

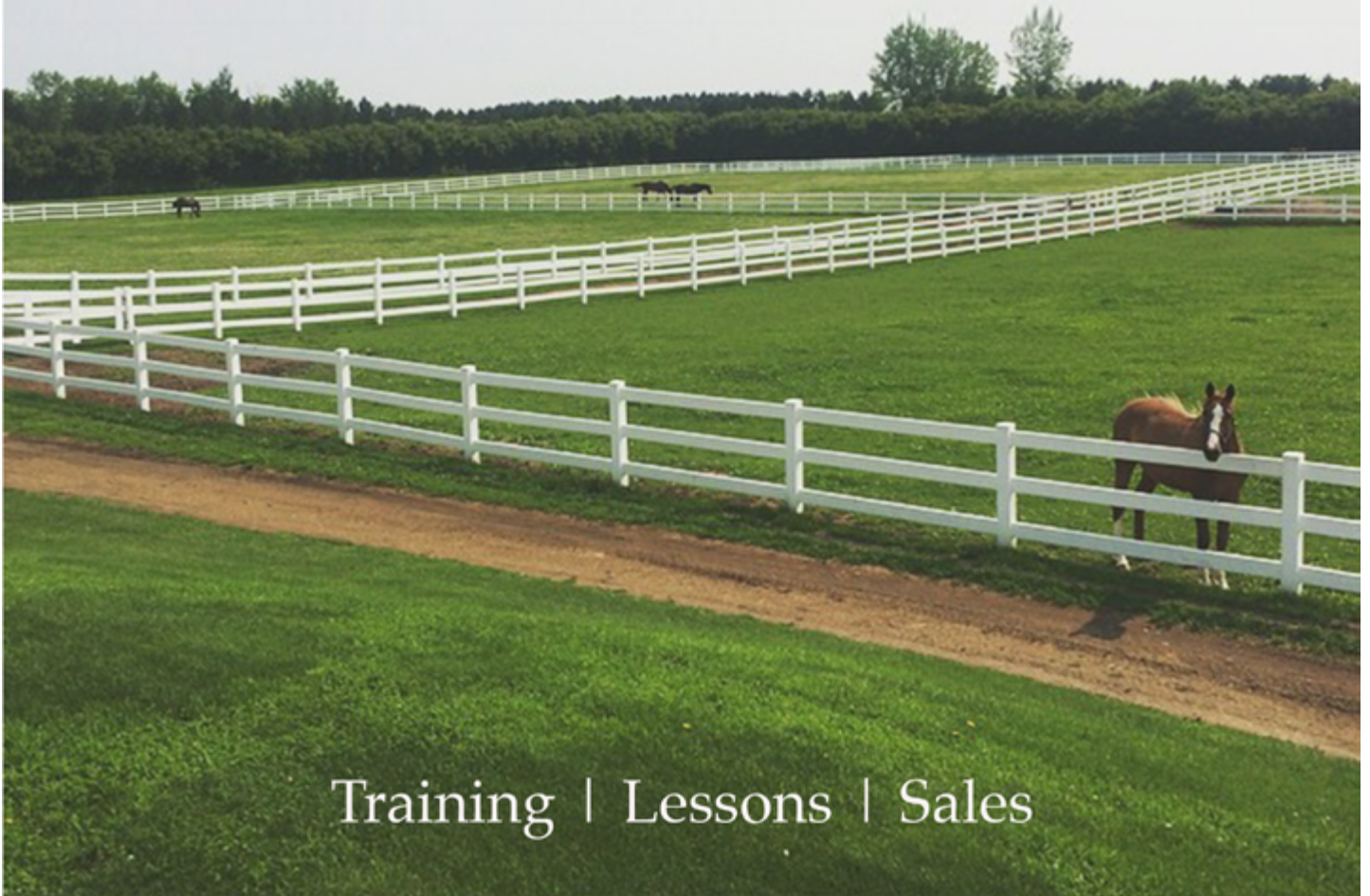
THE MINNESOTA HUNTER & JUMPER ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 48, ISSUE 1 - MARCH 2017



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THE MINNESOTA HUNTER & JUMPER ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 48, ISSUE 1 - MARCH 2017

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THE MINNESOTA HUNTER & JUMPER ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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MHJA OFFICERS

Elzabeth Lampert
President
(612) 282-5530
tinyelz@mac.com
Sue Novak
Vice President
(763) 486.8128
pommertrophy@aol.com

Tammy Johnson
Secretary
(651) 770.0809
tjohnson1@mmm.com
Lindsay Vail
Treasurer
(708) 856.1645
vail.lindsay@gmail.com

MHJA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tracy Grandstrand
(651) 407.0350
stonegate@usfamily.net
Nancy Giacchetti
(952) 607.7233
nancy.giacchetti@partnersinsynq.com
Jane Martinson
(612) 554.5625
janemartinson1@gmail.com
Kirsten Priebe
(952) 250.1571
kristenp12398@yahoo.com
Betsy Kieffer
(763) 494.8458
byllesby@embarqmail.com
Mary Armstrong
(651) 429.8998
brookside4652@comcast.net

Nicole Salazar
(612) 382.6454
nicolereene02@yahoo.com
Joanne Gibbs-Rumble
(612) 619.2194
gibbsrumble@gmail.com
Angela Mahoney
(612) 816.0070
angela.mahoney@genmills.com
Suzanne Wepplo
(651) 329.8285
swepplo@gmail.com
Norine Wilcox
(773) 771.9906
norine.wilcox@thehartford.com

MHJA NEWSLETTER STAFF

Elzabeth Lampert
President
(612) 282-5530
tinyelz@mac.com
Heather Parish
Interim Editor
(651) 492.6300
eagleton94@gmail.com
Lindsay Vail
Accounting & Advertising
(708) 856.1645
vail.lindsay@gmail.com

Betsy Kieffer
Associate Editor
(763) 494.8458
byllesby@embarqmail.com
Patty Franz | Franz Reprographics
Production
(763) 503.3401
pfranz@franzrepro.com
Sarah Donnell | Amp My Brand
Layout & Design
(763) 494.3204
sdonnell@ampmybrand.com

PUBLISHING SCHEDULE & DEADLINES

ISSUE	ADS & ARTICLES DUE
Summer	May 26
Fall	August 19
Winter	November 21
Spring	February 2

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FOR EDITORIAL CONTENT/ SUBMISSIONS

Article submissions are appreciated and accepted year-round. If you would like your article to be considered for an upcoming issue of the newsletter, please contact eagleton94@gmail.com for submission details, or call Heather Parish (651.492.6300).

2017 AD RATES

SIZE	1x	4x	SPECS
Full page, 4 color	\$150	\$500	7.5" x 10"
Full page, b&cw	\$100	\$320	7.5" x 10"
1/2 page, 4 color	\$105	\$400	7.5" x 4.75"
1/2 page, b&cw	\$60	\$200	7.5" x 4.75"
1/4 page, b&cw	\$40	\$140	3.5" x 4.75"
Business card, b&cw	\$25	\$80	3.5" x 2"
Horseman's Directory \$40/yr includes full year listing in Stable Directory on www.mhja6.org			
Classified Ads	\$10 per 25 words		

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Elizabeth Lampert, MHJA President



It's mid February and the weather staff is forecasting 50 degrees for the weekend. Is this foreshadowing for an incredible weather related show season? Or are we in for snow in May if it's this nice in February? I guess we'll have to wait and see, but my fingers and toes are crossed for the weather spirits to be on our side or the horse shows this spring!

Our country is under new leadership, and so are our equine governing bodies. Murray Kessler is the newly elected President of the USEF, and he will be working closely with the USHJA President, Mary Babick, to continue the successful partnership between the two associations. The Mission of the USEF is "To Provide access to and to increase participation in Equestrian Sports at all levels by ensuring fairness, safety and enjoyment." That is certainly a mission that we, the MHJA, can get behind. Although we often feel that the MHJA gets lost in the middle of the country, it is our hope that this new staff will recognize our needs as an active association, eager membership, and willing participants in horse shows both within and outside of our Zone and local affiliate borders. Participation and fairness are certainly issues that we feel strongly about here at home, and it continues to be very important that you all stand up for what you want from the USEF and USHJA.

Both Lindsay Vail and Betsy Kieffer were able to attend the USHJA convention in December, and you will find thoughtful reports of the meetings in this issue of the Newsletter. There are lots of new rules that will be in effect this season, some that will go not go into effect until the 2018 season, and all of which you will want to be informed of when it comes time to horse show. The new specs for the MHJA divisions to be recognized for year-end awards are included in this issue, and it is important that you become familiar with the changes that have been made.

Your MHJA representatives are all available to answer any questions you may have regarding USEF, USHJA and MHJA related specs and regulations.

We are working hard on plans for the spring MHJA show, speaking with the Urban's and Timmy Hott regarding the schedules and plans for Iowa shows, and looking forward to schedule adjustments for the State Fair and Harvest. The show schedule is included in this issue, and I know many of you will be sad to see that Otter Creek is no longer hosting their Labor Day weekend show. The Warner family worked hard to host their show for several years, but sadly the financial burden became more than they could continue to take due to the declining number of exhibitors. We appreciate their efforts to host us over the years, and sincerely hope they will consider hosting us again in the future. There are some promising improvements being made to some of the county fairgrounds over the next few months, so we will be keeping an eye on those facilities for future locations to host horse shows.

There are many factors that go into scheduling for show season, and there are certainly many options of shows to attend. As you set your schedule for this season please take a moment to remember how important your support is to the "small" show managers such as the Hott's, Urban's and the MHJA. Your participation is key to the survival of these shows if we want them to continue to be available for years to come. As always, I look forward to seeing you all ringside at ANY horse show, and I'm excited to see where our association can improve and expand this year.



Elizabeth Lampert



Heather Parish
interim editor



Betsy Kieffer
associate editor

From the Editors

HAPPY SPRING EVERYONE!

The 2017 MHJA Show Season is just around the corner and this issue will help get you up to speed on the new USEF and USHJA rules and changes. Be sure to mark your calendars for the MHJA Show in May, at Carriage House, it's never too early to start gathering up raffle items! Learn what makes veteran hunter Dark Chocolate tick, "In The Crosssties." Get to know your board member/year end award winner, Norine Wilcox, and test your memory with some old newsletter covers in the flashback "Guess Who" column.

Anyone attending the World Cup? We would love an article and photos! See you in Mason City!

We welcome your ideas for content, photos, and ads. Please contact me at eagleton94@gmail.com or visit the website www.mhja6.org

Best,

Heather

Betsy



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TENTATIVE 2017 MHJA CALENDAR

MHJA Recognized Shows

THIS CALENDAR IS TAKEN FROM THE USEF WEB SITE, AND SHOW MANAGERS. PLEASE CHECK DATES CAREFULLY. CARRIAGE HOUSE IS STILL TENTATIVE ON WHICH WEEK.

- Mid States Spring** | May 4 - May 7 | A rated | Mason City, IA | Dan Urban 619-820-3802
- Maffitt Lake Spring Gathering I** | May 11-15 | AA rated | Cumming, IA | Libby Hott 515-306-1140
- MHJA Horse Show** | May 19-22 | Patty Humphries 952-442-5321
- Mid States Summerfest** | June 7-11 | A rated | Mason City, IA | Dan Urban 619-820-3802
- Mid States Summer** | June 13-17 | A rated | Mason City, IA | Dan Urban 619-820-3802
- Mid States Encore** | June 19-21 | A rated | Mason City, IA | Dan Urban 619-820-3802
- Carriage House** | Either July 13-16 or 20-23 | B rated | Hugo, MN | Patty Humphries 952-442-5321
- Two Rivers Summer Fest I** | Cumming, IA | Aug. 2-6 | Libby Hott 515-981-1699
- Two Rivers Summer Fest II** | Cumming, IA | Aug. 9-13 | Libby Hott 515-981-1699
- Minnesota State Fair** | Aug. 23-25 | A rated | St. Paul, MN | Patty Humphries 952-442-5321
- Otter Creek Classic** | Cancelled | A rated | Wheeler, WI | Lena Werner 715-658-1602
- Mid States Fall** | September 13-17 | A rated | Mason City, IA
- MHJA MEDAL FINALS | Dan Urban 619-820-3802
- Madison County Fall Challenge** | Cumming, IA | September 20-24 | Libby Hott 515-306-1140
- Minnesota Harvest** | Oct. 3-8 | A rated | MN State Fair Grounds | St. Paul, MN | Elizabeth Lampert 612-262-5530

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE A PRIZE LIST FOR A SHOW,
PLEASE CONTACT THE PERSON LISTED.

SCHOOLING SHOWS

- Northrun Farm Series** – 13/4, 4/1, 5/13, 7/8, 8/12, 9/9, 10/14, 11/11, 12/9 | Contact Jacki Danielson 763-972-3820
- Red Pine Horse Shows** – June 3, 4; June 24, 25; July 29, 30; August 19, 20; September 9, 10; September 23. Those shows that have two days listed, the first day will be hunters, the second day jumpers. For more information go on line to the Red Pine Horse Show Association web site.

MEMORIAL TROPHIES

HIGH POINT SMALL JUNIOR MERE PERSUASION MEMORIAL

John and Stephanie Kaneps found Mere Persuasion, or Missy as she was called in the barn, in a pasture behind an old dairy barn in Southern MN. Stephanie said there was just "something about her" in that field, and she was so right. They weaned her away from the baby on her side, bought her, and brought her home to see if she would like to be a show horse. Missy only measured 15.1, but she had a heart twice that big. She took to horse showing easily and was soon jumping around the 3'6" with ease. Missy was successful in the Junior Hunters with Dylan Thomas, and then went on to campaign with Mandy McQuay in the hunters and equitation.

Donated by Danielle Gronneberg

Awarded to:

1990 – Idol Talk – Heather Parish
1991 – Idol Talk – Heather Parish
1992 – Sands of Time – Jessica Wangsness
1993 – Sands of Time – Jessica Wangsness
1994 – Steppin Out – Meg Henry
1995 – Steppin Out – Meg Henry
1996 – Step Aside – Mary Bend
1997 – In Cahoots – Katy Henry
1998 – In Cahoots – Katy Henry
1999 – Hot Topic – Mary Mulholland
2000 – Sneak Preview – Jennifer Knight
2001 – Time For Tiny – Jessica Renier
2002 – Time For Tiny – Jessica Renier
2003 – Morning Star – Kelly Harmel
2004 – Sea Captain – Rebecca Renier
2005 – What You Will – Sara Frey
2006 – What You Will – Sara Frey
2007 – The Real Delia – Katie Sweeney
2008 – The Real Delia – Katie Sweeney
2009 – Love Luca – Olivia Genereux
2010 – Art of Bronze – Katherine Bentfield
2011 – Art of Bronze – Katherine Bentfield
2012 – Calido's Son – Amanda Hauser
2013 – Calido's Son – Amanda Hauser
2014 – Lasting Impressions – Mini Lyons
2015 – Zurich – Emma Wexler
2016 – The Real McCoy – Rachel Johnson

HIGH POINT PONY HUNTER FLOYD PAULSON MEMORIAL

Awarded to the overall high point hunter pony. Donated by the Gronneberg family in honor of Marsha Gronneberg's father, Floyd Paulson.

Awarded to:

1990 – Chit Chat – Allison Dahlin
1991 – Fancy Fix – Meg & Katy Henry/Blue Skies Forever – Allison Dahlin
1992 – Fancy Fix – Meg & Katy Henry
1993 – RH Serious – Kimberly Holmquist
1994 – Dark Crystal – Samantha Bergman
1995 – Dark Crystal – Samantha Bergman
1996 – Al Capony – Amy Gormley
1997 – Sam I Am – Kelly Volp
1998 – Hakuna Matata – Julianna Gorder
1999 – Hakuna Matata – Julianna Gorder
2000 – Mister Sylvester – Alexandra McDonald
2001 – Hakuna Matata – Lindsay Jensen
2002 – RH Lottie Dah – Jillian Fairman
2003 – Sneakers – Alison Golden
2004 – Sneakers – Alison Golden
2005 – RH Lottie Dah – Alyssa Franz
2006 – Happy Days – Alyssa Franz
2007 – Happy Days – Alyssa Franz
2008 – Mini Cooper – Julia Mason
2009 – Hidden Springs Periwinkle – Quinn Leslie
2010 – Hidden Springs Periwinkle – Quinn Leslie
2011 – Salt Water Taffy – Amanda Hauser
2012 – Rollingwoods Rock Back and Cruz – Zoe Lampert
2013 – Helicon Privateer – Zoe Lampert
2014 – Northwind Just Josh'n – Zoe Lampert
2015 – Maybelline – Zoe Lampert
2016 – Paddington – Emily Okey



Mid States Spring	May 4-7, 2017
Mid States Summerfest	June 7-11, 2017
Mid States Summer	June 13-17, 2017
Mid States Encore	June 19 - 21, 2017
Mid States Fall	September 13-17, 2017

www.midstateshorseshow.com

Please join us in 2017

UEE Goodtime Days	April 20-23, 2017
Springtime Sunshine at Quail Run	June 1-4, 2017
End of Summer At Quail Run	Aug. 31-Sept. 3, 2017
Indian Summer in Elkhorn	September 6-10, 2017

www.urbanequineevents.com



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ARCHIE COX CLINIC REPORT



If you were unable to ride in or audit the Archie Cox Clinic on December 2-4, I'm sorry! You missed out! Archie Cox gave a wonderful clinic, teaching many of our area's juniors, amateurs and professional riders the finer points of riding on the flat, over fences and basic horsemanship. The clinic was organized by Elizabeth Lampert and held at the lovely Arbor Hill Farm in Hugo, Minnesota. Archie Cox, a life long horseman, is not only a nationally winning rider and a licensed judge and steward, he is an excellent teacher and trainer. After participating in his clinic, it is easy to understand how he has trained and coached countless riders and horses to winning national honors. I had the opportunity to ride two horses in all three days of the clinic, one in the 3' group and the other in the 3'3"- 3'6" group and I found it thoroughly educational and enjoyable!

Archie dedicated the beginning of each lesson to detailed flat work. We made transitions between gaits, changes or direction, circles of specific sizes, always working on "riding in the most beautiful and effortless way possible." Classical principles such as riding from leg to hand, maintaining a steady connection with a straight line from elbow to bit, and riding forward and straight were emphasized. Archie is very detail oriented and observant. He was very specific in the ways he wanted basic figures, like circles, changes of rein, and serpentines executed. Coming from a dressage background, I appreciate how he didn't let the little things slide. Sometimes I feel too focused on accuracy on the flat, but now I feel justified!

When the lessons progressed into jumping, he continued to stress the importance of a correct and effective riding position and how it leads to the horse being able to jump correctly and athletically. We worked on upper body control and the ability to follow the horses mouth while jumping through simple gymnastics. We rode figure 8's and bending line exercises, with Archie's encouragement to keep our "eye level up as horses will always go where you look." The courses progressed in length and difficulty, with tighter and more difficult turns and the jumps

became bigger. The horses in the clinic became handier, more elastic and rideable. As they were encouraged to lengthen and shorten stride, jump and turn, horses began balancing back on their hind ends, which improved their canter and jump. I focused on "finding a quieter distance" so that I could smoothly execute the turns, maintaining my balance and effective riding position. By the last day of the clinic, I really felt my horses "jump up and around" the jumps, which was so rewarding.

One of the biggest reasons this was such a great clinic is because Archie is an excellent teacher. He is obviously a skilled and experienced trainer who has a pocket full of exercises that challenge and improve horses and riders, but he also loves teaching! He seems to be that elusive mix of a trainer who is challenging, strict, and critical enough but can teach in a confidence-building, compassionate way. He requires focus, 100% of the time. During the lessons, he constantly asked questions of the other riders in the group, about what was observed about the rider on course. When riders or horses struggled, he focused on the positive, always trying to rebuild confidence. As the exercises became more difficult, I felt challenged and I felt pushed out of my comfort zone multiple times and I made a lot of mistakes. He patiently had me repeat the exercises until it improved, or sometimes more importantly, until we had reached a good stopping point. On the last day of the clinic, I had a particularly good lesson on my jumper, Legend, in the 3'3" - 3'6" session. I had one of those "lightbulb" moments when I found a completely different canter, making my horse so much more rideable and big jumps felt so easy. I did not want to be done for the day! Archie made a good point, "Sometimes it's good to leave a little bit for next time...just because you can, doesn't mean you should."

I hope Archie can come back again in the future because I would definitely ride with him again! I highly recommend riding with Archie or auditing a future clinic if you have the opportunity.

Arbor Hill takes on Ledges



We are always talking about our accomplishments or struggles in the ring, but we sometimes forget to think of the efforts put in behind the scenes. Special thanks to Maydo for getting us to Ledges in January, and for making

it a great week. A big shout out of thanks to Ivy for being the number one fan and support crew. And as always, thanks to our horses for making the trip, challenging us with lessons of learning, and rewarding us with answers and progress!

In the cross ties with... Reece

It was Jenna's first time showing in the Children's Hunter Division, and consistent with Mason City Spring Horse Show weather, it was a cold and windy day. Well, Jenna, do you want to wait for a better day? Of course not! So up to the ring Jenna and Reece went, but not before we decided she should leave her spurs off. Looking back at the day, it was a sweet and funny moment, Reece was oblivious to the weather, spurs were not to be forgotten again... he trotted his first fence on course! And that was the start of their show career. They ended that show season as year-end champions in the Children's Hunter Division, and knowing a lot more about each other!

Dark Chocolate, an extra shiny dark bay with beautiful soft, big (that's very big) eyes. Inquiring eyes, usually looking for treats and attention from his family and friends! Oh, his favorite treats... so many, but Peeps and cupcakes have to be close to the top of the list. Reece is a character; you only have to hang around him a short time to understand. He was very social right from the start and bonded to his stablemates and family quickly. He had a way of whinnying to them on course without moving his head at all. Looking right at him you could hardly tell. Thankfully he grew out of that phase.

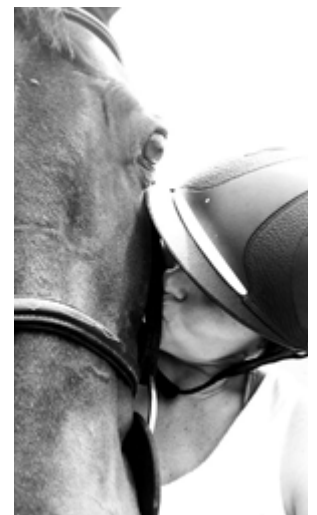
He still loves his horsie friends, Sylvester is his bestie, but Cyril and Delphy are close buds too. Patience is one of his amazing qualities. His favorite part about lessons is hanging in the center of the ring with his friends, both horse and people. That goes for the shows too. He is quite content to

just relax at the ring and watch the world go by. He'll wait as long as needed before he goes to work or after his rounds for results. You have to admire his ability to stand quietly, take in the day's events and relax, while everyone around him is working so hard!

That laid back attitude we love so much, that makes him an excellent junior amateur horse, can be frustrating at times too. In our family, we tend to think of him as a big, gentle lab in a horse's body. How many times he just ticked a rail or hit the rail hard, because he loves to just skim over the fences?! Why use unnecessary energy? Four faults for the hunters can be a bit painful! And for anyone watching Reece at the in gate, he needs a minute of mindfulness before entering the ring. His rider needs some time to prepare the entrance, make sure he's awake for the task! We don't think trotting the first fence is as cute as it once was. And beware of too much spur at the wrong moment, he can find it insulting and give a very obvious kick out to let you know! Let's just say, getting a lovely but lazy horse inspired can take a little more finesse than you'd think!

The most wonderful thing about riding Reece at home and at the show, is that he gives you confidence that jumping and showing is no big deal. There is no better feeling than to be able to get to the ring, ride the best you can, getting the best performance from your horse you can.

He's just the guy to make you feel like you can do it! He's just such a steady guy, Alison and Jenna are able to come home and ride like they never missed a beat!



It's our tenth show season together. Jenna has enjoyed most of it, sharing these last few years with me. Our family has collected so many wonderful memories riding together. Several of them celebrating exciting wins and awards; others just learning, growing, and overcoming challenges. Some of Jenna's favorite memories include riding some amazing rounds in Colorado in the Junior hunters. My favorite is riding in the International Ring at WEF in the Adult Hunter Classic. We are forever grateful to Kim Barone for laying Reece's foundation. Her training and consistency over the years has shaped him into the successful boy he is.

As he turns 18 this year, we are hoping to share some show time with him. Maybe Alison and Jenna can make it back in the ring this year! We are counting each year and show as a blessing. How lucky are we to have one horse as a first children's hunter, junior hunter, adult hunter, amateur owner hunter, as well as a very special derby hunter.

It's show day... do you have my peanut butter sandwich and bananas? It's become a horse show morning ritual for Reece, he needs his energy!! Ok, we are ready to go. Blessings counted, hugs and treats given, and many, many pictures taken! XOXO



What a year!

Winning at Devon with my yearling filly Reflection, and the two-year-old filly Chozen, winning at Sallie B. Wheeler with Reflection – Wow oh wow – Thank you Laura Rohlfing and Matt Davis, I could not have done this without you!

Grand Champion Horse of the Year and Reserve Grand Champion Horse of the Year!
I am so blessed!



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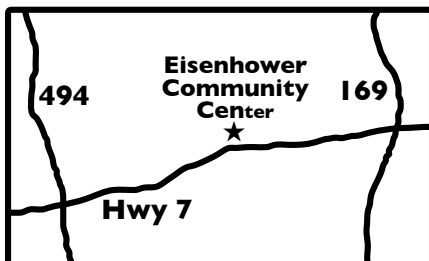
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LEARNING HOW TO READ CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

Learning how to decipher class/sections specifications can be confusing, but once you understand how they are usually written, they become easier to understand. The MHJA has done a quick “cheat sheet” to help you pick out the important information; how to “fill in the blanks”; and also where to look to find out the other information you might not see in a prize list. At the end there are definitions of some of the words used here that have specific meanings, but may be loosely used to describe more than one thing.

Specifications are usually written in the following manner – we will use “Children’s Working Hunter Pony” as our example.

. CHILDREN’S WORKING HUNTER PONY. Open to ponies shown by a junior rider. Riders may not cross enter into USEF rated classes at the same show where the height of fences exceeds 3’3”. Riders may cross enter into Pony Jumpers regardless of fence heights. To be judged on performance, soundness, manners, way of going, size of rider to mount and suitability as a Children’s Hunter Pony. To be offered at two fence heights: 2’ for small and medium ponies and 2’ 6” for large ponies. Ponies need not be jogged. Zone Award presented annually as one section. Zone 6 specs

1. First is the title of the Section/Class – in this case it’s **Children’s Working Hunter Pony**. Hunters are considered either “working” or “conformation.” If you don’t see conformation or working in the title, you can assume it’s working. Conformation has to be listed for it to be a considered factor in judging, and it will either be in the title or the specs following.
2. This is followed by what horses and riders may compete in the class. **Open to ponies shown by a junior rider**. Now you know the class is open to juniors (riders 17 years of age and under,) and open only to ponies.
3. Next is any cross entry restrictions. **Riders may not cross enter into USEF rated classes at the same show where the height of fences exceeds 3’3”.** **Riders may cross enter into Pony Jumpers regardless of the height.** Now you know that riders can’t cross enter into any classes that exceed 3’3”, unless they are Pony Jumper classes.
4. Next are judging requirements. Sometimes there are no judging requirements listed, in which case they are standard: performance, soundness, way of going. **To be judged on performance, soundness, manners, way of going, size of rider to mount and suitability as a Children’s Hunter Pony.** Here extra requirements have been added specifically concerning the manners and safety of the way the pony performs. Conformation is not listed as part of the specs, so conformation does not play a part in the judging.
5. Fence heights and other restrictions are next. **To be judged at two fence heights: 2’ for small and medium ponies and 2’6” for large ponies. Ponies need not be jogged.** Now you know that small/medium ponies jump one height and large jumps another height; and you know they don’t have to be jogged.
6. The last thing is if these specs belong to a higher organization, such as USEF or USHJA. **Zone 6 specs.** You know that these specs are USHJA specs and they are the specs for our Zone, Zone 6. Other Zones may have different specs.

Now you have the entire specification, and have all the info required to see if your horse and rider are eligible to enter it.

There is one twist on specs. In prize lists, the specs that will have the most information are the MHJA sections and non-rated sections. This is because USEF and USHJA allow prize lists to simply list where to find the specifications for national and zone recognized classes. So you will see something like **Junior Hunter 3'3". USEF Rule HU**. This means for the full specs you need to go to the USEF Rule Book, Rule HU and look up Junior Hunter 3'3". The Rule Book is on line. Or you may see **Children's Working Hunter Horse. 13 and Under. USEF Rule HU. USHJA Zone 6 specs**. This means the general rule is in the USEF Rule Book, but USHJA Zone 6 has different specifications. They can be found on the USHJA web site, under Zones, under Zone 6.

USEF – United States Equestrian Federation the national governing body for horse sports in the United States, especially the Olympics. MHJA horse shows operate under the recognition of the USEF. The USEF offers National Horse of the Year Awards, referred to as HOTYs. To show at a USEF/USHJA show, an exhibitor must be a member of both organizations or pay a "Show Pass" fee.

USHJA – United States Hunter Jumper Association. The discipline affiliate to USEF for the Hunter/Jumper sport in the United States. USHJA follows USEF rules and advises USEF on rules for the Hunter/Jumper sport. USHJA divides the U.S. into 12 Zones of about 6 states each. These Zones offer HOTY awards for certain sections and can also write specs for certain sections. That's why sometimes a section is governed by USEF rules and sometimes by USHJA/Zone rules.

MHJA – Minnesota Hunter Jumper Association. The MHJA is an affiliate of both USEF and USHJA. As such, the MHJA abides by USEF/USHJA rules but we also are able to make our own specs and rules. All MHJA shows are USEF rated shows.

Division – a distinct style of riding. Hunters are a division, jumpers are a division, saddlebreds are a division.

Section – a particular type of class under a division. Junior Hunter, Performance Hunter, Pony Hunter, Amateur Owner Jumper, Unrestricted 2'6" Hunter are all sections. Section and Division are frequently used interchangeably and usually section is what is meant. "The Adult division was so big, they had to split it." Actually the Adult SECTION was so big, it had to be split.

Class – One individual performance unit that combined with others, make up a section. Hunter sections usually consist of 2-5 over fences classes and 1 under saddle class. In order to have a Championship and Reserve Championship awarded, a rated section must have at least two over fences with at least three entries held and one under saddle with 3 entries held. In the Jumpers, all classes are over fences; in Hunters, classes may be over fences or under saddle; in Equitation classes may be over fences or on the flat." On the flat" or "flat" class is sometimes used as shorthand for any class with no jumping, but in a "flat" class the riders are judged and in "under saddle" the horses are judged.

Recognized, Rated, Rating, Unrated – All MHJA horse shows are recognized by the USEF and are members shows. That means all sections/classes held at MHJA shows are governed by the general rules of the USEF. (Drug rules, behavior, attire, etc...) All sections/classes at a USEF horse show have a rating. Shows are rated Premier, National, Regional 1 and 2 and Local. Hunter Sections are rated by a letter system AA, A, B, C and Local. Jumper sections are rated by numbers with 1 being the lowest. Rated shows may hold sections/classes that do not fall under USEF/USHJA specifications. These classes are Unrated. All sections/classes that are MHJA approved, but not USHJA/USEF rated are considered unrated sections/classes. MHJA writes the specifications for those. **ALL** entries at a Recognized show must abide by USEF/USHJA rules even if they are only showing in unrated classes.

Cross Entry - cross entry describes what other sections/classes a horse and or rider may or may not be eligible to enter. Some restrict the rider, some the horse and some the horse/rider combination.

Open, Unrestricted – An open or unrestricted class means any horse, pony, or rider may enter. There are no restrictions.

Junior – A Junior rider is one who has not reached their 18th birthday. A rider's horse show age is their age on December 1st, the start of each new show year. If a rider is 18 on December 1, 2017, they are no longer a Junior rider and may not participate in any classes restricted to Junior riders.

Amateur – Basically a rider 18 years of age and over, who does not make their living off of horses. It is a very complicated and specific definition found in the USEF Rule Book. If you have any questions as to whether you are an amateur, contact the USEF or talk to someone knowledgeable like a steward at a horse show.

Opportunity classes – These are classes that are offered at a rated horse show where the exhibitor does not have to be a member of USEF/USHJA. Riders in Opportunity classes do have restrictions placed on their ability to show in Opportunity classes by USEF.

2016 USHJA Annual Meeting

Betsy Kieffer

The winds of change have definitely blown through the management of the USHJA and the USEF. We got a good look at the “new” organization at the 2016 Annual Meeting in December in Palm Springs, CA. Be prepared to see more accountability, more severe punishment for repeat rule violators, and more effort put into getting and retaining members. Because of USHJA’s relatively recent status as a discipline affiliate to USEF, it was noted that USHJA is the “lab rat” for some of the new policies and procedures USEF wants to institute.

The Annual meeting always starts with Zone and Affiliate day, and Lindsay Vail and I are both your Affiliate representatives (MHJA) and your Zone 6 representatives. Thanks to Delta Airlines I didn’t make my connection Saturday night, so I missed a lot of the large Zone/Affiliate meeting on Sunday. We sat with reps from Zones 7 and 8, and one interesting thing we discovered was that many of the geographically large Zones have the same problems Zone 6 does – because of our size and demographics, a lot of the USHJA programs that are supposed to help us, like Stirrup Cup Awards, don’t really work.

Mark Aplin, Dan Urban, Patrice Urban, Louise Otten, Lindsay, and I were there for the Zone 6 meeting. We brainstormed ways to publicize Zone 6 and help our members. There is now only one Zone committee instead of separate Hunter and Jumper committees, so we won’t end up duplicating each other’s efforts. We’re going to try to advertise and make special the Zone Finals, Stirrup Cup Championships, and the Zandra Powers Horsemanship Class. Look for more publicity on the Zone 6 Handy Hunter Challenge, as there will be 15 this year! We especially want to look into making a cooperative effort to get the Regional/Zone Jumper Championships and Hunter Championships at least every third year in Zone 6.

The information from many of the meetings we attended can be found on the USEF or USHJA web sites, (see Nancy Giacchetti’s articles) Look for info on Safe Sport, Concussions, Micro Chipping identification, etc...

The new rule changes that went into effect for 2017 on December 1, 2016 can most easily be found by going to the bottom of the USHJA web page and clicking on the box in the middle that says New Rule Changes.

Most of the large meetings were very well covered by The Chronicle and the organizations themselves, so I suggest looking at them on line. The smaller committee meetings don’t get the coverage but it’s where interesting things happen. Here’s a recap:

- Amateurs Task Force – starting in the 2018 season, there will be a new section for jumpers called Amateur Jumper. It will be open to Amateur riders who need not be owners, and it will be held at the same heights as the Amateur-Owner jumper.

- National Hunter Derby task Force – allowing splitting National Derbies that have over 40 entries. The original intent was to split into professional and junior/amateur. There was much discussion, as some zones found their Derbies had become totally pro riders, and in some zones the juniors and amateurs wanted a chance to go up against the professionals. The end result is that Derbies may be split with the decision of how to split left to management.

- USEF Sport Integrity dealt with more of Safe Sport and rule violations, but also introduced the new USHJA Anti-Doping task force. Their concern is to see what changes can be made to make it so trainers won’t feel the need to drug the horses. One interesting fact that came up is that USEF is going to start going after more than just the trainer if a horse tests positive. It was suggested that owners get a signed letter from their trainer stating what their horse is given at shows, to protect themselves if their horse tests positive. (Or it might reveal what the trainer is actually doing!) One other facet is that USEF/USHJA is considering requiring people who sign as trainer or coach to view certain podcasts like Safe Sport and concussions. If they don’t watch, they can’t sign. Look for way more accountability from the trainers and coaches. This meeting also dealt with a recap of micro-chipping: 2017- Young

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MEET YEAR END AWARD WINNER AND BOARD MEMBER:

Norine Wilcox

High Cotton - Credit: Lina Stock Photography - 2017



It won't be a surprise for some

to hear that even as an 8 year old, I could be very stubborn and it was that tenacity that got me started riding. After missing my local Girl Scout troop outing to go horseback riding due to being sick, I refused to give up on the topic until I got my horseback riding experience. It was then it all began... This north side Chicago native, with non-horsey parents that had no idea what they started, began taking weekly riding lessons at Northwestern Stables in Morton Grove, IL with Mrs. T (Thompson). Those 7 years

of weekly riding lessons, I cemented my love of riding on school horses like my favorite, Good as Gold, aka Goodie. She taught me the how to properly use a crop at the right moment. Since we had to do everything ourselves, I learned the beginnings of horse management, strong basics and that foundational rule that when you fall off and you must get back on. I started to gain exposure at the local schooling shows of what would become my favorite past time of horse showing.



Katy Didn't - Credit: Go Photo - 1992



Katy Didn't - Credit: Avis S. Girdler Photography - 1992



American Made - 2002

It was the schooling shows that led me to my next opportunity and I started taking lessons with trainer Sarah Scott Grubner at Coach Horse Equestrian in Chicago and later at her Bristolwood Farm in Arlington Heights. Sarah exposed me to half leases and the NIHJA and IHJA recognized horse show circuit. Normal vacations became horse-cations as I showed in both the B and A rated shows – mainly at Ledges and Lamplight. Following in Sarah’s footsteps, I received my BS in Equestrian Science with a double major in Business Administration from William Woods in Fulton, Missouri where a mare named Katy Didn’t became a staple in my college life. We showed in at all the local shows in both Columbia and St Louis and I spent one of the best summers having her as my own.



Good as Gold - Northwestern Stables - 1980

After college, I accepted a grooming position in Tennessee working for an amateur who trained with Sue Ashe. We enjoyed a wonderful but very exhausting year travelling from Knoxville to the indoor circuit and then to wintering in Florida. In in the sunny state, I mastered the art of stealth-turnout which required me to ride one AO hunter bareback with just a halter and lead rope while ponying her other hunter to be “unofficially” turned out in one of Laura Krauts fields each night until the owner spotted us one morning. While being able to watch so many wonderful trainers at that level was truly amazing, I quickly learned that I did not have the money, talent or stamina to work at that level. So with my tail between my legs, I left Welly-world and returned to get a corporate job and took a brief hiatus from horses. After recovering from Florida-circuit



Norine (Early 90's)

burnout, I was pleasantly surprised that working in the corporate world provided a good income and I could be happy being an amateur rider which led me back to lessons with Sarah. Shortly thereafter, Sarah found my first OTTB- Panama Hat, who began my obsessive love of chestnuts with chrome. I loved taking this green 5 year old and bringing him up to the AOs on the B IHJA/NIHJA circuits. It was on this horse that I learned a very early lesson that showing was not about the color of the ribbon but about doing your best and making progress. It also started my collection of purple ribbons.

Sarah decided to move her business and started a more exclusive full service barn. Since I could not afford that level of service, she helped me transition to Greg

Panama Hat - 1998



Franklin at Canterbury Farm. Greg taught me the hard lesson that you can outgrow a horse and he helped me find my next horse, American Made/Reilly. Reilly was my next OTTB chestnut with chrome that I showed in the hunter and medal classes. I learned another good lesson while laughing my way around a medal course..... Never let others write your bio for a medal final without reading it first. Riding with Greg, we continued to show in the local IHJA A shows and I was able to attend the occasional bigger show with some great memories in KY.

Reilly made the transition with me to Minnesota when I moved here for work in 2005. Reilly and I settled into Alpine Farms based on Judee Arnstein's, Greg's cousin, recommendation and her sharing of my first MHJA newsletter. It was through Alpine that I met most of my closest friends here in MN and I learned that 5 people can share one hotel room in Mason City. Riding with Alain Valliancourt, I started showing in the local MHJA shows. After he left Alpine, I started riding with Sue Kyllonen and then then transitioned to Jane Martinson. Under Alain, I reluctantly moved Reilly from the hunter ring to success in the jumper ring until his retirement. Today Reilly is a coming 24 year old and is happily enjoying being a lawn ornament (on my dime) in Buffalo, MN. I stayed in the jumper ring riding with Sue on my next horse Edgewood Glen (named after my Chicago neighborhood). Since playing human-lawn darts in the show ring leads to being eliminated and broken bones, Jane helped me find him a job as a dressage horse in Missouri.


Jane then found my current chestnut with chrome, High Cotton/Georgia while she was fox hunting in Iowa. Georgia and I have had some great successes in the hunter ring after we learned lead changes (somehow not as easy for me as it was for Janie) and competed in the Adults and then 3'3" AOs. A very special moment was our high scoring win in the hunter derby which was super proud team Cameo moment and one of my first blue ribbons on Georgia. While Jane found Georgia thinking she would belong in the jumper ring, it took more time that expected to get us there and we moved right up to the 1 meter jumpers in 2016. We topped off the 2016 year as MHJA yearend champion in the low Adult jumpers and a 3rd place year end Stirrup Cup award. While it took time and lots of stress-burping with Jane at the in gate (helps to free the butterflies) for the 3'3 jumps to not look as big in the

Granola - Northwestern Stables - 1981



jumper ring, I am super proud of the work we both did, under Jane's guidance and support, showing at the local shows to make that champion happen.

After riding for, let's just say a few years, this is first year end champion I have ever won. I am so grateful for the MHJA which allows me to take horse-cations and decorate my home with my year end and local horse show ribbons. As a second year board member, I am

committed to our local shows so I and others can continue to attend affordable shows and know it can be done on a budget. Writing this article has allowed me think of so many memories of a friends and a community that has so positively impacted my life for many years. Thank you to everyone who is reading this as we are all part of that community. Now if you could just help me find a husband...(no chestnuts....) 

High Cotton - Credit: Andrew Ryback Photography - 2014



2017 YEAR END AWARD SECTIONS FOR THE MHJA

The following sections will be awarded MHJA Year End Awards if there are valid participants. All MHJA horses and/or riders are eligible provided they have followed the requirements set forth in the MHJA Year End Awards Program.

OPPORTUNITY CLASSES

1. Opportunity Shortest Stirrup Equitation/Hunter,

EQUITATION DIVISION

1. Open Equitation on the flat, 11 and under
2. Open Equitation over fences, 11 and under
3. Open Equitation on the flat, 12 thru 14
4. Open Equitation over fences, 12 thru 14
5. Open Equitation on the flat, 15 thru 17
6. Open Equitation over fences, 15 thru 17
7. Adult Amateur Equitation, 18 - 35, flat and over fences
8. Adult Amateur Equitation, 36 and Over, flat and over fences
9. Long Stirrup Equitation, 17 and Under, flat and over fences
10. Long Stirrup Equitation, 18 and Over, flat and over fences
11. Short Stirrup Equitation

12. Masters Equitation (Rusty Stirrup)

13. Starter Equitation

14. Modified Children's Equitation

15. Modified Adult Equitation

16. MHJA Medal
17. MHJA Mini-Medal

HUNTER DIVISION

1. Combined Green Working Hunter 3', 3'3" (replaces Pre Green, horses to jog.)

2. Combined Green Working Hunter 3'6", 3'9"

3. High Performance Working Hunter
4. Performance Working Hunter 3'3"
5. Performance Working Hunter 3'6"
6. 3'6" Amateur Owner Working Hunter
7. 3'3" Amateur Owner Working Hunter
8. Junior Working Hunter
9. Junior Hunter 3'3"
10. Combined Pony Working Hunter
11. Children's Working Hunter Horse 13 and under
12. Children's Working Hunter Horse 14 -17
13. Children's Working Hunter Pony
14. Adult Amateur Working Hunter 35 and under
15. Adult Amateur Working Hunter 36 - 49
16. Adult Amateur Working Hunter 50 and over
17. **USHJA Hunter 2'**
18. **USHJA Hunter 2'3"**
19. **USHJA Hunter 2'6"**
20. **USHJA Hunter 2'9"**
21. **USHJA Hunter 3'**
22. Best Young Horse
23. Thoroughbred Hunter
24. Long Stirrup Working Hunter 17 and under
25. Long Stirrup Working Hunter 18 and over
26. Short Stirrup Working Hunter

JUMPER DIVISION

1. .80-.85m Jumper

2. .90-.99m Jumper
3. 1.0- 1.04m Jumper
4. 1.05m and 1.10m Jumper
5. 1.15m Jumper
6. 1.20m and 1.25m Jumper
7. 1.30m and above Jumper
8. Pony Jumper - USEF specs
9. Modified Children's Jumper - .85m-.95m
10. Modified Adult Amateur Jumper - .85m-.95m10
11. Low Children's Jumper - 1.0m – USHJA ZONE 6 specs
12. High Children's Jumper - 1.05m-1.15m - USHJA ZONE 6 specs
13. Low Adult Amateur Jumper - 1.0m - USHJA ZONE 6 specs
14. High Adult Amateur Jumper - 1.05m-1.15m - USHJA ZONE 6 specs
15. Junior Jumper - USEF specs
16. Amateur Owner Jumper – USEF specs
17. Thoroughbred Jumper

27. Low Junior/Amateur Working Hunter

28. Masters Working Hunter. (Rusty Stirrup)

29. Starter Hunter

30. Low Adult Hunter (USHJA Low Adult Hunter) 2'6"

31. Low Children's Hunter (USHJA Low Children's Hunter) 2'6"

32. Modified Adult Hunter 2'9"

33. Modified Children's Hunter 2'9"

34. Baby Green Hunter

In Hunter sections 1, 2, and 10, if there is an eligible horse who competes in three or more MHJA shows in either group of the combined section, the section will be split for the year end award and both heights or age groups will be awarded. For example, if there is a 3'3" green horse that shows at the 3'3" green height in a combined section at three or more shows, the combined green will be split and both sections will be awarded.

2017 Changes in Specs and New Specs

12. Masters Equitation (Rusty Stirrup)- Open to amateur riders who have reached their 30th birthday. Amateur certification required. No rider cross entry at the same show between this section and any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'6". Fences not to exceed 2'3". Combinations and oxers prohibited. Only the name has changed – the specs are exactly the same.

13. Starter Equitation Open to Junior riders and Amateur riders who have not reached their 30th birthday. No rider cross entry at the same show between this section and any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'6". Fences not to exceed 2'3". Combinations and oxers prohibited.

Starter and Masters sections may be combined. If the sections are combined, riders 29 and under will be awarded points in the Starter section and riders 30 and over will be awarded points in the Masters section. If a show's specifications allow riders 30 and over to enter Starter classes, riders 30 and over may ride in both Masters and Starter, but will not receive credit for any points won in Starter.

14. MODIFIED CHILDREN'S EQUITATION. Open to Junior riders who have not reached their 18th birthday. Riders in this section may not cross enter into any section where the height of fences exceeds 3'. Height of fences to be 2'9". USEF test 1-7.

15. MODIFIED ADULT EQUITATION. Open to amateur riders who have reached their 18th birthday and are no longer eligible to compete as a junior exhibitor. Riders in this section may not cross enter into any section where the height of fences exceeds 3'. Height of fences to be 2'9". USEF tests 1-7

HUNTER SECTION

For sections 1-21, check the current USEF Rule Book for complete USEF specifications and on-line at USHJA.org for Zone 6 specifications.

1. COMBINED GREEN WORKING HUNTER 3'0" – 3'3". USEF Rule HU (Old Pre-Green)

2. COMBINED GREEN WORKING HUNTER 3'6" – 3'9". USEF Rule HU

12. CHILDREN'S WORKING HUNTER HORSE. 14 -17 USEF Rule HU Zone 6 specs

Open to horses that are to be ridden by Junior exhibitors. To be judged on performance and soundness with emphasis on manners. Extreme speed to be penalized. Fence heights shall not exceed 3', spreads not to exceed the height of the fence. Horses not required to jog for soundness. ***Horse/rider combinations may cross enter into the Junior Hunter 3'3" section. Riders entered in the Children's Hunter may not cross enter, at the same show, in classes where the jumps exceed 3'6", except Children's Jumper classes where the height of fences does not exceed 1.15m. Horse/rider may cross enter into the Junior Hunter 3'3".*** If entries warrant, it is recommended that this section be split by age into two sections: 13 and under and 14 - 17. Zone 6 specs.

USHJA Hunters Specifications

These sections are now USHJA Zone award classes.

Management may select one section per fence height per competition. This section must be open to all competitors.

Exception: if an open section is not offered for a particular fence height, management may choose a section that is restricted to riders that are eligible as juniors or amateurs. Sections to consist of 3-5 classes, one of which must be an under saddle. All sections must be open to horses and ponies.

17. USHJA 2' Hunter

Fences 2', oxers are optional, combinations are not permitted. To be shown over a course of at least eight (8) fences.

18. USHJA 2'3" Hunter

Fences 2'3", oxers are optional, combinations are not permitted. To be shown over a course of at least eight (8) fences.

19. USHJA 2'6" Hunter

Fences 2'6", combinations are permitted. To be shown over a course of at least eight (8) fences.

20. USHJA 2'9" Hunter

Fences 2'9", combinations are permitted. To be shown over a course of at least eight (8) fences.

21. USHJA 3' Hunter

Fences 3', combinations are permitted. To be shown over a course of at least eight (8) fences.

27. LOW JUNIOR/AMATEUR WORKING HUNTER. Open to junior riders and amateur riders no longer eligible to compete as a junior exhibitor. Amateur certification required. Horse/rider combinations entered in Low Junior/Amateur may not cross enter into Modified Children's/Adult or into classes where the height of fences exceeds 3'6". Riders may, if otherwise qualified, enter the Modified Children's/Adult on a different mount. Riders may also enter classes where the height of fences exceeds 3'6" on another mount. To be judged on performance and soundness, emphasis on manners. Height of fences 3". Entries not to jog for ribbons. If there are 20 or more entries at the start of the first class of the section, management must split the section and award two sets of ribbons and two championships.

28. MASTERS HUNTER (RUSTY STIRRUP) - Open to amateur riders who have reached their 30th birthday. Amateur certification required. No rider cross entry at the same show between this section and any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'6". Fences not to exceed 2'3". Combinations and oxers prohibited. Open to horses and ponies. No jog. Only the name has changed, the specifications remain the same.

30. LOW ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER (USHJA LOW ADULT) Open to amateur riders who have reached their 18th birthday and are no longer eligible to compete as a junior exhibitor. Open to horses and ponies. No horse/rider cross entry at the same show between this section and any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'9" (Exception – Equitation at 3'.) Riders may cross enter into other sections on a different horse. The horse may cross enter into other sections with a different rider. Not to jog. Height of fences 2'6"

31. LOW CHILDREN'S HUNTER (USHJA LOW CHILDREN 'S) Open to riders who have not reached their 18th birthday. Open to horses and ponies. No horse/rider cross entry at the same show between this section and any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'9". (Exception – Equitation at 3'.) Riders may cross enter into other sections on a different horse. The horse may cross enter into other sections with a different rider. Not to jog. Height of fences 2'6"

If there are less than six entries in either the Low Adult Hunter section or the Low Children's Hunter section, they may be combined. If there are six or more entries in both sections they must be held separately.

32. MODIFIED ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER. Open to amateur riders who have reached their 18th birthday and are no longer eligible to compete as a junior exhibitor. No horse/rider cross entry at the same show between this section and the Low Junior/Amateur section or any class where the height of fences exceeds 3'. Riders may cross enter into other sections on a different horse. The horse may cross enter into other sections with a different rider. Not to jog. Height of fences 2'9"

33. MODIFIED CHILDREN'S HUNTER. Open to junior riders who have not reached their 18th birthday. Open to horses and ponies. No horse/rider cross entry at the same show between this section and the Low Junior/Amateur section or any class where the height of fences exceeds 3'. Riders may cross enter into other sections on a different horse. The horse may cross enter into other sections with a different rider. Not to jog. Height of fences 2'9"

If there are less than six entries in either the Modified Adult Hunter section or the Modified Children's Hunter section, they may be combined. If there are six or more entries in both sections they must be held separately.

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Hunters and Young Jumpers; 2018 – all horses who want USEF/USHJA points and all Equitation horses if the riders want points; 2019 -every horse that enters a USEF recognized show must be micro- chipped.

• Emerging Athletes Committee – this was interesting. It sounds like the EAP wants to return to the original intent of the program, which was to allow riders who might not otherwise be noticed to get some exposure. EAP clinics are now going to be opened up to age 21. Because Zone 6 did not get a clinic this year, I spoke with chair Sally Ike after the meeting. The committee really wants to have a clinic in every zone in the continental U.S., but has a problem in Zone 6. They really like the clinics to be at a site easily reached from other areas. The clinic, facility and hosts in Omaha got rave reviews, but it was felt that it was not close enough to other major population areas to be able to draw from other Zones. The Twin Cities, Des Moines or eastern

Wisconsin seem to be preferred locations.

• Children's/Adult Amateur task force – they are still trying to find the right format for Regional Championships. USHJA wants to run it in the first format for 2 years, which will be up in 2017. After that, there will be changes that bring it more in line with what the Regional Jumper Championships now have, which means it can either be held by a Zone alone, or can be combined with other Zones, but not necessarily the USHJA Regional designation.

The meeting closed with the installation of the new president of the USHJA, Mary Babick. I think Mary will do an excellent job, she is willing to listen to all sides, looks at the facts and is outspoken in her commitment to fair sport. I'm very interested to see what occurs as we go forward into her presidency.

BOARD MEMBERS TRAVEL TO CALIFORNIA FOR USHJA ANNUAL MEETING

This past December, fellow Board Member and I Betsy Kieffer traveled to gorgeous Palm Springs, California for the annual United States Hunter Jumper Association Annual Meeting. Betsy and I both serve on the USHJA Zone 6 Committee, serving as representatives from not only Minnesota, but for the six states that Zone 6 is comprised of. We spent five days in meetings and presentations as well as being part of discussions that were all aimed at continuing to promote, support, and grow the Hunter Jumper discipline. Sitting among some of the most well known and successful trainers, riders, judges, and other equine related professionals in the business always leaves me a little star struck, but I love having the opportunity to listen to the dialogue created throughout the week, and having the chance to participate as well.

The amount of information covered in those five short days was expansive, but some of the popular topics and events this year included rule changes for the upcoming competition season, microchip training and education sessions, various task force and committee meetings, the new USEF Strategic Direction was presented by new USEF President Murray Kessler, and Mary Babick officially took over as President of the USHJA.

In addition to the large group sessions where all attendees were together, there were numerous break out sessions. In one of the breakout sessions, the Zone 6 Committee was able to have a rare meeting in person, which was a nice

change than our normal conference call format. Other Zone 6 representatives present were Patrice and Jim Urban, Dan Urban, Mark Aplin, and Louise Otten. We discussed and brainstormed ideas for how to keep the hunter jumper discipline alive and thriving in our zone, learned about all the events, programs, and awards that are available to members in our zone, and talked about ways that we can raise awareness and interest in these opportunities. We want all MHJA and USHJA members to remember that you have a voice, and we serve as advocates for you. If you ever have questions or concerns about rules, shows, events, scholarships, etc, our ears are always open. Please e-mail, text, or call us about something you may want brought up in a Zone meeting, we are here to help and get your voices heard!

The Annual Meeting is an event that is open to all USHJA members. You do not have to serve on a committee or task force to attend. I think it is a fantastic educational opportunity if you are interested in the governance and overall organizational structure of our sport, but is also a lot of fun too! It's always in a nice warm, sunny location, and the USHJA does a great job with evening entertainment. If any members have any questions about what was covered this year and wants to discuss more in detail, please contact Betsy or myself.

-Lindsay Vail



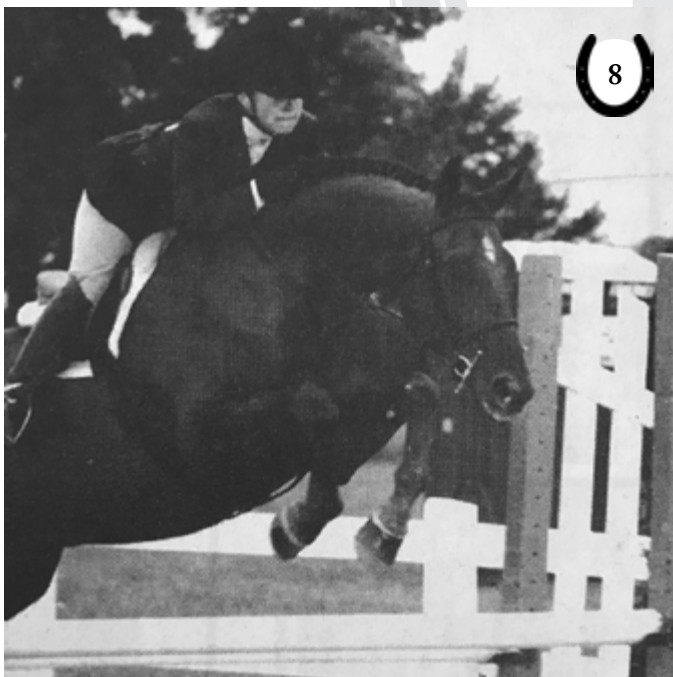
FLASHBACK GUESS WHO

CAN YOU GUESS THESE RIDERS...



...AND HORSES?

answers on page 28



Exciting Changes Underway Within USEF and USHJA

This article is based on information shared at the USHJA Annual Meeting.

For more information, please refer to ushja.org

During their Annual Meetings, the U.S. Equestrian Federation (USEF) and the U.S. Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) announced major shifts in the directions each organization feels are necessary to enhance and grow their memberships.

The USEF/USHJA relationship is built upon a mutual desire to put sport first and a love for horses. USHJA, the affiliate, is the discipline (i.e. Hunter / Jumper) or breed expert; while USEF is the governance expert fulfilling its mission statement.

New USEF Vision Driving Changes

USEF is undergoing a transition driven by their new vision *“To bring the joy of horse sports to as many people as possible.”* While the strategy covers a broad range of opportunities, the fundamental difference going forward is a focus on building membership from the grass roots level on up by improving membership value.

This will be experienced in many ways:

Changing USEF Brand

- Website
- FEI Committees simplified
- Rulebook will be simplified
- New logo
- Enhanced user-friendly website
 - Education videos
 - Easy member navigation
- FEI Committees reduced from 24 to 8
- Rulebook will become streamlined, transparent, customer-oriented

Membership

- USEF not just for competing equestrians, but ALL equestrians!
- Bring joy of horse sports to as many people as possible
- Now offering a “non-competitive membership for \$25
- Grants full access to everything short of a competition pass

Increase Para-Equestrian Support

- Big hole for U.S. in International Para-Equestrian Program
- Provide access to and increase participation in Para-Equestrian

Back To The Basics

- Re-invigorate smaller regional competitions. “Competition Lite”

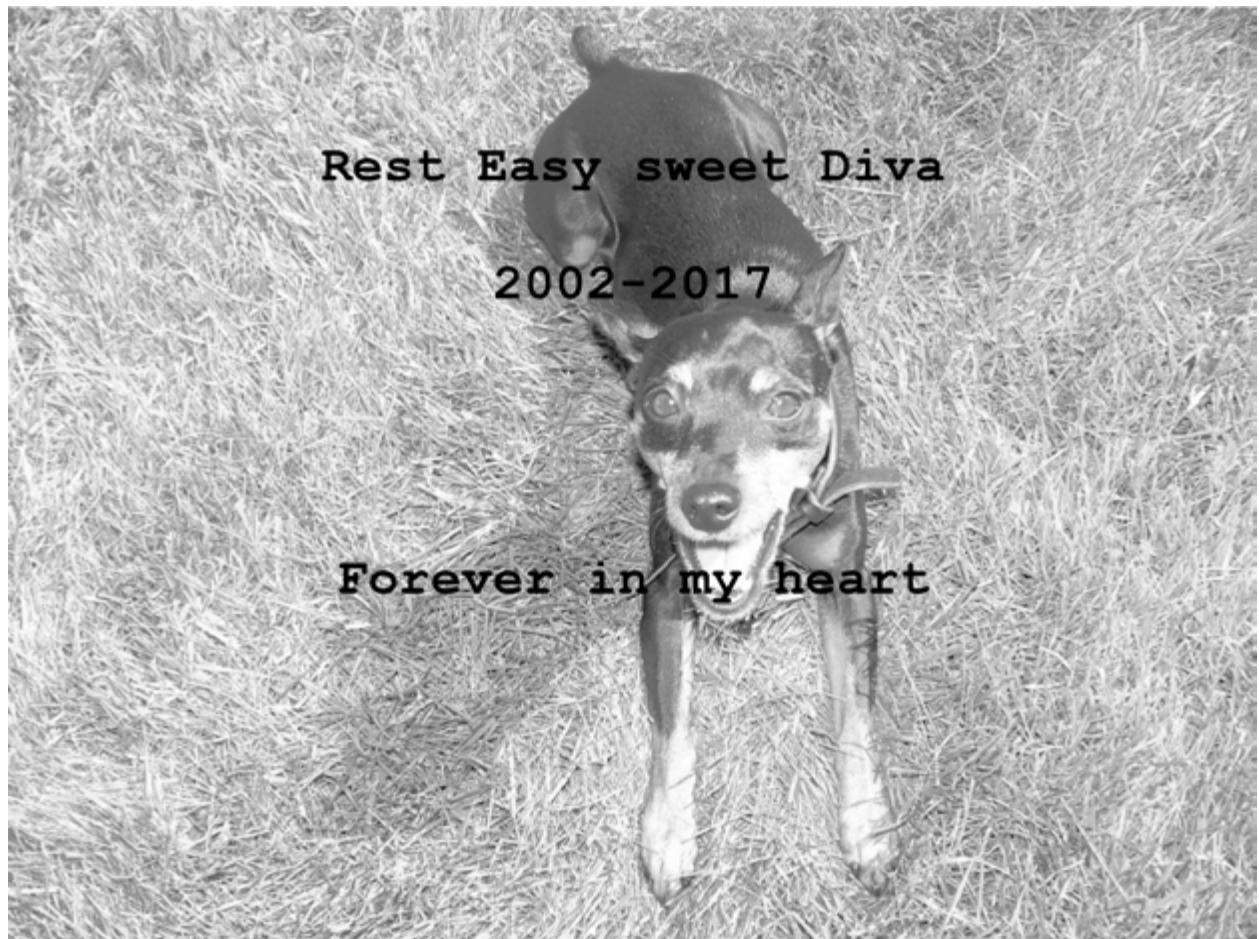
Respect For Members At All Levels

- Horse committee hearings less confrontational...
- ...but when rules are knowingly broken, cheaters will be penalized

In summary, fundamental to the new USEF vision and strategy is providing an emotional connection and education to our members that elevates the joy of horse sports. If you haven't checked out the new website, we suggest you take a look at usef.org.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS
AND JOIN US FOR THE
**2017 MHJA
SPRING HORSE SHOW**

MAY 18 - 22, 2017



“Sports Integrity” New USHJA Initiative Impacts All MHJA Members

This article is based on information shared at the USHJA Annual Meeting.

For more information, please refer to ushja.org

Consistent with the USEF Vision, the new USHJA Mission focus is to “*provide access to and to increase participation in Equestrian Sports at all levels by ensuring fairness, safety and enjoyment.*”

One of the key areas in support of this mission is that of Sports Integrity. By itself, integrity is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. People of integrity are people who can be trusted to be fair and honest - to do what they say they will do. Similarly, in sport, integrity is about fairness, good sportsmanship, and safety.

If that is integrity, what defines a *lack* of integrity?

- Creating an unfair advantage
- Manipulation of results through performance enhancing drugs
- Anti-social behaviors demonstrated by parents, spectators, coaches, and exhibitors
 - These behaviors may include bullying, harassment, discrimination, and child abuse.

For our sport, the USHJA believes increased integrity will increase participation through the loyalty of members and the attraction of new members; it will help the organization be financially viable through membership, attraction of sponsors, and funding grants; and lastly, we will benefit with on-field success by attracting riders who want to be associated with a healthy, successful brand.

Sports ethics are the moral principles that guide us, with examples found in the Code of Conduct, Rules and Sportsman’s Charter.

The relationship between USEF and USHJA is that the USHJA *educates* members regarding expectations, while USEF *regulates* to ensure these expectations are being met. Subjects covered within Sports Integrity include 1) drugs & medications; 2) the Anti-Doping Task Force; and 3) minimum trainer requirements at competitions.

The Anti-Doping Task Force

The Anti-Doping Task Force believes it is important the narrative be changed to reflect the fact that there is a difference between doping and therapeutic medication. Additionally, they want to know what pressures exist that cause people to cheat and whether horse owners know what is happening to their horses. Further, this Task Force is looking at whether changes in course design or judging could prove beneficial as related to the current doping problem.

Concept Discussion Regarding Minimum Trainer Requirements

The USHJA has posed several questions on minimum trainer requirements:

- 1.) Should there be minimum requirements for trainers or coaches who sign entry blanks at USEF competitions;
- 2.) Should trainers be expected to know drug and medication basics;
- 3.) Should there be concussion training required as seen in many other sports?
- 4.) Should trainers be required to learn about the Safe Sport Initiative?
- 5.) Should there be basic background checks required of trainers?

Drug and Medication Basics

The topic of doping within our sport has received much press of late. The trainer requirement for education in this area would include:

- The use of supplements and holistics
- Top dressing of feed
- Use of grinders, mortars and pestles
- Trunks and medication boxes
- Administration
- Tools available i.e. 800.MED.AHSA (800. 633.2472) and the Drug & Medication Pamphlet

Safe Sport Initiative

Education regarding the Safe Sport Initiative would include:

- Ensuring fairness, safety and enjoyment for an ever-growing number of people
- Prohibit six forms of misconduct
- Strategies to prevent misconduct in equestrian sport
- Consequences for violations: criminal conviction, civil lawsuit, ban from sport, suspension

In summary, the integrity of a sport will be judged by its participants, spectators, sponsors, the general public and more often than not, the media. Therefore, the survival of a sport relies on ensuring that *'the sport is the same on the outside as it is on the inside'* and remains true to its values, principles, and rules. As stated during the USHJA Annual Meeting, "This is our sport – let's make it great!"



Eyes & Ears

NEWS OF NOTE FROM AREA BARNS

Arbor Hill Farm

It has been a busy few months around the farm. We missed No Stirrup November, rolled right into Don't forget Santa's Watching December, followed by Just Hang On January, and F*#*ing Ice February.

Lindsay got a quick weekend in at Ledges in January, and Amelia, Zoe and Ivy joined her for Ledges in February. Showplace Productions works hard to put on a good show, and it was a great way to get a horse show in during the winter without having to miss work or school. We are thankful to Pat and Nicole Boyle for making these shows available.

The horse activity has been bustling

around the farm this winter! Lots of new faces coming and going, and some fun new partnerships are being developed. Marcy is having fun learning about her young horses, Jersey and Princeton, while Amy is getting a crash course in baby behavior with Courtland. Levine has interviewed several bachelors, but has not found one deserving of the prize of her ownership. Emily is excited to be getting to know Archie, Sophie and Daphne are working on moving up a division, and both Sophie and Emily are developing these skills while breaking in new saddles. Ivy is working on getting Captain in shape, Anna is learning to do flat work with Luna, and speaking of ponies, Amelia is working on understanding Elliot's version of pony like behavior. Zoe and JJ are bonding over the concept of TB's during a winter of no turn out in MN. Caroline is working hard with Avery, Jordan is building her stamina while keeping Whiskey going, and Elisabeth is working on her arm muscles riding Lux on the flat. Lindsay/Quigley, Christine/Zomar and Becca/Conner are very familiar with how many laps you can do around the ring in five minutes of

trotting for rehab. Ellie had a great winter leasing Oliver, and RaRa makes lots of visits to the barn to help ride when we need extra help. Mimi makes occasional visits, and we are always happy to have her! A highlight of the winter was Mimi joining us for the weekend at Ledges.

Now we start building up extra arm muscles by grooming these wooly beasts till they lose these shaggy coats. I'm sure they are all diamonds in the rough beneath all this hair...I'm sure of it! See you all ringside!

Cameo Farm

Team members all worked hard riding over the winter.

Gymnastics, no stirrups, two point till the cows came home, and just hanging with fellow barn buddies. Cold weather had us all sharing what footwear kept us warm and sometimes we just laughed a lot to create more warmth. A few even mastered the art of free lunging to survive the winter. Fun and safety. One particular mare (chestnut perhaps?) let us know if she didn't get her play time in before her lesson. Yep winter in Minnesota brings out the best of us and builds character.

Welcome to Megan Schnebly and

her mare Kenna. She and Gretchen Erpelding have been working hard at Upland Farm getting ready for the summer shows. Gretchen and Scout may even try a few hunter classes to keep up with these two. Maybe they can get fellow barn buddy Julie Dorn to come play.

Another new member is Lila Nelson. She is taking lessons on Stan at Jacquire Oaks. Hopefully her riding lessons will lead to her getting her drivers license in the spring. Aren't riding and driving similar? Confidence, looking ahead, accelerating out of your turns, and dealing with having to steer and keep your space in traffic.

Hannah Tschetter's mom Lisa has been seen taking a few lessons and practice rides. So fun having another mother/daughter team. They get to share and compare their experiences.

January brought a short trip to Thermal California for Emily and Debbie Ainslie to visit Aunt Lori who just happens to have show horses. Of course you can't go to try/show a horse without your trainer. You guessed it, Jane got to go along for a little break. A little sun, mountains, and amazing rainbows everyday. Nice to see snow but it was far away on the top of the mountains. The trip was successful and William will be joining the Cameo Team. Congrats Emily!

He'll fit right in with the rest of the group at Fortuna. You're going to have fun building new memories with this guy who has quite the show experience.

There was huge sadness with the news of the sudden loss of Roxy.

Lessons and rides were put on hold so everyone could personally deal with the news.

Jane was overwhelmed and with the outpouring of support nationally on Facebook and locally with hugs and beautiful flowers. It really shows how great our horse community is. With time we will all start to remember Roxy with smiles and happy stories.

With the days getting longer and horses finally starting to shed, we

are all chomping on the bit looking forward to a summer of horse showing, riding outside and just plain fun with barn buddies.

See everyone at the shows!

Gypsy Farms

Over the winter months, Gypsy Farms welcomed several new horses and riders to our farm. Cindy Schmidt arrived in December with her home-bred 5 year old warmblood gelding Romey, who arrived fresh from baby boot camp in Iowa and ready to start his hunter training program. In late January he jumped his first fences, appearing as if he had been doing it for years! He is a big guy and one to watch!

Nancy Cullen and her 6 year old Holsteiner gelding, Diasinni (Dino) returned to training with Nick after relocating back to Minnesota from Boston. Another "big guy," Dino is from GK Performance Horses in Andersonville TN and has been shown in the 1.25m jumpers. Nancy and Dino enjoyed spending February and March in Ocala, hitting some horse shows while enjoying friends and the weather.

James Cullen, Nancy's husband, trailers his 12 year old warmblood, Red Rum (Rummy) in for lessons with Nick. They will be joining Gypsy Farms in the jumper ring during the summer show season. James spent many years riding in his homeland of Ireland and has developed a deep bond with Rummy, having acquired him at the young age of four. They are quite a versatile team with James "changing it up" from the jumper ring, to eventing to riding to the hounds in the fall. Rummy is another addition to our "big guy" collection!

In early December Nancy Giacchetti was thrilled to trailer home to Gypsy Farms, a 7 year old Hanoverian gelding, Rafferty L, acquired from Louise Leatherdale. Rafferty began his journey into the hunter world with Nick this winter. Stop by at the shows to meet him and Nancy will show you his ability to smile on command.

As you would imagine, this is a very useful talent for photo ops...and it's a trick he learned as a baby while at Leatherdale Farms.

If you see Nick looking a bit tired it's because he has a large group of babies in training. A 5 year old, a 6 year old, and four 7 year olds!! Plus...it's hard to say "Romey, Rummy, Rafferty and Rhett in quick succession when giving instructions to Kelsey.

It has been a real treat to have Kelsey Ostberg holding down the fort with her invaluable assistance to Nick as his groom during the week, along with her talent for body clipping. A big shout-out to Kelsey from the entire Gypsy Farms crew!

In March, a few of our riders ventured to WEC in Ohio to try out this venue. Nick and Amaretto 262 (Rhett) were joined by Michael Wildung and Moonshine (Buzz,) along with Kayla Piper and Silvana (Silly.) Kayla has made great progress since joining us late last year and we are very happy to have our one and only junior in this barn filled with many old-timers! As this went to press we have no news regarding everyone's show experience.

Erica Dobbs was excited to receive an invitation to join Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington, KY after her graduation from the U of MN College of Veterinary Medicine in June, 2017. She hopes to have Giles join her after she gets settled in. We will miss Erica's sunshine personality along with her "vet in training" skills at the barn!

In December, Louise Otten, Kayla Piper and family spent Christmas in the majestic land of the Serengeti Park and the Ngorongoro Crater in Tanzania. They experienced eight wonderful days on a Safari trip, getting mere feet away from a lion, a rhino and giraffe. Meg Piper, Kayla's Mom, said "Being out there you acquire a deep sense of connection to the natural world around you that is truly unique." It was a once-in-a-lifetime trip for everyone!

Meanwhile, all is well with Sue

Novak and Ava (Evita) Greg Novak and Belino (Bob) Sara Reckner and Back to Business (Nigel) and Courtney Dickenson and (Flying Girl) Gigi. We are excited about this season's shows, seeing old friends and meeting new ones. Gypsy Farms couldn't ask for a nicer group of people and horses to hang out with both at home and at horse shows! See you soon!

Fortuna Farm

Hello friends, from Fortuna. As we work our way through the long months of winter, we have a few things to report.

Emma and Betsy Gambach are getting to know a handsome new horse, Roscoe. All of us are excited to see them in the show ring this year! They are continuing to ride the wonderful Socrates aka Stretch, sharing him with Lauren Seybolt.

Laurie Kuyath is continuing to work hard with Vicki's Bentrovato, and making great progress. Jean Bovee and her good boy Red are also excited to try their hand at showing, and we know they will have a blast!

Karen is grateful for the Karen Hupp Riding teaching team made up of Gail, Leslie and Vicki for their work preparing all of these future MHJA riders. Their skills are impressive and so generously shared.

I would like to shout out especially this month to our Sue Nicol. She watches over each horse and human with as much care as if they were her own. Thank you, thank you Sue! What a treasure she is.

Pegasus Riding School

Times flies when you're having fun! This winter has been flying by and spring is right around the corner. We are thankful for our wonderfully warm barn and indoor arena at Pegasus. We've been keeping busy, working on our jumping and dressage skills and we are all looking forward to show season beginning soon.

The riding school is as busy as ever. We have many new students who are so excited about learning about horses and riding. We love welcoming these new riders to our team. Our annual sleepover might have been the best one yet. This year's special event was a chariot race! We borrowed two pony carts, hooked kids up to them wearing a draft horse halter "harness" and they pulled each other around a course! Don't worry, the kids in the carts wore helmets. Alex and Suzanne even raced-- Alex won! It was a lot of fun and a great leg work out!

We welcomed two new horses to the barn. Congratulations to Peyton LaFrenz on her new hunter, a TB gelding named Captain. Peyton's first horse, Benjamin, is going to be taking it easy, teaching his next beginner rider the ropes. Congratulations to Bianca Schmidt on her new dressage mare, Cenna. Cenna is an experienced GP competitor, who 14 year old Bianca is going to learn so much from. We look forward to watching Bianca clean up in the junior dressage ring this summer!

Spring Meadow Farm

It's already been a busy 2017 at Spring Meadow and we have welcomed some new faces. Farynn Kimmes and her horse Alec have joined the farm along with Ashley Slade and her horse Finnley. We have also welcomed a set of kittens, Fred and Barney. Our Flintstones cats have quickly warmed their way into everyone's hearts, especially John's.

At the end of January we headed to the World Equestrian Center for two weeks. We stabled with the Stowaway team and had an absolute blast! Heather, Laura, and Thea were invaluable throughout the show and we are so grateful for all of your hard work. The entire Fermanich family came to WEC to cheer on Audrey and Ollie. Mary Jo and Henri had their showing debut as well as Kate and Calisto. Everyone had beautiful

rounds and it was a great first WEC experience. Kate also celebrated her 18th birthday and we are excited for her next chapter as she plans to go to the University of Minnesota next year.

Jan has been a huge help and a riding machine, keeping all the horses going while people have been away. She puts us all to shame haha. Soren recently visited The Wizarding World of Harry Potter and is continuing his lease with Kane. He is also keeping Tank and Rolly in shape for lessons. Kaylyn continues to work with Lexie and George, who are now both jumping courses beautifully. Courtney, Morgan, Christine and Katie are all staying busy between working and riding. Sadly Christine's dog passed away recently, but she now has a new puppy. Let the potty training begin!

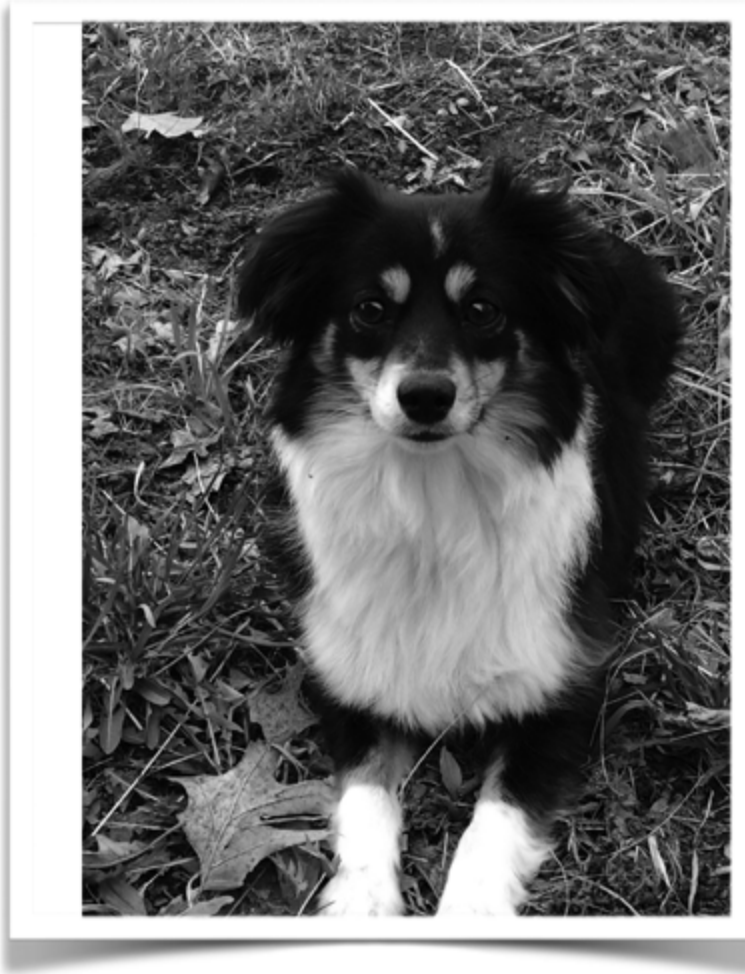
Big thanks to everyone, especially MJ and John, for helping with daily indoor turnout during a horribly icy January. We are all truly thankful for the effort and hours you put in to make sure all the horses are well taken care of. We are all looking forward to the spring thaw, but in the meantime stay warm everyone!



In Memoriam:

ROXY

11/02/2014 - 01/22/2017



**Roxy, you will always be a part of us.
Our lives here will not be the same without you.
You left this planet way before your time, but your heart and love you
gave us will last forever.**

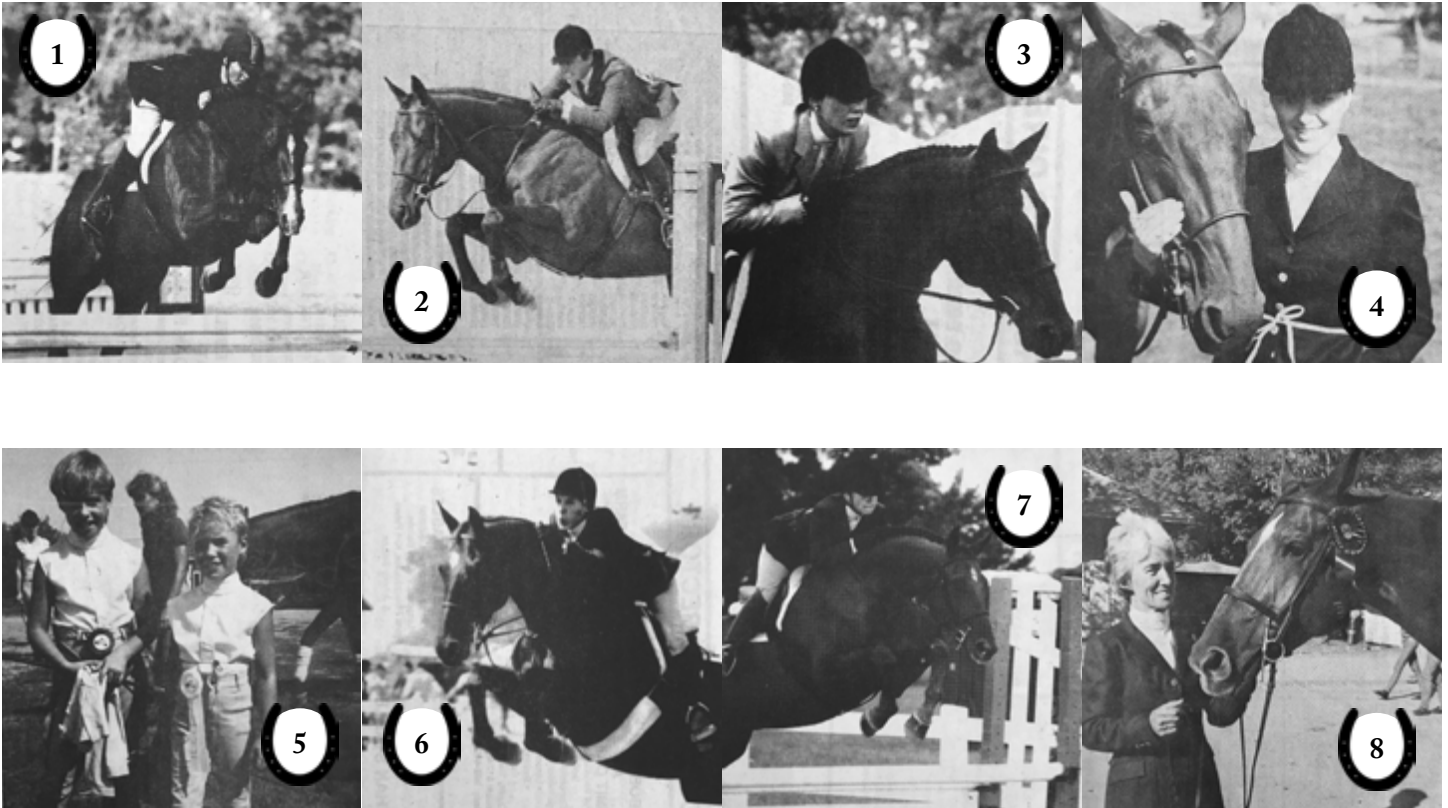
A true friend to all whose lives she has touched.



GUESS WHO?

Answers from page 10

HOW DID YOU DO?



- 1.) Vicki Magevas showing Benvotato at the 2003 Animal Humane Society Horse Show (O'Neill photo)
- 2.) Anita Romfo and "Such A Gentleman" competing at the 1990 Milwaukee Horse Show
- 3.) Cheryl Kaye and Atticus Finch competing Mason City Summer 2001
- 4.) Karen Jensen and Gorgeous
- 5.) Meg and Katy Henry at their first schooling show – Brookside 1986
- 6.) Dolores Ott and Snappy Saluut Competing at Mason City 1998 (R. Lohr photo)
- 7.) Tammy Johnson and Beau Coup
- 8.) Beth Miner and Vandre – Champions at the 1990 Minnesota Fall Horse Show



2017 MHJA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Welcome to the MHJA! For 2017 there are 2 types of individual memberships:

- **Competing Membership: Dues of \$60.00 per year.** A Competing Member is entitled to receive all the publications and prize lists, be listed in the directory, participate in MHJA Clinics as a member, and all other regular member benefits, **plus the Competing Member and all horses owned by the Competing Member will be eligible for MHJA Year-End Awards.** *In order to be eligible for a year-end award in the hunter or jumper classes, the owner of the horse must be an MHJA Competing Member. If you are riding a leased horse, please be sure the owner is an MHJA member in order for points to count. To be eligible for an equitation award, the rider must be an MHJA Competing Member.*
- **Non-Competing Membership: Dues of \$40.00 per year.** A Non-Competing Member is entitled to receive all the publications and prize lists, be listed in the directory and all other regular benefits, except that **the Non-Competing Membership does not include eligibility for MHJA Year-End Awards.**

Both memberships run December 1 to November 30, the same as USEF and USHJA. Membership becomes active on its postmark date if mailed or date received by a representative of the MHJA if hand delivered. All memberships expire on November 30, regardless of the date activated. The 2017 membership list will be purged on March 1, 2017. If you have not renewed or joined by then, you will not receive any more mailings or be listed in the 2017 directory. The MHJA sends reminders before the March 1 deadline. **It is the member's responsibility to make sure all the membership requirements are met for eligibility for awards.**

For more information, contact: Betsy Kieffer, byllesby@embarqmail.com Chair, Membership

2017 MHJA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Save \$5.00! If you join before February 1, 2017, take \$5.00 off the Dues Amount below!

Check membership type:

Individual Competition Membership - Annual: \$60.00. Competing members receive all regular benefits **and are eligible for MHJA Year-End Awards** in equitation and any horses owned by the member are eligible for hunter or jumper awards. **(\$55.00 if paid before February 1, 2017.)**

Individual Sustaining Membership - Annual: \$40.00. Sustaining members receive all regular benefits, but **are not** eligible for MHJA Year-End Awards. **(\$35.00 if paid before February 1, 2017)**

New Renew If this is a renewal and the 2016 information was correct, you may list just your name below.

Name: _____ Your Age on Dec. 1, 2016: _____

Parents Name (if under 18): _____

Farm Name (required **only if** horses are owned by a farm or company): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ (Please include area codes)

E-mail: _____

- Check here if you have multiple memberships at one address and would like to receive only one mailing.
- Check here if you do not want to be included in the directory.

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Thank you for joining the MHJA for 2017!

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