



photo Carol Stockton

FIRST EVER BAROQUE BLAST PLAY DAY!

by Sharon Madere

On November 11, a group of Classical Riding enthusiasts gathered near Richmond, VA for a wonderful afternoon of fun, camaraderie and shared learning. Four horses & riders, cheered by on-the-ground participants, practiced movements and Patterns from the Classical Schooling and Mounted Maneuvers Sections of The Baroque Equestrian Games. Everyone joined in discussion between the rides, offering encouragement and helpful tips. The highlight was when we "took up our swords" and had a go at the "Fleur-de-Lis" targets and "Pierce the Ring" challenge. We had a wonderful time, our horses improved, and we're looking forward to our next "Baroque Blast"! Here's the feedback from a few of the folks:

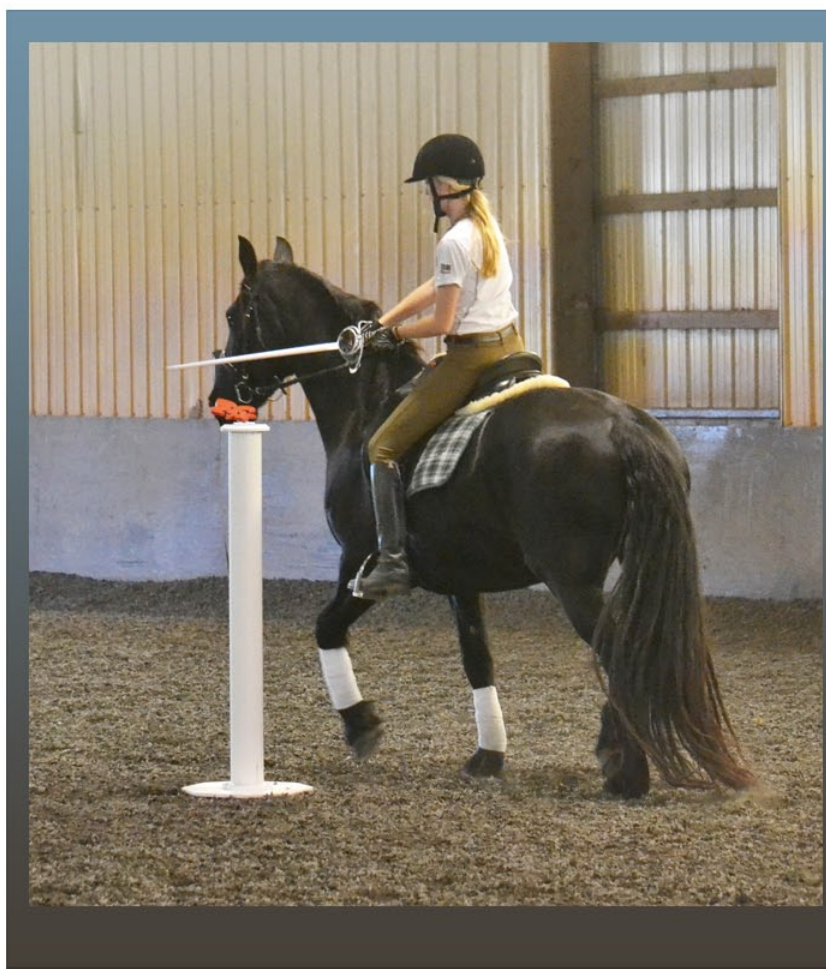
"Several BEGI members got together for a play-day and kindly invited me to join them. I'm so glad I did, as I learned so much about encouraging softness in the bridle, and how the Patterns help the horse to better balance. I joined BEGI and brought home a booklet of Patterns to practice with. There are Patterns for all levels, and since I'm riding alone, it is good to have Patterns that I can drop back to in order to find relaxation and focus. Your group is so friendly and passionate about riding. Just being with you and receiving ideas has inspired me. You all had a great time, but also were improving yourselves and your horses at the same time. I hope to be able to join you with my horse when you get together again. Thanks again for everything." - Susan F.

"I had such a wonderful time at the Baroque Blast Play Day. In the beginning my green mare came out a little stiff, but as I worked her through some square turns and later through the Patterns, she loosened up and became much softer in my hands. The lighter and softer she got, the more she began to engage her haunches and track up. I also tried sword-play for the first time with her, and to my amazement, she really seemed to enjoy it - and we ended up getting the sword through the ring! I really think this experience was not only beneficial for me, but for my mare as well."

- Dana & Desi

"My biggest takeaway was the improvement in the suppleness of the horses after having completed just some of the Patterns in the Classical Schooling Section- it was wonderful to see. I believe the Patterns are a college education all by themselves! But what I loved most about the whole experience was how calm and content the horses were throughout - no stress, no tension, no worry - everything was accomplished harmoniously. That to me is the true goal of horsemanship."

-Jeanne B.



INTERESTED IN HOSTING A WORKSHOP?

If you are interested in hosting or participating in a BEGI Weekend Workshop in your area, contact: Sharon Madere at EquiLightenment@gmail.com



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We invite you to join us on this new journey back to the historical foundation of Classical Horsemanship!

