annemarie Cochrane & Where'd It Go – 5
- Meg Knysh & Call Me Lonesome – 5

First Level

- Nicole Newlin & Fearless – 35
- Annemarie Cochrane and Where'd It Go -34
- Sarah Erush & Knight Heir – 16
- Kim Hennessey & Elsewhere – 15

Second Level and Above

- Sarah Erush & Knight Heir – 14
- Kim Hennessey & Elsewhere – 8

Combined Training

Beginner Novice

- Sandy Walt & Declan – 11

Novice

- Annmarie Cochrane & Where'd It Go - 37

**Important Update on OVCTA High Point and Achievement Awards for 2016**

Starting in 2016 Ovcta members will be required to send their results and volunteer hours to our points person who will be Sarah Erush : 215 - 416 - 0486 or erush@email.chop.edu. Results can be sent in e-mail (take a photo with your phone and send)

For more info on how our points are tallied visit: <http://ovcta.org/index.php/awards>

*Save the Date! March 17th 2017*

*OVCTA Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet*

*Spring Hollow Country Club  
Spring City Pa. 19475*

*Special Guest Speaker: Lauren Annette  
"Western Dressage"*

*Invitation and price to follow*

**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.

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# OVCTA Calendar 2017

## **2017 OVCTA Calendar and OVCTA Points Show Calendar**

This calendar includes the official list of shows where OVCTA members may earn scores towards Year End Awards. There may be additions to this calendar which will be posted on [www.ovcta.org](http://www.ovcta.org) \*Please note that 'Points Shows' are not organized or managed by OVCTA. \*Please also note that OVCTA members MUST volunteer in some way in order to qualify for Year End Awards.

### January 2017

5th - 6:30PM Dr. Kevin Keane Presents: All about an Equine Pre-purchase Examine  
To be held at the Romano 4H Center 1841 Pottstown Pike (Rt 322 W near Rt. 82) Honeybrook, Pa. 19344.  
Please RSVP to Debby Hadden : [debhadden@gmail.com](mailto:debhadden@gmail.com)

7th – Dunmovin Farm- Dressage Schooling Show, West Chester, FMI Doreen Garland 610-416-3839 [dunmovin2@verizon.net](mailto:dunmovin2@verizon.net) OVCTA Point Show

7th - 6:30 PM OVCTA Winter Party Hunter Hill Farm Coventryville, Pa. We're planning a pot luck supper: if your last name starts with A-M bring a side dish or appetizer, if your last name starts with N-Z bring a dessert. If you want to join our Yankee Swap, bring a gift of \$10 value...Please RSVP by Jan. 3rd to: [nancy.peltier@comcast.net](mailto:nancy.peltier@comcast.net)

14th – Blue Goose Stable- **Snowflake Series**-Dressage Schooling Show, Cochranville, FMI Darcy Miller 610-999-5231 [bluegoosetable@verizon.net](mailto:bluegoosetable@verizon.net) OVCTA Point Show

22nd - Long Lining Clinic with Doreen Gutherie Dunmovin Farm 812 Gutherie Road, West Chester, Pa. 19380 More details will follow...  
Contact Kim Hennessey : [jhennes@verizon.net](mailto:jhennes@verizon.net)

28th – Straight Forward Dressage-Dressage Schooling Show, Glenmoore, FMI Cheryle Oshman Blunt 484-315-8484 [office-hero@straightforwarddressage.com](mailto:office-hero@straightforwarddressage.com) OVCTA Point Show

### **February 2017**

4th - Dunmovin Farm Dressage Schooling Show, West Chester, FMI Doreen Garland 610-416-3839 [dunmovin2@verizon.net](mailto:dunmovin2@verizon.net) OVCTA Point Show

11th – Blue Goose Stable- **Snowflake Series**-Dressage Schooling Show, Cochranville, FMI Darcy Miller 610-999-5231 [bluegoosetable@verizon.net](mailto:bluegoosetable@verizon.net) OVCTA Point Show

12th- Jumping Clinic with Nancy Ligon, Firefly Farm Glenmoore, Pa. FMI: Annemarie Cochran [amchchrane1@gmail.com](mailto:amchchrane1@gmail.com) 484-432-5338

25th – Straight Forward Dressage-Dressage Schooling Show, Glenmoore, FMI Cheryle Oshman Blunt 484-315-8484 [office-hero@straightforwarddressage.com](mailto:office-hero@straightforwarddressage.com) OVCTA Point Show

### **March 2017**

4th – Body Position Lunging Clinic with Ange Bean Details TBA

11th -Dunmovin Farm- -Dressage Schooling Show, West Chester, FMI Doreen Garland 610-416-3839 [dunmovin2@verizon.net](mailto:dunmovin2@verizon.net) OVCTA Point Show

17th- OVCTA Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet, 6:30 PM, Spring Hollow Country Club, Spring City, Pa. FMI Criss Brown fancy-feet97@hotmail.com

18th – Blue Goose Stable- **Snowflake Series**-Dressage Schooling Show, Cochranville, FMI Darcy Miller 610-999-5231 [bluegoosetable@verizon.net](mailto:bluegoosetable@verizon.net) OVCTA Point Show

25th – Straight Forward Dressage-Dressage Schooling Show, Glenmoore, FMI Cheryle Oshman Blunt 484-315-8484 [office-hero@straightforwarddressage.com](mailto:office-hero@straightforwarddressage.com) OVCTA Point Show

26th - Jumping Clinic with Pam Wiedemann. Firefly Farm, Glenmoore, Pa. FMI Deb Mueller [debm@worldlynx.net](mailto:debm@worldlynx.net)

### **April 2017**

15th – Dunmovin Farm-Dressage Schooling Show, West Chester, FMI Doreen Garland 610-416-3839 [dunmovin2@verizon.net](mailto:dunmovin2@verizon.net) OVCTA Point Show

22nd– Blue Goose Stable-Dressage and CT Schooling Show, Cochranville, FMI Darcy Miller 610-999-5231 [bluegoosetable@verizon.net](mailto:bluegoosetable@verizon.net) OVCTA Point Show

27th – Cross Country Clinic with Pam Wiedemann at Boyd Martin's Details TBA

**May 2017**

6<sup>th</sup>– Blue Goose Stable-Dressage and CT Schooling Show, Cochranville, FMI Darcy Miller 610-999-5231 [bluegoosestable@verizon.net](mailto:bluegoosestable@verizon.net) OVCTA Point Show

13<sup>th</sup> – Dunmovin Farm-Dressage Schooling Show, West Chester, FMI Doreen Garland 610-416-3839 [dunmovin2@verizon.net](mailto:dunmovin2@verizon.net) OVCTA Point Show

**June 2017**

10<sup>th</sup>–Dunmovin Farm-Dressage Schooling Show, West Chester, FMI Doreen Garland 610-416-3839 [dunmovin2@verizon.net](mailto:dunmovin2@verizon.net) OVCTA Point Show

24<sup>th</sup>– Blue Goose Stable-Dressage and CT Schooling Show, Cochranville, FMI Darcy Miller 610-999-5231 [bluegoosestable@verizon.net](mailto:bluegoosestable@verizon.net) OVCTA Point Show

**July 2017**

1<sup>st</sup> – OVCTA Dressage at the Beach, Hunter Hill Stables, Coventryville Pa. FMI Nancy Peltier [nancy.peltier@comcast.net](mailto:nancy.peltier@comcast.net)

15<sup>th</sup>– Blue Goose Stable-Dressage and CT Schooling Show, Cochranville, FMI Darcy Miller 610-999-5231 [bluegoosestable@verizon.net](mailto:bluegoosestable@verizon.net) OVCTA Point Show

29<sup>th</sup>–Dunmovin Farm-Dressage Schooling Show, West Chester, FMI Doreen Garland 610-416-3839 [dunmovin2@verizon.net](mailto:dunmovin2@verizon.net) OVCTA Point Show

**August 2017**

5<sup>th</sup>– Blue Goose Stable-Dressage and CT Schooling Show, Cochranville, FMI Darcy Miller 610-999-5231 [bluegoosestable@verizon.net](mailto:bluegoosestable@verizon.net) OVCTA Point Show

19<sup>th</sup>–Dunmovin Farm-Dressage Schooling Show, West Chester, FMI Doreen Garland 610-416-3839 [dunmovin2@verizon.net](mailto:dunmovin2@verizon.net) OVCTA Point Show

**September 2017**

2<sup>nd</sup>– Blue Goose Stable-Dressage and CT Schooling Show, Cochranville, FMI Darcy Miller 610-999-5231 [bluegoosestable@verizon.net](mailto:bluegoosestable@verizon.net) OVCTA Point Show

**October 2017**

7<sup>th</sup>- Blue Goose Stable-Dressage and CT Schooling Show, Cochranville, FMI Darcy Miller 610-999-5231 [bluegoosestable@verizon.net](mailto:bluegoosestable@verizon.net) OVCTA Point Show

28<sup>th</sup>- Dunmovin Farm-Dressage Schooling Show, West Chester, FMI Doreen Garland 610-416-3839 [dunmovin2@verizon.net](mailto:dunmovin2@verizon.net) OVCTA Point Show

**November 18<sup>th</sup>**

5<sup>th</sup>- OVCTA Big Fall Show. Details TBA

11<sup>th</sup>- Blue Goose Stable-Dressage and CT Schooling Show, Cochranville, FMI Darcy Miller 610-999-5231 [bluegoosestable@verizon.net](mailto:bluegoosestable@verizon.net) OVCTA Point Show

18<sup>th</sup>- Dunmovin Farm-Dressage Schooling Show, West Chester, FMI Doreen Garland 610-416-3839 [dunmovin2@verizon.net](mailto:dunmovin2@verizon.net) OVCTA Point Show

**December 2017**

2<sup>nd</sup>- Blue Goose Stable-Dressage and CT Schooling Show, Cochranville, FMI Darcy Miller 610-999-5231 [bluegoosestable@verizon.net](mailto:bluegoosestable@verizon.net) OVCTA Point Show

*Visit [OVCTA.org](http://OVCTA.org) for OVCTA activity and show details*

*Volunteers are always needed & appreciated.  
Remember your volunteer hours count towards year end awards.*

**OVCTA Presents an Introduction to Long Lining with Doreen Garland  
Sunday January 22st, 10AM-1PM  
Dunmovin Farm, 812 Guthrie Rd.  
West Chester Pa. 19380**

**Watch some Long Lining demos, hear the explanation, an get to try it with an experienced horse if time allows. Then we'll follow up with a hands on clinic with your own horse in April.**

*Just what is Long Lining?*

- ▣ Long Lining can be described as "riding from the ground". It is a great tool to enhance the training of the horse and rider.
- ▣ It gives the horse the advantage to learn with out having to contend with our weight on their back.
- ▣ It can improve balance and regularity in the gaits.
- ▣ You can observe the way the horse moves. This can shed some light on why they may have some difficulty under saddle in certain gaits or movements.
- ▣ Anything that can be done astride can be done in the long lines, ie - lateral work, ground poles.
- ▣ The rider will master skills involving body language, coordination, connection, balance, timing, and energy projection.

Doreen Garland has over 30 years of experience in the horse industry as a rider/competitor, barn Manager, instructor and a show organizer. Her favorite discipline is dressage but has ridden Hunters, Evented, and has even done some Combined Driving. Doreen's teaching is geared toward building the basics for the horse and rider so they can grow into their discipline of choice. Long lining has become a part of her training and teaching methods. She has been working since 2013 with Richard Malmgren to enhance her Long Lining Skills.

**Cost: \$20 for OVCTA Members; \$25 for non members  
Bring a chair.**

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

*Local Calendar & News*

**Jan 22, 12:00,** From "transitions within the gait" to half halt Straight forward Dressage Open Training Sessions, FMI straightforwarddressage.com

**Jan 30th-31st**—Straight Forward Dressage Presents a dressage clinic with Kathy Rowse. FMI straightforwarddressage.com

**Feb 19, 12:00,** Obedience, resistance, and evasions Straight forward Dressage open training session  
FMI straightforwarddressage.com

**May 6th-7th** -Dressage Clinic with Major Jeremy Beale, Pen-Y-Bryn Farm, Chester Springs, Pa. Contact info: 610-827-4080

**June 25th 26th**-Dressage Clinic with Major Jeremy Beale, Pen-Y-Bryn Farm, Chester Springs, Pa. Contact info: 610-827-4080

**July 22nd-23rd**-Dressage Clinic with Major Jeremy Beale, Pen-Y-Bryn Farm, Chester Springs, Pa. Contact info: 610-827-4080

**September 1st-2nd**-Dressage Clinic with Major Jeremy Beale, Pen-Y-Bryn Farm, Chester Springs, Pa. Contact info: 610-827-4080

*Lots going on in 2017*

OVCTA Is planning many activities for the upcoming year. We start off early with a seminar on equine pre-purchase exams by Dr. Kevin Keane on 1/5 and on 1/7 we're having our holiday party at Hunter Hill.

We still working out the details on our long line clinic with Doreen Gutherie on 1/22 at Dunmovin Farm. We will be having two jumping clinics at Firefly Farm in Glenmoore, one on 2/12 with Nancy Ligon and the other on March 26th with Pam Wiedemann. We have a body position lunging clinic with Ange Bean at Straight Forward dressage on March 4th. On March 17th we have our Annual Meeting and Awards banquet with guest speaker Lauren Annette discussing "Western Dressage"

In April there will be a follow up long lining clinic on 4/1 and a cross country jumping clinic with Pam Wiedemann at Windurra Farm, (Boyd Martin's) on the 30th.

We also have 2 clear round jumping events that are to be scheduled for early evenings this summer. In addition there are at this point, 2 schooling shows on the calendar: July 1st Dressage at the Beach and our November 5th OVCTA Big Fall Show. There is also at least one dressage clinic that we are considering.

Details on all of these activities will be listed on our web site: ovcta.org, in our e-mail newsletter and also on our facebook page. There are plenty of reasons to join OVCTA in 2017. We hope to see you out and about with your horse and happy trails for the New Year.

## 2017 Membership now due

# OVCTA 2017 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

I hereby apply for membership in the Oley Valley Combined Training Association for the Year 2017. Membership expires on November 30th 2016. 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, Anne Rousak 2320 West Chester Rd. East Fallowfield, Pa. 19320. For further questions you can contact Anne: Anne\_Rousak@msn.com or 610 466 9601**

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'**

***Pay your membership with PayPal account!***

***Visit Ovcta.org for details (under membership)***

**Please answer a few questions. Thank You!**

Would you like to participate in OVCTA Team Competitions? **Y/N**

If so, which one? Event Teams \_\_\_\_ Dressage Teams \_\_\_\_

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 AUTOMATI-**



**OVCTA is a USEA  
Affiliate Organization**

# CLASSIFIEDS

**Point Two Air Vest:** Size Large, worn only a few times. Second gas canister included \$550. Contact Deb Mueller [debm@worldlynx.net](mailto:debm@worldlynx.net); 610-247-3269

**HORSE FOR SALE:** 14'3 bay registered ISR Sport Pony 9 yo gelding by Wicked Courtjester. Endless forward energy with 3 good gaits, jumps, hacks, dressage with talent for lateral work, gobs of personality and barefoot. Turned out all day. Perfect for solid Pony Clubber or small adult eventer. 15K. Trisha Hessinger 610-390-1919

**Zilco Classic Harness:** This horse-size synthetic carriage harness is in excellent condition, has been used only a few times. It is suitable for combined driving, everyday training, and recreational driving. Asking \$1,000. For more information or photos, please contact Nancy Peltier at 610-948-6787 or email at [nancy.peltier@comcast.net](mailto:nancy.peltier@comcast.net)

**Wembly dressage saddle,** 17 1/2", brown, includes leathers and irons. This older saddle is in very good condition, has been stored inside, the leather is well-maintained and the billets show little wear. The cut back design and spring tree spring tree should fit well on a wide variety of backs. Asking \$375. For more information or photos, please contact Nancy Peltier at 610-948-6787 or email at [nancy.peltier@comcast.net](mailto:nancy.peltier@comcast.net)

**John Lyons Symposium Video Collection-** 7 VHS tapes, 3 never opened. Also John Lyons Video Collection Part II- 7 VHS tapes, 4 never opened. Incomplete, used set of 6 listed on Amazon for \$15 plus shipping. I'm asking \$15 for each complete set. No shipping charges! Offers Considered. [janewbeck@yahoo.com](mailto:janewbeck@yahoo.com)

**Warmblood gelding 3 yrs, by Tara's Star.** Big, already 16.3 h. Jumper bloodlines, pre training price \$5,000. Becky 484-769-2177.

**Greenview Farm- WC/Dwngtown area- Spring Openings for boarding.** Indoor/Outdoor, nice pastures.-DunMovin Dressage Shows, Natural Horsemanship Clinics, on site. [www.greenviewfarm.net](http://www.greenviewfarm.net)- Denise Daly 610-350-7670

**Michael Stokes Centaur dressage saddle 18" black.** Pigskin seat, 2 new billets, excellent condition. Custom features: seat fits a woman's pelvis, but it is NOT a "wide twist." V Billets keep the saddle securely on the horse. Use a girth with divided ends. Flaps are cut slightly forward, so you can use it for trail riding. (If you prefer long billets and a short girth, you can just replace the billets.) Price \$1200. New they go for \$3200. Contact: [awiegle@fast.net](mailto:awiegle@fast.net)

**Top of the Line Medium Pony for sale.** Woodland's Elle, 13'2" with a permanent card. 12 years old, gorgeous black dappled pony with chrome sound with no vices, very sweet welsh/tb mare. Has done A hunter shows, pony finals, pony club championships, won at eventing through BN with no jump faults and dressage scores in the teens, forhunts, paper chases, trail rides. Barefoot, turned out with geldings, has a forward gait and is a good jumper so not for a rank beginner although she has never done anything - she's just athletic. not for games, lessons - she needs her own kid. \$10,000 call Karen Rubin 215-429-9023

**Field Board for up to 4 horses on excellent pasture** (divided into 2 fields) with large run in. Self care ONLY (i.e.—you make sure they have

water) but they will be watched and in a safe situation on a private farm. Full XC course on 30 acres; usage included. Long or short term. Call Riannon 610.326.8151

**Sports Massage for Horse & Rider – Marvel Massage Studio, LLC** Are you or your horse having trouble bending or stretching - have tight or sore muscles? Does your horse toss their head, refuse to pick up correct lead, have an unexplained lameness? Do you have difficulty with lateral movements, jumping, girthing of "cold back", or even lack of forward impulsion? These are all symptoms of muscle and soft tissue problems. OVCTA Members qualify for a free hands on consultation and evaluation of their horse. **Contact** Michelle Przemieniecki, Licensed & Certified Massage Therapist at 610-310-8712. [www.marvelmassage.net](http://www.marvelmassage.net)

**BOARD-TRAINING-LESSONS-** Karen Monks Reilly a USDF silver and bronze medalist and "L" graduate with distinction has a stall available in West Grove PA. USEF National Young Horse Championship winner available for lessons, clinics, judging and horses in training. [KMONKSREILLY@Gmail.com](mailto:KMONKSREILLY@Gmail.com)

**Stalls Available in Chester Springs:** No mares, lighted outdoor ring, access to trails, foxhunters welcome. Next to Pen-y-Bryn Farm. Full board \$475. Hellzapoppin Farm 610 458 5211

**DRESSAGE LESSONS:** Trisha Hessinger is a USDF Silver Medalist, 2 time Region 1 Champion, L Graduate 'with distinction', offering basic to FEI lessons near Kutztown. Will travel to you or you can trailer in & train in our indoor! Stalls available for multi day sessions. \$60/ hour, semi privates available. Email or call: [tah-go4it@aol.com](mailto:tah-go4it@aol.com) 610-390-1919

**Straight Forward Dressage --** We take our horses seriously, but not ourselves. Come board or train with us at our new facility in Glennmoore, Pa. We provide quality care, understandable dressage training for horse and rider, and a correct stat for your young sport horse. Ange Bean, head trainer, 484-467-0879 or [ange@straightforwarddressage.com](mailto:ange@straightforwarddressage.com)

**Improve your horse's top line. Connected Riding lessons.** Based on horse/rider balance and biomechanics. I can travel to you, no trailering unless you want to. 610-273-2405, [debhadden@gmail.com](mailto:debhadden@gmail.com), [debbyhadden.com](http://debbyhadden.com)

**DRESSAGE RING FOR RENT:** Letters snap together with white PVC pipe. Assembles and disassembles easily. Reasonable rates. Security Deposit required. To Reserve it for YOUR show dates call Bobbi Soos 610-207-2915 [soosr99@aol.com](mailto:soosr99@aol.com)

*OVCTA does not warranty or guarantee items in this classified section*

Send your ads to [debm@worldlynx.net](mailto:debm@worldlynx.net)

**Send your news or classified ads to Deb Mueller  
[debm@worldlynx.net](mailto:debm@worldlynx.net) or txt 610 247 3269**

## Hunter Show Clinic with Martha Redman

On Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup> I attended OVCTA's Horse Show Clinic with Martha Redman at Hunter Hill Stables. The clinic was a great opportunity to practice and improve hunter show skills while learning from an experienced professional. It was billed as a "fix-a-test" for hunters and I think that's a perfect description. It was a breezy day in the outdoor up on the hill side for the five horse and rider combinations. The format mimicked a standard hunter division at a show with one under saddle and two over fences rounds. We all flatted together and then took turns jumping. Martha provided feedback after each round and then we immediately re-rode the course.

Even though I'm a card carrying dressage queen, I decided to participate with my 7yo mare Ming because we both enjoy jumping and I wanted to learn more about the details that go into presenting a quality show hunter round from someone who is an active 'A' circuit competitor. My own competitive experiences over fences have been mainly limited to jumpers and combined training where the score is solely based on leaving the rails up. I am thinking of attending more hunter shows this fall so I wanted to gain some clarity about the judging criteria and also get an assessment of Ming's suitability for the sport, in case of a career change down the road.

So here are my three main takeaways about riding at a hunter show:

Create and maintain a consistent rhythm in each gait

Stay quiet with your body so that the judges eye is drawn to the horse, not the rider

Tune the horse to consistently respond to subtle aids

Apply your aids and make any corrections (bending, rebalancing, etc) within the rhythm of the gait

Have a plan for your approach to the first fence and your related distances

The opening circle is where you establish your canter

Adding a stride in rhythm is better than a chip that disrupts the flow of the round

The points above apply to all my fellow hopeful hunters out there. I also picked up some helpful tips that addressed some of my specific challenges coming from riding primarily in dressage tack. I had to be aware of my tendency to default to a full seat position after a jump. This helps my horse rebalance, but it also gets in the way of her "departing the fence" as Martha would say. Which means landing with the forward impulsion needed to get down the line in the ideal striding. The correct idea is to rebalance as needed by smoothly opening your hip angle without compromising your two point position above the saddle. Simple, right?

Another big tip for the dressage-inclined is to keep your vision at the horizon. I have mastered the art of keeping your chin up while dropping your gaze to stare at the horses neck (because we all know that's the best way to tell if they're really on the bit J). But when riding a course, or around the ring with a dozen or more other horses, it's very beneficial to keep both eyes up at all times and have faith that the horse won't suddenly disappear out from under us the moment we stop staring at it. I found that having the right focal point is a powerful aid, especially when approaching a fence off of a turn. It really hit home when Martha challenged me to think about getting centered on a jump coming out of a corner as if I was turning onto centerline in a dressage arena.

I really enjoyed listening to all of Martha's critiques. She is a good communicator and was very encouraging with each rider. It's easy to see how her lessons can cross disciplines and benefit not only hunters, but jumpers, and CT'ers too. I came away with a greater appreciation for a lighter style of riding, and for how athletic top hunter horses have to be. Their canter and jump combine the forward flowing suppleness of a training/first level horse with the engagement and lofty cadence of a third/fourth level horse. My thanks to Michelle P., Hunter Hill Stables, and OVCTA for a great afternoon!

By Aneesa Romans



**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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**OVCTA Website: [WWW.OVCTA.ORG](http://WWW.OVCTA.ORG)**