



# NEWSLETTER

**VOL. 49, ISSUE 1 - MARCH 2018** 

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# THE MINNESOTA HUNTER & JUMPER ASSOCIATION THE MINNESOTA HUNTER & JUMPER ASSOCIATION THE MINNESOTA HUNTER & JUMPER ASSOCIATION

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### MHJA OFFICERS

### Sue Novak

President (763) 486.8128 pommertrophy@aol.com

### Norine Wilcox

Vice President (773) 771.9906 lilnor29@gmail.com

### Tammy Johnson

Secretary (651) 770.0809 tjohnson1@mmm.com

### Lindsay Vail

Treasurer (708) 856.1645 vail.lindsay@gmail.com

### MHJA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Heather Parish

(651) 492.6300 eagleton94@gmail.com

### Nancy Giacchetti

(952) 607.7233

nancy.giacchetti@partnersinsynq.com

### Jane Martinson

(612) 554.5625

janemartinson1@gmail.com

### Anne Steeves

(651) 261.2837

anne.steeves@gmail.com

### Betsy Kieffer

(763) 494.8458

byllesby@embarqmail.com

### Kelly Volp

kelly.a.volp@gmail.com

Lisa Masica

lisamasica@gmail.com Angela Mahoney

(612) 816.0070 angelalmahoney@gmail.com

### Suzanne Wepplo

(651) 329.8285 swepplo@gmail.com

### Betsy Gambach

(612) 360.8034

beegambach@yahoo.com

### Elizabeth LaFrenz

(612) 386.7798 elafrenz@gmail.com

Elzabeth Lampert

(612) 282-5530

(612) 282-3530 tinyelz@mac.com

### MHJA NEWSLETTER STAFF

### Sue Novak

President (763) 486.8128

pommertrophy@aol.com

### Heather Parish

Editor

(651) 492.6300

eagleton94@gmail.com

### Lindsay Vail

Accounting (708) 856.1645

(708) 856.1645 vail.lindsay@gmail.com

### Nancy Giacchetti

Advertising

(952) 607.7233 nancy.giacchetti@partnersinsynq.com

### Betsy Kieffer

Associate Editor (763) 494.8458

byllesby@embargmail.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 25
Fall August 20
Winter November 23
Spring February 1

### WANT TO ADVERTISE?

Contact Nancy Giacchetti at 952-607-7233 or nancy.giacchetti@partnersinsynq.com and she will be happy to assist you! You may also check our website: www.mhja.com/advertising for more information. All ads require completion of Ad Insertion Order form available on MHJA website. Please send ad files to nancy.giacchetti@partnersinsynq.com

### 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).

### **2018 AD RATES**

SIZE	1x	4x	SPECS
Full page, 4 color	\$150	\$500	7.5" x 10"
Full page, b&w	\$100	\$320	7.5" x 10"
1/2 page, 4 color	\$105	\$400	7.5" x 4.75"
1/2 page, b&w	\$60	\$200	7.5" x 4.75"
1/4 page, b&w	\$40	\$140	3.5" x 4.75"
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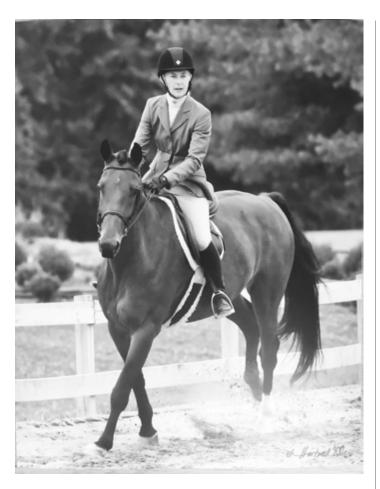
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# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Sue Novak, MHJA President



Greetings to all MHJA Members,

It is an honor to be your 2018 MHJA President. I would like to extend a huge thank you to Elzabeth Lampert, MHJA Past President for three years. Her tireless efforts have left the association in great shape and we will do our best to carry on the momentum.

Our newly reformed Junior Board kicked off the New Year with a pizza and bowling party in Brooklyn Park. Calling all juniors, please check out MHJA Juniors page on the website, www.mhja6.org or on Instagram @mhjajuniors, contact Elizabeth LaFrenz at 612 386-7798 for details. It promises to be a fun group and a great opportunity to connect with fellow juniors.

Your hard working Board of Directors is already busy working on our 2018 MHJA Horse Show, improving our advertising efforts and fine tuning class specifications just to name a few. As in years past, we are again asking for

your support in helping our association move forward. Volunteers, suggestions and comments are all welcome. Your board is here for you, the members. Please let your voice be heard.

Once more, we strongly encourage everyone to show locally. Wherever your travels have taken you, we hope you will support our local shows. We have been very encouraged by the growth of our grass roots level as they are the future of our sport. However, we still lost three shows in 2017...

As our winter is losing its grip here in the Midwest, the days are getting longer and the horses have begun to shed, the horse show season if not that far off. If you haven't done so yet, please renew you MHJA Membership along with the USEF and the USHJA. Last, but not least give your horse an extra pat and treat. For they are the reason we have come together.

Thank you and looking forward to a great year,







Heather Parish editor



Betsy Kieffer associate editor

From the Editors

# **GET READY 2018!**

Our MHJA Show Season is just around the corner, and in this issue you can catch up on news from the USHJA Convention, new rules, and the 2018 specs for our MHJA divisions plus much more. Catch a glimpse of the fun that the juniors had at their first event this year! Have you considered advertising or becoming a sponsor of The MHJA Show? We included a copy of our media kit and information on how to go about doing so. Remember to like us on Facebook and check out our website www.mhja6.org

Enjoy!

Heather



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## **TENTATIVE 2018 MHJA CALENDAR**

**MHJA Recognized Shows** 

```
NEW SHOW Omaha Equestrian Preview | April 19-22 | A rated | Elkhorn, NE | Dan Urban 619-820-3802
Maffitt Lake Spring Gathering I | May 9-13 | A rated | Cumming, IA | Libby Hott 515-306-1140
MHJA Horse Show | May 17-20 | Patty Humphries 952-442-5321
Mid States Spring (old Summerfest) | June 6-10 | A rated | Mason City, IA | Dan Urban 619-820-3802
Mid States Summer | June 13-16 | A rated | Mason City, IA | Dan Urban 619-820-3802
Carriage House | July 19-22 | B rated | Hugo, MN | Patty Humphries 952-442-5321
Two Rivers Summer Fest I | Aug. 1-5 | Cumming, IA | Libby Hott 515-981-1699
Two Rivers Summer Fest II | Aug. 8-12 | Cumming, IA | Libby Hott 515-981-1699
       Zone 6 Horse of the Year Championship Show
Minnesota State Fair | Aug. 21-24 | A rated | St. Paul, MN | Patty Humphries 952-442-5321
Mid States Fall | September 12-16 | A rated | Mason City, IA | Dan Urban 619-820-3802
       MHJA Medal Finals
Mid States Season Finale | Sept. 19-23 | A rated | Mason City, IA | Dan Urban 619-820-3802
       Zandra Powers Horsemanship Class
```

## IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE A PRIZE LIST FOR A SHOW, PLEASE CHECK THE SHOW INFORMATION TAB FOR WWW.MHJA6.ORG, OR CONTACT THE PERSON LISTED.

Minnesota Harvest | Oct. 2-7 | A rated | MN State Fair Grounds | St. Paul, MN | Elzabeth Lampert 612-262-5530

Shows must also have them available for mailing if requested.

The MHJA is now down to 12 shows, two of which the MHJA runs. Please consider how you can support your MHJA horse shows!

# **LUNCH AND LEARN PART I:** RIDING THE PERFECT HUNTER ROUND

by Nicole Salazar

Hello friends of the MHJA! Nicole Salazar here, reporting from WEF. I want to share a bit about my experiences in Wellington this winter. Many of you are familiar with the Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington Florida, while some may not know much about it at all. The 2018 Winter Equestrian Festival consists of 12 weeks of international show jumping competition. Each week there are feature events including "Saturday Night Lights" classes, typically FEI (Fédération Equestre Internationale) 2\*-5\* Grand Prix's. There are other special Saturday night classes taking place throughout the circuit as well such as the \$75K "Battle of the Sexes"- a 3 phase team event. Week 4 features the "Great Charity Challenge"- a team relay style class in costume that benefits local charities. (You are most sure to see your favorite Hollywood movie characters make an appearance!) Week 6 features a \$100K "USHJA/WCHR Hunter Derby". I am also out watching and participating in the 3'3 Amateur Owner Hunters with my horse, Gabe.

This year I attended the weekly free offering of a "Lunch and Learn" - an educational series hosted at the Wellington Club, located on the show grounds. The topic of week two was "Riding the Perfect Hunter Round", sponsored by the Palm Beach Riding Academy. A panel of show officials were there to give a Q&A and talk about their roles within the horse show world. Panel participant Geoff Teall represented the judges. Geoff is one of the leading trainers and an "R" rated judge for Hunter and Hunt Seat Equitation. The first thing he discussed was the typical "elephant in the room." "Are the hunters judged fairly and honestly or is it a big political popularity contest?" According to Geoff, the judging is 95% honest and fair, and much less political than many of us think. He explained his perspective of consistent winning as "momentum" versus politics. Meaning, when someone has great horses and puts down great rounds time and time again, and in turn wins consistently, they build momentum. It creates an expectation when they come into the ring and the judges

can't help but view them differently.

At the end of a class, Geoff explained, it all comes down to how each horse compares to one another. He loves rewarding for a great round, and in fact, is rooting for the rider! He is probably more nervous than the rider is as they come down to the last line on course. He even confessed to clucking and yelling "whoa" from the judge's booth at times.

I asked Geoff what prevents a judge from being able to share their judge's score cards with exhibitors. He told the attendees his cards were "chicken scratch," however he is always happy to share them if someone wants to go through the channels to do so. He'd rather have a rider ask to review the card, so they understand "their horse hung a leg over the single oxer."

Liza Towell Boyd from Finally Farms is one of the country's top hunter trainers and riders. As another member of the panel, Liza discussed managing different horses in different ways based on their individual needs. Some need schooling prior to the start of the show, while a more seasoned show horse may go to the show specifically to show, but otherwise work at home or go trail riding. If Liza has a younger horse she will have them spend more time at the show grounds to take it all in - even if that means just trail riding around the show grounds.

Liza talked about the importance of keeping your mind slow in the hunters and not having that freak-out moment as you approach the last line and start running at the distance. For that situation, she emphasized riding it as a beginning, middle, and end. She gave an example of a round she had ridden that morning in which she didn't receive the score the horse had the potential to earn. This led her to speak to the importance of flatwork and quality of the canter between the fences. The quality of the flatwork between the fences can be the difference between an 86 and a 90 if 2 horses both have a "10" jump. The work she'll do with that horse at home before its next time in the

### DR. JAIME HORNER, DVM, CVA

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ring is counter canter and good flatwork to keep it from leaning on her during the course.

Representing course design on the panel was Phil DeVita who is also a judge. Phil has been designing courses since 1982 and expressed footing is the #1 item of importance. His tactics for designing a course include making it approachable with the ability to build a good rhythm and have a nice flow. His goal is that the judge should be judging the class, not the course.

During Q&A, I asked Phil why a course designer would have the hunters start on a line. He believes that approach is somewhat old fashioned and not his preference, and believes a better round is more likely starting on a single. It can often boil down to where the course starts and getting 8 jumps completed, or maybe a shortage of materials.

Mary, a USEF steward was also on the panel. She described the role as being the liaison between the different people involved in the horse show – from exhibitors to judges, management and officials, and of course the USEF. According to Geoff Teal, being a steward is one of the many thankless jobs behind a horse show. They interpret

the rules. Stewards do everything from walking the barns and checking water buckets, measuring horses as required, reporting accidents, monitoring the quality of longeing areas/dragging, that horses are properly longed, general horse welfare, and even making sure the restrooms are up to standard.

A couple of random facts: at WEF there are typically 15 judges and 12 course designers per week. There is an overwhelming amount of detail and work that goes on behind the scenes. To me, it is quite impressive to understand what goes into creating a venue like WEF. In summary, I am glad I participated in this Lunch and Learn. We are fortunate to have this type of opportunity available to us at WEF.

Coming up in the next issue of the MHJA newsletter is another Lunch and Learn focused on "Wellness in the Aging Performance Horse." Until then, Nicole Salazar reporting from Wellington, FL.



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July 28 & 29- Stonegate Farm, Stillwater, MN

Sept 8 & 9- Location TBD

Sept 23- Carriage House Farm, Hugo, MN

> For more information, contact Missy Fedor (763) 350-9237



Life vs [my life]

I was sitting in a rather nice restaurant eating lunch the other day and overheard the following conversation between two friends. I couldn't help but compare their words to my life.....[said to myself of course]

Friend 1: So sorry I'm late. I just came from the salon and my highlights took forever!

[Me: My horse has a braider. I'm lucky to get my hair cut at haircuts-R-us]

Friend 2: I just got here myself, my pedicure took forever to dry.

[Me: My horse just got a "pedicure" from the farrier. I do my own nails.]

Friend 2: I needed a fresh one for my new sandals for the party this weekend.

[Me: My horse is sporting brand new shoes. I'm still wearing the same boots I bought 5 years ago, or was it ten...

Friend 1: That sounds lovely. I had mine done to match my new dress.

[Me: My horse has a new saddle pad. Dress? I think there's one in my closet somewhere.]

Friend 1: Have you decided which jewelry you're going to wear?

[Me: I just bought my pony a new halter complete with a brass name plate.]

Friend 2: Not yet. Did you hear that (name withheld to protect the innocent) has moved into a new, gorgeous house?

[Me: My horse just moved into a large, roomy, EXPENSIVE stall in a heated barn.]

Friend 1: Yes! I heard she has a chef and a maid.

[Me: My horse has someone who feeds and cleans his stall daily. I clean my place whenever my mother is coming for a visit.]

Friend 2: Must be nice. I'm feeling the need for a massage, want to go to the spa tomorrow?

[Me: My horse has a chiropractor and a groom. I just take ibuprofen.]

Friend 1: Love to. I'd like to spend some time with the personal trainer, he has a new treadmill routine he wants me to start.

[Me: My horse has a trainer who also has a horse treadmill. I hang laundry on my treadmill.]

Friend 2: I'll pick you up at 10 then.

Friends 1 & 2 exit the restaurant chatting leaving me to finish my lunch.

Of course, you all know the above conversation is ficticious, a horse owner doesn't have time to sit down and eat a fancy lunch!

Signed: An Old Grey Mare



# 2017 USHJA ANNUAL MEETING

by Betsy Kieffer





Nancy Giacchetti and I attended the 2017 USHJA Annual Meeting, held December 10-14 in San Antonio Texas, as your representatives from the MHJA and Zone 6. I have attended every annual meeting from the time the USHJA was founded and have been through the good, the bad, and the truly appalling ones. This year the atmosphere was so entirely different that it was astounding.

In past years if you weren't a big name trainer, or big show owner/manager, or a "big" anything, you felt like you were just there for the ride, and nothing you contributed would make any difference. You were from fly-over land, and not worth the notice of anyone.

This year there was a change in the air. Someone has realized that the current model of the USHJA (and USEF) is not attracting people, but rather driving them away in large numbers. This year, the USHJA staff was attentive,

committee chairs encouraged discussion from the floor, and the whole feeling was much more collegial, with a few exceptions. There seems to be a new realization that the old model wasn't working; one size does not fit all Zones; and more attention needs to be paid to the underserved majority of members who support USHJA, but will never receive any benefit from either the programs at the top or the grass roots focus at the bottom of the organizational pyramid. Some of you may have noticed that you are getting more frequent emails or facebook posts from Zone 6. That's all part of the attempt to reach out and communicate with the membership.

Most of this change has to be attributed to the leadership of Mary Babick. Mary is very approachable, and genuinely concerned about all levels of the sport and the organization. If you call her or email her, you get a response. There had

been some confusion regarding how sites were chosen for Zone Children/Adult Hunter/Jumper Championships, specifically regarding Zone 6, and I asked Mary if she could come to the Zone 6 meeting and explain what had happened. Mary not only came and gave us a good hour and a half of her time, but also brought along Kevin Price, CEO of USHJA and Charlotte Skinner-Robson, chair of the Jumper Working Group. A series of weird events, starting with poorly written requirements and ending with a non-quorum led to the results, but it was explained, Mary sided with Zone 6 on one of the questions, and in general the outcome was satisfactory. I would never have asked this of the previous administration.

I had intended to write a day-by-day account of the meeting, but there were really only two main thrusts this year: How to better build an equestrian community including the underserved middle, and horse and rider welfare.

Zone Six's own Lisa Roskens started us off with the key note address on "Building an Equestrian Community." The speech covered not only the bid to win the World Cup Finals, but also the founding of the Omaha Equestrian Foundation. Lisa emphasized the necessity of reaching out to all levels of equestrian enthusiasts, not just those in the upper echelons, to form a cohesive group to further the equestrian sport. Her speech became the theme of the meeting.

This was born out when Nancy and I attended the meeting of the Awards Committee. For the last few years, I have been badgering the USHJA about the fact that the Stirrup Cup Awards, which are supposed to be the awards for people who don't show outside their zone, are worthless to most of the Zones. These awards use Regional (B) rated shows as their criteria, and members have to show in at least 3 shows to be eligible. Only points won in your zone count. Out of ten Zones, only Zones 2, 3 4 and 10 had Stirrup Cup Awards. The rest of the Zones don't have enough B shows in their zone for anyone to qualify. When we attended the meeting, the first thing Cheryl Rubenstein, the chair, said was they needed to look at fixing the Stirrup Cup Awards and the Affiliate Awards. The first one people couldn't qualify and the second one no Affiliates bothered to nominate anymore. As Nancy and I were the only non-members at the meeting, we were warmly welcomed and gave a lot of input regarding awards. I am sending Cheryl some statistics I had done and some suggestions for improving the Stirrup Cup Awards. One idea was allowing zones who don't have enough "B" shows to write their own qualifications for the awards. At any rate, just the fact that the committee realized and wanted to change these awards was a big step towards acknowledging the fact that a lot of the USHJA programs serve very few members.

Also the fact that Tom Struzzieri, Larry Langer and Pat Boyle have developed a "National" USHJA horse show for





members using points from those awards to qualify also makes it essential to fix this problem, or six of the Zones won't have any horses there!

This is not to take anything away from programs already in progress, and I am sure we will still see plenty of emphasis on the Emerging Jumper Rider Program and the Jumping Athlete Pathway, and those programs that make the USHJA money and give them press coverage. But it felt like USHJA realizes that the great majority of their members are never going to participate in any of those elite programs, and the USHJA better give that majority some attention, or they will lose them.

Horse welfare has been a frequent topic the last couple of years, but rider welfare joined it this year. In rider welfare, I would include the Safe Sport initiative and Concussion training. The Safe Sport initiative has only become more urgent with the revelations surrounding gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar. While some horse welfare rule changes went back to the drawing for rewrites, the rider welfare proposals that were just being discussed (not even put in to rule proposals yet) have ended up as extraordinary rule changes,

passed at the USEF meeting in January 2018, and have already been added to the rule book.

These changes were brought about by the horrific story of Laura Linback's accident in Ocala two years ago and another accident in Vermont this year. Laura's accident was an aberration - no one expects to have their horse come out of a class and die in the in-gate- but it was the emergency service that arose afterward that was incredible. Due to jurisdictional problems and under qualified medics, Laura lay in the in-gate for almost 90 minutes before she was finally on her way to a hospital.

Shows will now be required to employ specifically trained emergency medical personnel; they will be required to have medical staff on site whenever schooling is allowed, even if it is the day before the show, or the show is not in session; and an ambulance is required to either be on call or on the grounds. If you're interested in the full rules, they are under General Rules 800 - Conduct of shows. The Amateur committee, which was the driving force behind these rules, also encouraged horse shows to have people closest to the action - starters, in gate, course designers, - trained in





CPR, AED use and Concussion Recognition.

Another aspect of horse and rider welfare – footing – was a main topic at the Competition Standards and Competition Management meetings. They got pretty exciting with audience members very vocally accusing show managers of not looking out for the welfare of the exhibitors and their horses. Apparently there was an adult jumper class at a Vermont show this last summer where a number of horses slipped and fell. One of Jimmy Torano's clients not only had her horse go down, but she was badly injured in the fall; and once again, medical personnel were not adequate and hindered speedy movement to a hospital.

Judging from responses from both USHJA and people at the meeting, this concern for horse and rider welfare seems probable to cause two other outcomes. It appears USHJA is going to push USEF for stronger penalties against shows who demonstrate a lack of concern over welfare; and exhibitors are finally going to start voting with their feet and not attend the shows that pay no attention to welfare.

As usual, there were receptions and parties, and Parlanti Boots gave one heck of a party after the Evening of Equestrians banquet. Those are always enjoyable even if you feel like no one cared about your concerns for your zone and your affiliate. This year, not only were the social events fun, but it felt like we made a difference because we attended. People listened to our ideas, we listened to their ideas. This was the first Annual Meeting where I felt like those seated on the committees and on the USHJA staff truly listened to the ideas of the members who had come to the meeting, and saw value in some of their suggestions. It was refreshing.



16. MHJA Newsletter | March 2018

# MHJA ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP PROCESS CHANGES

Nancy Giacchetti has taken the reins of the MHJA Advertising Committee which also includes Sue Novak and Anne Steeves. This shift in responsibility allows the Board to better balance the workload of Lindsay Vail, Treasurer, and places a greater emphasis on this important area for the success of MHJA. A big thank you goes out to Lindsay for her past efforts in managing this important process for MHJA!

The MHJA Newsletter is the official publication of the Minnesota Hunter and Jumper Association.

Published: 4 times per year

Reach: mailed directly to all MHJA member homes. Copies of the newsletter can also be found in local barns, stable lounges, and at key events.

Content: knits our community together providing compelling stories about members, highlighting key competitive information and local professionals, and provides a voice for hunter/jumper riders in Minnesota.

Advertising / sponsorship: great way to deliver product and services messages having a direct impact on members. For example, our summer issue is focused on rider health.

In addition to our Newsletter, the MHJA has an online presence through a Face Book page and the MHJA website Through these communication vehicles, we keep members well-informed and provide important information at the click of the mouse. The website now has an enhanced online sponsor presence, making their support more widely known.

Changes to the advertising process include the creation of a revised Media Kit and Ad Insertion Order form. Going forward, all advertising and online sponsorship will require the completion of the self-explanatory Ad Insertion Order form. It is available from any of the Ad Committee Members (Nancy, Sue or Anne) and can also be found on the MHJA website. The form can be completed online, making for a much easier process.

A very hearty thank you goes out to our continuing and new advertisers!



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Many of my students refer to me now as "Ms. Kasper." You might remember me as a Children's and Junior rider by the name of Kelsey Shurson who rode with Diane Stockstead on a feisty Thoroughbred mare: Cher Ami. Kelsey Shurson and Kelsey Kasper are one and the same, just changed.

I have been gone for quite a while; living in Florida, California, and then getting married to former SEAL Team 5 Special Operator: Daniel Kasper. We then moved to Oregon where I started my own business and Dan worked for AirBnB in Operations. Dan had the opportunity to manage a startup in Denver, I got an offer to run a 100 head equine operating facility and so we decided to settle for a few years in Denver, CO. There have been a few horses and rides in between my junior and amateur career but more than that: a lot of lessons learned along the way that have brought me to write this right here, right now.

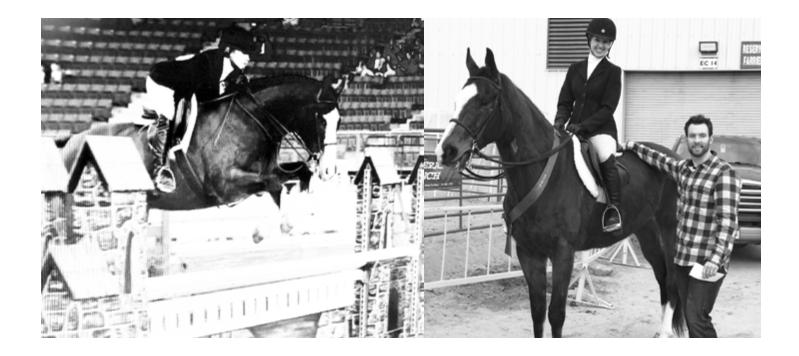
For the past 8 years I have perseverated on overcoming challenges. As a High School Affective Needs teacher for KIPP Colorado schools, I have a passion for the unpopular breeds, the underdogs who deserve a chance at greatness just like their popular counterparts. Juvenile and at risk youth are my favorite populations to serve because the amount of heart these kids have outweighs the amount of challenge they present. My passion for challenge and finding heart in lonely places transcends in and out of the classroom and across the curriculum.

"Where is your horse imported from? Who is your trainer?" These were the questions concerning my fellow adult amateurs when my horse "Handyman" was named Adult Amateur Champion at America's oldest and largest Western Stock Show in Denver, CO in January 2018.

Handyman, aka "Shelton" is American; a registered Paint gelding and imported from Jamie Heflin's farm: Whiskey Run Sport Horses in Rainier, Washington. I bought him as a 4 year old, was the second person on his back and trained him from the ground up, myself. Jumping out of pastures as a 2 year old, placing 9th in his first ever class at a rated show against more than 75 horses, gives me reasons to believe this horse has the heart to chase any challenge and answer any question I ask of him.

Shelton nearly died from a severe impaction 3 weeks prior to this year's National Stock Show. Fortunately, judges didn't seem to mind his not so trendy clip marks around the sites harboring his catheters that he received during his sleep over at Colorado State University. Shelton became bored after a week sabbatical and waited by his pasture gate for me every time I drove down the driveway. He had overcome this setback and showed me he was ready to clock back in to work.

I told Shelton if we made it to the stock show we would have one goal: be brave and jump everything. Little did we know there would be alpacas, Texas long horns, ESPN dog shows, hundreds of kids on field trips, changing lights



dangling from the ceilings and schooling opportunities containing roughly 100 horses at one time. Come to find out, none of these distractions broke us.

In sum of the highlight of my amateur career, there has been no finer, no greater moment than standing in the Champion circle this year realizing: I, I made this. I created this handy horse.

This year, Shelton traversed the Bear Tooth mountains over a 7 hour trail ride, jumped cross country courses, plunged through rivers, packed 5 year olds around in summer camps, showed up to his first ever A rated show and won it. Shelton has been the greatest accomplishment of my life and a hallmark of the try and heart found in many American breeds.

I would not be where I am or who I am without the lessons I have learned along the way. My trainers are ghosts, they live in every corner of the arena, in every stride out in the field; Diane Stockstead and Nona Stockton: my trainers are you.

I credit Diane Stockstead for giving me experiences on so many different horses; which have equipped me with the skills to ride many different horses today. I credit Diane for helping me build work ethic, grit and humility. She let me wash water buckets in the Minnesota winter in exchange for a lesson to help offset costs for my parents. I hated this, but it was the greatest thing I ever did. I credit Diane for all those months jumping without stirrups; I developed a decent leg, a solid foundation and continue to drop my stirrups on every ride to this day. I will always remember: In everything I do, I am either training or untraining. Thank you.

I met Nona Stockton while serving at risk youth at the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch in Billings, MT in 2012. Nona Stockton taught me to be handy. She is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist with her own animal therapy business. She was Chelsea Clinton's first riding instructor and used to save horses from feed lots. She then trained them to be eventers and campaigned some for the Olympics. When her husband tells her to borrow his truck, she goes out and buys her own. If what she wants is absent then she just creates it: like the Equestrian program at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, MT. Nona taught me how to be brave and how to overcome challenges. Nona showed me her breast cancer won't kill her once twice or three times nor will she let her heart condition slow her down. She taught me how to save bum lambs, how to fix animal legs with horse halters and how to give sheep baths in a kitchen sink. She taught me how to teach a horse to traverse cliffs and jump boldly into rivers. She taught me the best gift I can give a horse is to teach them manners so they never become unmanageable and consequently: dog food. I will always remember: I don't need anyone else's permission to do anything and, I have everything until my horse sucks back in front of a fence, then I have nothing. Thank you.

Anne Steeves, thank you for being my best buddy, my comrade throughout this 20 year journey. I hope one day we can ride together again, this time as amateurs. Thanks to my mother: Laurie DuPont for being my biggest fan and facilitating my equestrian dreams.

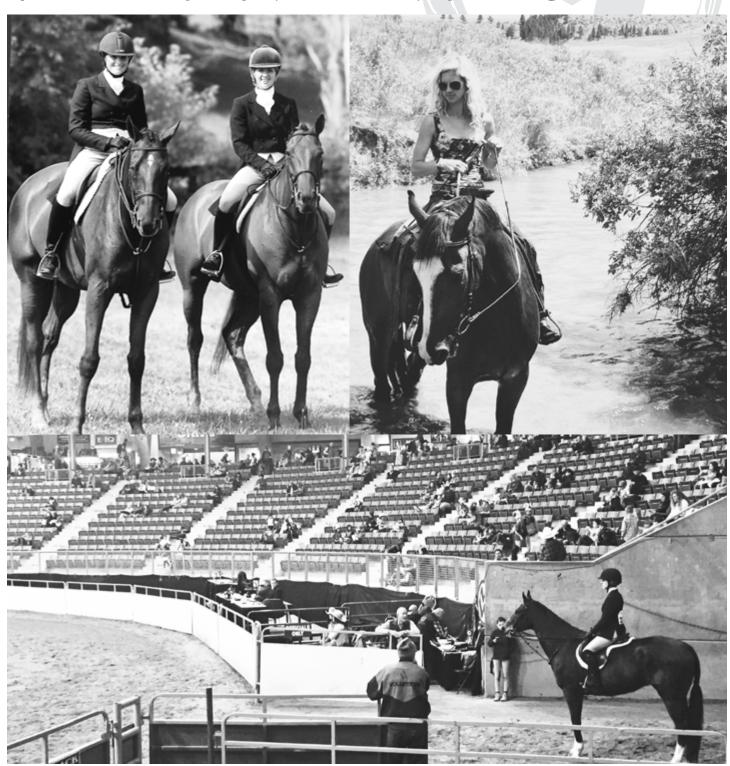
I am currently refining Shelton's training at a private barn in Brighton, Colorado and aim to show on the CHJA circuit this year with Shelton and an Andalusian cross, "Valor." Many thanks to Wayne and Karen Muehler for taking me in and giving me the privilege of riding a variety of Andalusians, Lusitanos and Spanish mustangs at their facility on a daily basis. Wayne and Karen have both taught me a whole new perspective of life and riding, particularly the sport of Working Equitation. When the time is right, I will put my school

teaching career to rest and focus on refining the horses in front of me and making horses accessible to all kinds of people.

In the meantime, thank you: Handyman, for the best 2 years of my life. Thank you for teaching me how to train a horse to be utilitarian, across the curriculum, in and out of the classroom. Thank you for answering my questions, for overcoming my challenges and for your unbridled heart.

Kelsey Kasper





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# JUNIOR'S NIGHT OUT

by Elizabeth LaFrenz



2018 is here! And with 2018 the MHJA is excited to introduce a new program - the MHJA Juniors. MHJA Juniors is a program focused on fostering education, community, camaraderie, charity, and of course fun for the MHJA junior members (17 & under). To kickoff the program we held our first event.... the MHJA Juniors Night Out, on Friday, February 2nd. We were thrilled to have 35 juniors register, and it was a spectacular evening of food, fun, & friendship. Bowling, laser tag, pizza and cake... we think everyone went home having enjoyed the evening and with some new friends!

We're planning several events throughout the year... social outings, educational events, volunteer opportunities to name a few. You do not have to be a MHJA member to attend (though there will be benefits for members), and we encourage any juniors with a love of horses to come be a part of our community. Watch your email as well as our new Instagram account, @mhjajuniors, to keep up with all our latest news and plans for the upcoming year. If you'd like more information or have questions please send an email to mhjajuniorsinfo@gmail.com, or contact any of the MHJA Board members. We're looking forward to a fun year!







# IN MEMORIAM Cy Smythe





On December 26, 2017 we lost one of our own, Cy Smythe, beloved husband to Jean and father to Ann Antonsen and Cheryl Fischer. To all who knew him, Cy had a giant personality! Growing up in New Jersey, Cy's education culminated in his receiving a PhD in Economics. His professional career included time as a U of MN professor, with a focus on economics and labor relations which led him to form his consulting firm, Labor Relations Associates. Cy continued to consult well into his 80's.

Cy lived a full life, trying his hand, and excelling, at anything that sparked an interest for him. This included golf, downhill skiing, sailing and of course, horses. He rode in his youth and worked on a working cattle ranch in college and then got the whole family involved with horses in 1966. Cy transitioned

to Hunters in 1988. He owned several wonderful Hunters throughout the years, ending his competitive riding career with Ande, a perfectly matched mount for a man riding and competing into his late 80's.

To those who ever shared a tack room with Cy there are many memories that can be recalled. Discussions on a Saturday morning regarding the state of our nation's economy and the stock market, to a good golf swing, or which single malt scotch was best and why. He was always interested in knowing how his fellow riders' spouses and families were doing and certainly loved talking about horses and dogs.

To Jean and Anne, as so aptly stated by fellow horseman, the late Hans Senn, "Think of a downward transition as a new beginning and not as an end." Cy, our friend, we miss you.



# MEET YEAR-END **AWARD WINNER:**

# Lauren Masica



### The Beginning

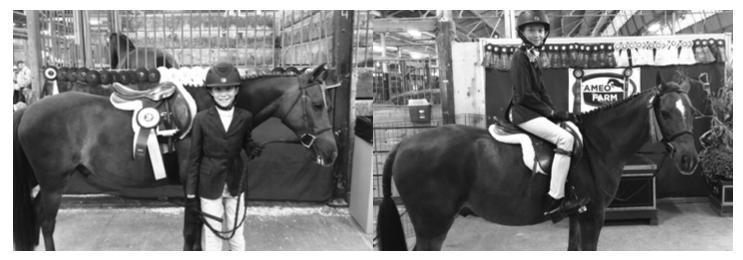
When I was about 5 or 6 my mom started taking me out to visit some horses and ponies at Karen Hupp Riding. My mom started working with Karen when I was about 1 year old and she went out and helped with some of Karen's lessons. My twin brother Ben, also came out to the barn with me. My twin brother and I would go out to the barn once a week and be surrounded by horses, and that to me meant the world. Both my Brother and I learned how to groom, pick out hooves, tack up and lead a pony. I was hooked and couldn't wait to learn to ride. My mom said we had to learn how to do all the groundwork, independently first, before we were allowed to ride. It was way easier to do since we were lucky enough to work with Gilbert, a small pony of Karen's. Ben decided he didn't like horse poop and my mom said, "Well, that is kinda part of the deal. It's everywhere!"

### Learning to Ride

Eventually in the fall of 2014, I did get to ride Gilbert. I learned to walk and trot but when it came to cantering, my mom got way to anxious so she passed me off to Karen. Karen taught me a lot of the basics of flatwork and jumping and I rode in Karen's program until I was ready to move on and get my own pony. I am so thankful to Karen and her schooling program for giving me an amazing start.

### Team Cameo

We moved on, and soon we needed a trainer! And soon enough we did, Jane Martinson started training me and after 6 months of shopping and trials of different ponies and horses. We went to try a pony on Valentine's Day 2016 and we fell in love, and bought Hidden Springs Arizona, barn name Ari, from Lauren Weezner.



### Hidden Springs Arizona-AKA Ari

Ari is a medium Welsh pony that was bred in South Carolina. Each year his breeder chooses a theme for the ponies . Ari is the year of the states. There are lots of other yearsflowers, hotels, catch phrases, Charlie Brown characters, and dances. It is fun to see what other Hidden Springs ponies are doing all over the country. Ari has just the best ground manners, which was super important to my mom who says 90% of owning a horse has nothing to do with actually riding them. He loves treats (what pony doesn't) and his favorite treat is peppermints, and will lick your hand for days, if you'll let him. He loves attention and is a very social pony, and I truly love when he gives you a pony kiss on the cheek. The longer we own him the better he gets and we are amazed by his progress over the past two years.

### Showing

Our first year of showing we did very little in terms of showing, but had fun at Carriage House doing Hunters in opportunity classes. We ended our 2016 show season with a trip to Otter Creek and we have great memories of one of the most intense short stirrup equitation classes we've seen yet

(really it was crazy)!

We worked very hard over the Winter and were ready to jump into the regular pony division in 2017. Wow, we learned so much this past summer. From our first model at Mason City where my mom let me go down to be kinda a working student for Jane Martinson for 2 weeks, of course Clare Delmore was there to help out too! Our highlights were definitely at the State Fair this year where we qualified for 2018 Pony Finals and came in 3rd in the Amateur Derby out of a field of about 30...both of my parents were crying.

### Goals for 2018

Well, we are planning on going to Pony Finals for the once in a lifetime trip but we'll continue to push to get better in my divisions this next year. I'll take the USHJA Horsemanship Quiz Challenge. I passed level 1.0 last year but you need to get at least a 90% to get a chance for the national competition.

I'll will also learn to love and appreciate every moment with my pony as I know this will be our last show season together and we will both need to move on to our next adventures. Both my mom and I get sad just thinking about it as he really did steal our hearts on Valentine's Day.



# PERPETUAL TROPHIES



### HENNESSEY MEMORIAL TROPHY High Point Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3"

Donated by Cindy and Steve Bulwicz

The Hennessey Memorial Trophy is for the MHJA High Point Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3", donated by Cindy and Steve Bulwicz in loving memory of Hennessey.

Hennessey was the epitome of the older amateur's show hunter. He was beautiful, talented, quiet, intelligent, and had the forgiving temperament to put up with the ignorance and mistakes of a woman who started riding in her mid-forties. He was Cindy's horse for twelve years, taking her successfully from Long Stirrup to Amateur Owner Hunters. Hennessey won numerous tricolors in the Professional divisions, and finished Ninth in the Nation for Second Year Greens in 2003. He was Zone 6, MHJA and INHJA Champion in the Professional, Adult Amateur and Amateur Owner 3'3" Divisions during his career. Cindy and Hennessey both enjoyed competing in the 3'3" Amateur Owner Hunters. It was the last division they contested together before his death in 2012 at the age of 18.

It is with great pride, and with loving, precious and fun memories, Cindy and Steve Bulwicz offer this Memorial Trophy to honor Hennessey.

### Awarded to:

2013 - Bourbon Street - Tammy Johnson

2014 - Bourbon Street - Tammy Johnson

2015 - Big Star Explosion - Dr. Kathryn Ott

2016 - R. Alejandro - Marcy Tremblay

2017 - R. Alejandro - Marcy Tremblay



### MHJA Hunter Challenge Champion

In Honor of Felix and Sky's the Limit

MHJA Hunter Challenge Award goes to the horse accumulating the most points in the Hunter Challenge/Derby Series. Donated by Gail Brandt.

### Awarded to:

2009 - Protégé - Analise Elkjer

2010 - Isaura - Stephanie Aanonsen

2011 - Dark Chocolate - Jenna Golden

2012 - Holiday - Gretchen Draper

2013 - Rouge E'Cureuil - Caitlyn Andersen

2014 - Rock Me Amadeus - Dr. Kathryn Ott

2015 - Cyril - Cindy Bulwicz

Woodrow - Mary Laurie

2016 - All Dressed Up - Tammy Johnson

2017 - Expecto Platronum - Constance Kunin

### THE GIRL NEXT DOOR PERPETUAL TROPHY

Awarded to the High Point Short Stirrup Hunter Donated by Ann & Jim Gosack

Noa came into my life just when I needed a horse that would build my confidence. I loved her from the first moment that I rode her, and knew that I wanted her to be mine. In the ensuing years, she proved over and over that my intuition had been correct!

Noa came to the barn for training as she had been tried as a field hunter and really didn't like that job. Somewhere inside, although she was young and green, she must have known that she was meant to be a show horse as she took to her new role naturally and immediately. I chose the show name The Girl Next Door for this pretty, petite plain bay mare because she had come from just down the road, and she was reliable, brave, and steady, as well as talented. Noa was a great companion and friend to me. I lived in Rochester when she first joined us, and she would cheerfully hop in my 2 horse trailer with my beloved corgis and me for our weekend trips to lessons with Debbie Kemp. Noa was not a big fan of dogs, but she had a sweet cat friend at River Bend, where we rode at the time. This kitty would sometimes surprise us by leaping onto Noa's rump while I was riding, and Noa never even flinched! We had many fun adventures, and over the years, we had great success in the adult amateur hunters, earning many MHJA and Zone championships and year end awards. While the successes were great, the best part of our relationship was that it was always fun to be with Noa.

Noa loved her work, and when the time came that she could not comfortably manage the stride and height required for the adult amateur hunters, she found a new career teaching beginning riders and bringing them to the show ring. I had so many people tell me later that she had spoiled them as their first horse, and they didn't realize just how much until they had to ride another one!

We lost Noa in 2001, and she remains close in my heart as my friend and a horse of a lifetime. The Girl Next Door trophy celebrates her role in my Iife and her legacy as a devoted teacher.

Ann Gosack





### Awarded to:

2002 - Sneakers - Alison Golden

2003 - Twist and Shout - Mia Genereux

2004 - RH Latie Dah - Alyssa Franz

2005 - Hercules - Jennifer Nelson

2006 - Hercules - Jennifer Nelson

2007 - Blue Diamond - Hannah Patterman

2008 - Topanga - Grace Leslie

2009 – Kiss Me I'm Italian – Sian Siska

2010 - For Keeps - Rachael Paradise

2011 - For Keeps - Rachael Paradise

2012 - Preacher's Levi - Sophie Hardten

2013 – Unconditional – Owner – Tracy Grandstrand Rider – Jordan Green

2014 – Unconditional – Owner – Tracy Grandstrand Rider – Jordan Green

2015 - Posh - Lila Fedor

2016 - Luke N Brilliant - Spohie Christiansen

2017 – Stonewall Black Pearl – Piper Klemm

### MHJA Mini Medal Champion

Awarded to the winner of the MHJA Final Medal class, or the rider with the most points should a final class not be held.

### Awarded to:

2011 - Rachel Johnson

2012 – Lisa Brustman

2013 - Sarah Demane

2014 - Kaitlyn Du Lyn

2015 – Zoe Lampert

2016 - Teresa Ball

2017 - Rachel Allan



# **GET READY FOR THE 2018 SHOW SEASON**

There are very few changes to the Year End Award Classes and specs for 2018. Most have been implemented to allow for the changing nature of our sport.

### Equitation

1. The Modified Children's and Adult Equitation have been combined. There were very few riders who competed in these sections; however it was felt that this section fulfills a needed bridge, so the age groups were simply combined.

### Hunters

- 1. Children's Hunter will now be split by 14 and under, 15-17 age groups. This is a Zone decision and does bring Zone 6 into line with most of the other Zones.
- 2. The Best Young Horse section will be discontinued, unless members show there is interest in it. The section was only held at one show last year, which means it did not qualify for year end awards.

### **Jumpers**

- 1. A .70-.75 (puddle jumper) section has been added. It will be open and run under USEF JU rules.
- 2. The Opportunity Jumper section has been discontinued. There was only one true participant last year, and it was felt that having an open .70-.75m section would be more beneficial to MHJA members and shows.
- 3. Amateur Jumper was added to the Amateur Owner Jumper section. This is a USEF change for 2018. An Amateur jumper is a horse ridden by an amateur, but not necessarily owned by the amateur. The Amateur Jumper section is to be held at the same heights as the Amateur Owner Jumper sections, and may be combined with those sections. And those sections may still be combined with the Junior Jumpers. It was felt that since Juniors were not required to own their horses, Amateurs were at a distinct disadvantage. I would not be surprised if the Amateur Owner Jumper section slowly fades away.

### Opportunity

- 1. Opportunity Jumper has been discontinued. There was only one true participant in 2017. The section was switched to a .70-.75m Open Section. This was very popular at the Harvest Show, and most shows offer classes at that height.
- 2. Shortest Stirrup remains the same.
- 3. Opportunity Hunter/Equitation has been split into Opportunity Hunter and Opportunity Equitation. With 57 horses and riders last year, it was very difficult to keep track of everyone correctly. If the numbers in each section warrant, the sections will be split for year end awards using a floating age split, so each section will have approximately the same number of entries.

Just a few words on Opportunity classes. USEF rules state that a rider may not enter Opportunity classes if they have ever shown in a class which counts for a Zone or nationwide Horse (or rider) of the Year Award. Zone awards have expanded, so if a rider has ridden in any of the USHJA Hunter sections, any of the age group equitation sections, or an under saddle class for any of the regular pony classes or Children's Hunter Pony, they are not eligible for Opportunity classes. USEF requires the word Opportunity to be in the title of a class; if a class does not have Opportunity in the title, it does not count towards the Opportunity awards.

Here's to a great season of showing in 2018.

### 2018 YEAR END AWARD SECTIONS FOR THE MHJA

The following sections will be awarded MHJA Year End Awards if there are valid participants and the section has been held in at least three MHJA approved shows. 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
- 2. Opportunity Hunter
- 3. Opportunity Equitation

### **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/ Adult Equitation

- 15. MHJA Medal
- 16. MHJA Mini-Medal

### **HUNTER DIVISION**

- 1. Combined Green Working Hunter 3', 3'3" (replaces Pre Green, horses must now jog.)
- 2. Combined Green Working Hunter 3'6", 3'9" In Hunter sections 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, the sections may be split for the year end award and multiple
- 4. Performance Working Hunter 3'3" heights, sizes, or age groups may be awarded provided all other requirements for
- 5. Performance Working Hunter 3'6"
- 6. 3'6" Amateur Owner Working Hunter
- 7. 3'3" Amateur Owner Working Hunter

3. High Performance Working Hunter

- 8. Junior Working Hunter 3'6"
- 9. Junior Hunter 3'3"
- . 10. Combined Pony Working Hunter
- 11. Children's Working Hunter Horse 14 and under
- 12. Children's Working Hunter Horse 15 -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
- 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

### **JUMPER DIVISION**

MHJA Year End Awards eligibility have been met.

### 1. .70 - .75m Jumper

- 2. .80-.85m Jumper
- 3. .90- .99m Jumper
- 4. 1.0- 1.04m Jumper
- 5. 1.05m and 1.10m Jumper
- 6 1 15m Jumper
- 7. 1.20m and 1.25m Jumper
- 8. 1.30m and above Jumper
- 9. Pony Jumper USEF specs
- 10. Modified Children's Jumper .85m-.95m
- 11. Modified Adult Amateur Jumper .85m-.95m10
- 12. Low Children's Jumper 1.0m 1.05m USHJA ZONE 6 specs
- 13. High Children's Jumper 1.10m-1.15m USHJA ZONE 6 specs
- 14. Low Adult Amateur Jumper 1.0m 1.05m USHJA ZONE 6 specs
- 15. High Adult Amateur Jumper 1.10m-1.15m USHJA ZONE 6 specs
- 16. Junior Jumper USEF specs

### 17. Amateur Owner/ Amateur Jumper - USEF specs

18. Thoroughbred Jumper

FOR HORSE SHOW PURPOSES, THE AGE OF AN INDIVIDUAL ON DECEMBER 1ST WILL BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE CURRENT COMPETITION YEAR (DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> TO NOVEMBER 30th). A PERSON BORN ON DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> WILL ASSUME THE GREATER AGE ON THAT DATE. AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS REACHED HIS/HER 18<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY AS OF DECEMBER 1ST OF THE CURRENT COMPETITION YEAR IS AN ADULT. In any class that specifies AMATEUR RIDERS, Amateur certification is required.

## 2018 MHJA CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

#### **HUNT SEAT EQUITATION SECTION**

ALL CLASSES JUDGED ON HANDS, SEAT, GUIDANCE AND CONTROL OF THE HORSE. FOR COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS, PLEASE CHECK THE EQUITATION SECTION OF THE CURRENT USEF RULE BOOK for sections 1-8, AND check the Zone 6 specifications on the USHJA web site for how Junior equitation classes may be combined and special specifications if they are combined

- 1. OPEN EQUITATION 11 AND UNDER (FLAT). Open to riders who have not reached their 12th birthday.
- 2. OPEN EQUITATION 11 AND UNDER (OVER FENCES). Open to riders who have not reached their 12th birthday. Fences not to exceed 2'6". Combinations are prohibited. See USEF Rule EQ for course requirements and tests.
- 3. OPEN EQUITATION 12-14 (FLAT). Open to riders who have reached their 12th but not their 15th birthday.
- 4. OPEN EQUITATION 12-14 (OVER FENCES). Open to riders who have reached their 12th but not their 15th birthday. Fences not to exceed 3'. See USEF Rule EQ for course requirements and Tests.
- 5. OPEN EQUITATION 15-17 (FLAT). Open to riders who have reached their 15th but not their 18th birthday.
- 6. OPEN EQUITATION 15-17(OVER FENCES). Open to riders who have reached their 15th but not their 18th birthday. Fences not to exceed 3'6". See USEF Rule EQ for course requirements and Tests.
- 7. ADULT EQUITATION 18 35 (FLAT AND OVER FENCES). Open to amateur riders who have reached their 18th but not their 36th birthday. Fences not to exceed 3'3". See USEF Rule EQ for course requirements and Tests.
- 8. ADULT EQUITATION 36 AND OVER (FLAT AND OVER FENCES). Open to amateur riders who have reached their 36th birthday. Fences not to exceed 3'3". See USEF Rule EQ for course requirements and Tests.
- 9. LONG STIRRUP EQUITATION, 17 AND UNDER (FLAT AND OVER FENCES). Open to junior riders who have not won three first place ribbons at any USEF/CEF recognized show over fences which exceeded 2'9" in height in the past three years, including equitation. No rider cross entry at the same show between this section and Short Stirrup Hunter/ Equitation, or any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'9". A rider who is eligible as of December 1, shall retain his/her eligibility throughout the year regardless of ribbons won. Fences not to exceed 2'6". Combinations prohibited. Open to horses or ponies, distances will not be adjusted. Shows offering a Long Stirrup Hunter section are requested to hold at least one Long Stirrup Equitation class.
- 10. LONG STIRRUP EQUITATION 18 AND OVER (FLAT AND OVER FENCES). Open to amateur riders who have reached their 18th birthday, and who have not won three first place ribbons at any USEF/CEF recognized show over fences which exceeded 2'9" in height in the past three years, including equitation. No rider cross entry at the same show between this section and any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'9". A rider who is eligible as of December 1 shall retain his/her eligibility throughout the year regardless of ribbons won. Fences not to exceed 2'6". Combinations prohibited. Open to horses or ponies, distances will not be adjusted. Shows offering a Long Stirrup Hunter section are requested to hold at least one Long Stirrup Equitation class.
- 11. SHORT STIRRUP EQUITATION. Open to junior riders who have not reached their 12th birthday and have not won six first place ribbons over fences 2'6" or higher. A rider who is eligible as of December 1 shall retain his/her eligibility throughout the year regardless of ribbons won. No rider may cross enter at the same show between Short Stirrup Hunter/ Equitation and Long Stirrup Hunter/Equitation, or between Short Stirrup Hunter/Equitation and any class where height of fences exceeds 2'6. Open to horses and ponies; manners emphasized and extreme speed penalized. Fences not to exceed 1'9"", oxers and combinations prohibited. In flat classes no more than 8 entries may canter at one time and hand gallop is prohibited. Shows offering a Short Stirrup Hunter section are requested to hold at least one Short Stirrup Equitation class.
- 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.
- 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/ADULT EQUITATION. Open to Junior riders who have not reached their 18th birthday and 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 test 1-7
- 16. MHJA HUNT SEAT MEDAL CLASS. Open to junior and amateur riders who are current members of the MHJA. Application for membership must be made directly to the MHJA. To be shown over a course of not less than 8 obstacles not exceeding 3' in height which must include one combination, one change of direction, and one long approach to a fence. Two or more tests of the top four riders are required, USEF Tests 1-14. Only one rider per horse. Amateur riders in this class may cross enter into classes where fences are 3'6" or higher. Junior riders in this class may not cross enter, at the same show, into classes where fences are 3'6" or higher unless they are in their first year of showing over fences 3'6" or higher; except for the Medal Final class, where they may cross enter if otherwise qualified. First through fourth place winners shall be eligible to compete in the MHJA Hunt Seat Medal Final. The final for this class may be held at a horse show to be announced at the beginning of the year. The Final shall consist of a course of not less than 8 obstacles not exceeding 3' in height which must include one combination, one change of direction, and one long approach to a fence. All exhibitors shall return for a flat phase. Following the flat phase, two or more tests of the top four riders are required, USEF Tests 1-14. The winner of the final will receive a perpetual trophy. Qualifying for the Medal shall start with the first MHJA Medal class held after the Medal Finals of the previous year and end at the last show prior to the finals of the current year. In the event no final class is held, the perpetual trophy shall be awarded to the rider who has accumulated the most points in the MHJA Hunt Seat Medal class throughout the year. In 2018, the Medal Final shall be held at the Mid States Fall Horse Show in Mason City, Iowa.
- 17. MHJA MINI-MEDAL. Open to junior and amateur riders who are current members of the MHJA. Application for membership must be made directly to the MHJA. Cross entry at the same show into any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'9" is prohibited. To be shown over a course of at least 8 fences 2'6" in height. Two tests (USEF Tests 1-8) are required in the first round. If there are 8 or more entries at the beginning of the class, two or more tests of the top four riders are required, USEF Tests 1-8. Only one rider per horse. A final for this class may be held at a horse show designated by the MHJA Board of Directors. Riders who win a first, second, third or fourth place in the Mini-Medal will be eligible for the finals. The final will consist of a first round of at least 8 fences 2'6" in height. The top four riders will return to be tested at the judge's discretion from tests 1-8. Exhibitors who qualify in both the Mini-Medal and the MHJA Medal may ride in only one final. Qualifying for the Mini-Medal shall start with the first MHJA Mini-Medal class held after the Mini-Medal Finals of the previous year and end at the last show prior to the finals of the current year. If no final class is held, the year-end award for the medal will be awarded on points accumulated during the show year. In 2018, the Medal Final shall be held at the Mid States Fall Horse Show in Mason City, Iowa.

### **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. Horses required to jog.)
- 2. COMBINED GREEN WORKING HUNTER 3'6" 3'9". USEF Rule HU
- 3. HIGH PERFORMANCE WORKING HUNTER. See USEF Rule HU.
- 4. PERFORMANCE WORKING HUNTER 3'3" USEF Rule HU.
- 5. PERFORMANCE WORKING HUNTER 3'6" USEF Rule HU.
- 6. COMBINED AMATEUR OWNER WORKING HUNTER-.
- 7. AMATEUR OWNER WORKING HUNTER 3'3" Fences 3'3". USEF rules allow the high amateur-owner, low amateur-owner and junior hunter 3'6" and junior hunter 3'3" to be combined if necessary. See USEF Rule HU.
- 8. COMBINED JUNIOR WORKING HUNTER
- 9. JUNIOR HUNTER 3'3" USEF Rule HU
- 10. COMBINED PONY WORKING HUNTER USEF Rule HU
- 11. CHILDREN'S WORKING HUNTER HORSE. 14 and Under USEF Rule HU. Zone 6 specs
- 12. CHILDREN'S WORKING HUNTER HORSE. 15 -17 USEF Rule HU Zone 6 specs Zone 6 specs. New Age Split - now in line with rest of Zones. Make sure you're in the right section.
- 13. CHILDREN'S WORKING HUNTER PONY. Open to ponies shown by a junior rider. Zone 6 specs
- 14. ADULT AMATEUR WORKING HUNTER 18 35: Zone 6 specs
- 15. ADULT AMATEUR WORKING HUNTER 36 49: Zone 6 specs
- 16. ADULT AMATEUR WORKING HUNTER 50 AND OVER. Open to horses and ponies ridden by amateurs who are no longer eligible to compete as a Junior exhibitor. Zone 6 specs.

USHJA Hunters Specifications -Check USHJA web site for any changes. There are none for 2018.

These sections are now USHJA Zone and Stirrup Cup 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.

- 22. BEST YOUNG HORSE USEF HU Open to horses competing in the yearling, two year old and three year old Hunter Breeding Classes. Horses will earn points from these three age groups. Placings won in Best Young Horse Championship and Best Young Horse Reserve Championship at horse shows not to count for the year end award
- 23. THOROUGHBRED HUNTER May be USEF recognized or an unrecognized section. USEF fences 3', unrecognized 2'9". MHJA will count points from either USEF TB hunter sections or unrecognized TB hunter sections for the year end award. PLEASE NOTE - Exhibitors who are interested in points for Zone 6 Horse of the Year award for TB Hunter should make sure they show in the USEF approved sections. These are not offered at all shows.
- 24. LONG STIRRUP WORKING HUNTER 17 AND UNDER, HORSES OR PONIES. Open to junior riders who have not won three first place ribbons at any USEF/EC recognized show over fences which exceeded 2'9" in height in the past three years, including equitation. No rider cross entry at the same show between this section and Short Stirrup Hunter/ Equitation, or any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'9". A rider who is eligible as of December 1 shall retain his/her eligibility throughout the year regardless of ribbons won. Fences not to exceed 2'6". Combinations prohibited. Open to horses or ponies, manners emphasized, extreme speed penalized. Hand gallop is prohibited in under saddle classes. Shows offering a Long Stirrup Hunter section are requested to offer at least one Long Stirrup Equitation class.
- 25 LONG STIRRUP WORKING HUNTER 18 AND OVER, HORSES OR PONIES. Open to amateur riders who have reached their 18th birthday and who have not won three first place ribbons at any USEF/EC recognized show over fences which exceeded 2'9" in height in the past three years, including equitation. No rider cross entry at the same show between this section and any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'9". A rider, who is eligible as of December 1, shall retain his/her eligibility throughout the year regardless of ribbons won. Fences not to exceed 2'6". Combinations prohibited. Open to horses or ponies, manners emphasized, extreme speed penalized. Hand gallop is prohibited in under saddle classes. Shows offering a Long Stirrup Hunter section are requested to offer at least one Long Stirrup Equitation class.
- 26. SHORT STIRRUP WORKING HUNTER, HORSES OR PONIES. Open to junior riders who have not reached their 12th birthday and have not won six first place ribbons over fences 2'6" or higher. A rider who is eligible as of December 1 shall retain his/her eligibility throughout the year regardless of ribbons won. No rider may cross enter at the same show between Short Stirrup Hunter/ Equitation and Long Stirrup Hunter/ Equitation, or between Short Stirrup Hunter/Equitation and any class where height of fences exceeds 2'6". Open to horses or ponies; manners emphasized and extreme speed penalized. Fences not to exceed 1'9", oxers and combinations prohibited. In under saddle classes no more than 8 entries may canter at one time and hand gallop is prohibited. Shows offering a Short Stirrup Hunter Section are requested to offer at least one Short Stirrup Equitation class.
- 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.

29. STARTER HUNTER 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. Open to horses and ponies. No jog.

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 sections of Masters and Starter are offered held separately, and the horse show's rules allow for riders over 30 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.

- 30. LOW ADULT AMATUER 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 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 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 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.

34. BABY GREEN WORKING HUNTER. Open to horses in their first two years of showing. Horses entered in this section may not cross enter into classes where the height of fences exceeds 3'. Fences 2'6". No combinations, no hand gallop, no jog.



JUMPER SECTIONS: All sections except pony jumpers are open to horses and ponies and are to be conducted and scored in accordance with USEF and Zone 6 Rules and Regulations.

#### 1. <u>.70 -.75m Jumper</u>

- 2. 80-.85m Jumper
- 3. <u>.90m -.95m JUMPER</u>
- 4. 1.0m JUMPER
- 5 1.05m and 1.10m JUMPER
- 6. 1.15m JUMPER
- 7. 1.20m and 1.25m JUMPER
- 8. 1.30m and above JUMPER All classes for 1.30m and above jumpers.
- 9. PONY JUMPER. USEF rules apply, including cross-entry restrictions.
- 10. MODIFIED CHILDREN'S JUMPER Open to junior riders. Fence height .85m (2'9") to .95m (3'1").
- 11. MODIFIED ADULT AMATEUR JUMPER Open to amateur riders. Fence height .85m (2'9") to .95m (3'1").
- 12. LOW CHILDREN'S JUMPER Open to junior riders. See Zone 6 specifications. 1.0m 1.05
- 13. LOW ADULT AMATEUR JUMPER. Open to amateur riders, USEF Amateur certification required. See Zone 6 specifications.1.0m - 1.05
- 14. HIGH CHILDREN'S JUMPER. Open to junior riders. See Zone 6 specifications.1.10-1.15m
- 15. HIGH ADULT AMATEUR JUMPER. Open to amateur riders, USEF Amateur certification required. See Zone 6 specifications.1.10 -1.15m

Children's and Adult Jumper riders – please check online at USHJA under Zones for any changes in the Zone 6 specs.

- 16. JUNIOR JUMPER. Open to junior riders. Must be conducted and scored in accordance with USEF Rules and Regulations.
- 17. AMATEUR OWNER / AMATEUR JUMPER. Open to Amateur riders, USEF Amateur Certification required. See USEF Rule JP for the new specs on Amateur Jumpers. Must be conducted and scored in accordance with USEF Rules and Regulations.
- 18. THOROUGHBRED JUMPER

#### **OPPORTUNITY CLASSES**

To be eligible for a year-end award from the MHJA, you will need to join the MHJA as a competition member. Opportunity Classes will follow all requirements set forth under the MHJA Year End Awards Program.

Opportunity classes were developed by the USEF as a place to introduce people to the horse show world without the expensive membership fees. To be eligible for a year-end award from the MHJA, you will need to join the MHJA as a competition member to be eligible for points in sections judged on the rider (equitation classes.) To be eligible for an award in the Hunter section (judged on the horse), the owner of the horse must be an MHJA Competition member. Entries in Opportunity classes are not required to have USEF/USHJA membership or pay non-member fees; and their mount is not required to be registered with USHJA or be recorded with USEF to participate. Entries are required to pay all other fees. If riders or horses enter any other classes at a show, except other Opportunity classes, they ARE required to have all necessary memberships and requirements. Here are the rules/requirements for Opportunity classes:

- Riders in Opportunity classes may not show in any USEF rated classes at that horse show. Riders may cross enter into unrated classes for which you are eligible provided the height of fences does not exceed 2'6", but rider then has to be a USEF/USHJA member or pay the non-membership fees; and pay the drug and zone fees.
- If the rider has EVER shown in a USEF rated Hunter, Jumper or Hunt Seat Equitation class they are ineligible to show in Opportunity classes. If they have a question about this, please check with the show secretary. This means if you have shown in a flat section of an age group equitation class (11 and under, 12-14, 15-17), Children's Hunter Pony, or rated Pony, you are technically ineligible for Opportunity classes.
- You have to show in at least three MHJA approved shows to be eligible for a year-end award.
- A class MUST have Opportunity in its title for points to be counted towards Opportunity Awards.
- For the Opportunity classes, attire may consist of proper hunter/jumper show attire or the following: breeches with paddock boots and half chaps; jodhpurs with paddock boots; or breeches and boots. Jumpers may wear a polo shirt or other shirt with sleeves and a collar. Hunter/Equitation riders may wear a shirt with tie or a show shirt with a choker. Depending on the weather, they may wear a close fitting sweater, jacket or vest. All riders must wear SEI/ASTM approved head gear.
- Any USEF rules regarding Opportunity classes shall automatically become part of the Opportunity specifications. Equitation classes are judged on control of mount, appropriate pace, steering and effective position of rider.

Hunter classes judged on performance, manners of mount, and suitability at this level of competition.

- 1. SHORTEST STIRRUP EQUITATION/HUNTER OPPORTUNITY, Open to junior riders who have not reached their 11th birthday. Riders in this section may not cross enter into any other section or class at the same horse show, except classes on the flat and under saddle for which they are otherwise eligible. Classes may consist of unmounted showmanship, walk/trot/canter and cross rails. Cross rail courses shall be 6 to 8 "fences" twice around the ring on the rail, with no diagonal lines. Trotting not to be penalized in cross rail classes. In flat/under saddle classes, no more than 6 entries to canter at one time. Manners emphasized and extreme speed to be penalized. ALL Shortest Stirrup Classes - Equitation and Hunter- shall be counted equally for one year-end award. If a rider has more than one entry in a Shortest Stirrup Hunter class, only the top placing entry will be counted.
- 2. OPPORTUNITY HUNTER Open to any rider who is eligible for Opportunity classes. Fences not to exceed 2'6". No combinations. Any Opportunity Hunter class other than Shortest Stirrup Hunter Opportunity will count for this award. Manners emphasized and extreme speed to be penalized. To be eligible for points in the Opportunity Hunter Section, the OWNER of the horse/pony must have an MHJA Competition Membership.
- 3. OPPORTUNITY EQUITATION. Open to any rider who is eligible for Opportunity classes. Fences not to exceed 2'6". No combinations. Any Opportunity Equitation class other than Shortest Stirrup Equitation Opportunity will count for this award. Manners emphasized and extreme speed to be penalized. To be eligible for points in the Opportunity Equitation Section, the RIDER must have an MHJA Competition Membership.

Opportunity Hunter and Opportunity Equitation – For year end awards, if the number of participants warrants, they may each be divided into 2 sections by using an age-adjustable split.



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# **Eyes & Ears**

# Arbor Hill Farm

Things at Arbor Hill are busy this winter. We are excited to be welcoming new partnerships to the scene, eager to see kids working on moving up their skill sets, and proud of our amateurs for continuing to striving to master the art of horsemanship. Everyone has been working hard to keep up with the crazy schedules of winter sports, winter weddings, and just plain trying to survive winter.

Marcy and Alex got to go to FL for a few weeks of sunshine and showing, and I owe a giant thank you to Kim and Andy Barone for

doing such a great job welcoming them to their Raven Ridge Family for the two month visit. I'm so appreciative of friends that are willing to help me out both personally and professionally in the way they do, and I know that Marcy had a great time. Congratulations to Kris Levine on the sale of her wonderful horse, Rico. We look forward to watching him mature into a great dressage horse under the guidance of Suzanne Wepplo and her client Natalie Nelson. We were sad to say good bye to Elliot and Archie when their leases were up, but looking forward to new partnerships

for Amelia and Emily. There is a ton of pony activity happening, as kids are making changes to new ponies, green ponies, and maybe even a few bigger ponies...stay tuned for the play by play come spring. Our young horses have been in serious training this winter, and we can proudly say some of them even seem to be liking "school," while others seem to simply tolerate it. Inevitably, they are all growing up, and report cards will come out after the first horse show of the season. The seasoned show horses are loving watching the young punks get schooled, and I can only imagine the

advice they exchange when they are out in pasture during the day. If only we could hear what they had to say...

We are looking forward to a fun and action packed show season, and can't wait to see all our friends from around town.

# Cameo Farm

After a successful 2017 Show season we had a fantastic time at the MHJA Awards Banquet at the Earl Brown Center. At the banquet lots of prizes and smiles, abounded, all around, that evening, as all the hard work paid off for the Team Cameo participants with coolers, chairs, bags, and some perpetual trophies going home. Congratulations Team!

The team members at Jacqurei Oaks welcome Maddy Davis and her horse, Kerwin, and Caroline Simermeyer with her horse, Colt, who she is also sharing with new member Megan Billingsley.

At Fortuna Farm, Bella Castro, is now leasing Ruby Walser's horse, Hank. A big thank you must also go out to Lauren Masica for sharing her pony, Arizona, with Bella, the latter part of 2017. Fortuna Farm welcomed Estella McNae and her horse, Raz, from Jacqurei Oaks, as well.

We all brought in the new year with a January Jumpstart Party at Anne Donahoe's, where we were able to catch up with old friends and meet new team members. Great food at the party brought on some good conversations about what we've been doing outside of the barn and what the future 2018 Show season might have in store. Downstairs the kids were having a blast playing pool and seeing who could jump the tallest pile of cushions.

Several of the Team Cameo members took the opportunity this fall / winter to ride in educational clinics offered at some of the Minnesota barns.

Electra (Janie) and Ari (Lauren) had a great time at Raven Ridge with Terri Knowlton. Then, on the following weekend, Electra and Janie joined Sue Kyllonen at the Vita Silva Dressage Clinic at Harmony Farm in Forest Lake.

As we moved deeper into the fall, December brought the much awaited Clinic with Julie Winkel at Arbor Hill. There, Team Cameo members Heather Fites (Chaska), Catherine Ludwig (Rey), Emily Ainslie (William), Lauren Masica (Ari), Norine Wilcox (Georgia), Gretchen Erpelding (Scout), and Janie with Electra, all got the most out of their time in the ring.

We all love to use the off season for growing our horsemanship knowledge and to keep coming up with fun things to do with our four legged friends, including the joys of gymnastics and no stirrup lessons. Yet, I'm not sure if the smiles from the riders are because it's fun or, possibly, grimaces, while just trying to stay on!

As the winter months fade away, we can look forward to warmer days to come in the spring and fun at the horse shows with friends, old and new.

### Fortuna Farm

Hello, from Fortuna Farm! As I sit here nursing my sore muscles after having been bucked off while riding yesterday, I realize that we are all just a bit stir-crazy and in need of some sunshine and respite from shivering. Yikes, winter is hard here in Minnesota!

Despite the cold, ice and darkness, spirits are high and horses seem happy. The indoor ring is bustling with lessons and riding, and some entertaining free-lounging. Grids, gymnastics and chutes have been built to test our skills and keep our horses thinking. It has been great fun to see Becky Nay in the irons at the farm as she helps to keep some horses in shape, along with the rest of our gang. Our wonderful staff continue to brave the elements and difficulties that come with ice and snow. We are so thankful for everyone's hard work, dedication and great attitudes.

Many of us were able to attend the fantastic Julie Winkel Clinic hosted

in December by Elzabeth Lampert and her Arbor Hill Family. Lauren, Emma, Norine, Emily and Jane all participated and learned so much. We must offer another huge thank you to Elzabeth, Zoe and their incredible team who were kind enough to help us after Roscoe decided he was just NOT going to load onto the trailer. He figured one day was enough and wished to stay home. It took five people to persuade him otherwise. Our friends at Arbor Hill were kind enough to still welcome us and proceeded to throw tack on him when he arrived in such an incredible feat of timing and expertise; my head is still spinning. Thank you to Arbor Hill Farm for hosting such a valuable opportunity for all of us! We moms in the audit box have copious notes and many discussions of what we all learned. The ugly Christmas sweaters certainly added to our smiles and sense of belonging. We continue to practice what we learned and feel hopeful about the progress as a result.

Karen Hupp's Riding School continues to thrive and excite us all. It has been a very difficult year as we have lost a number of equine saints that taught so many of us. It is with great sadness that we said goodbye to Gilbert and to Thistle this past year. Cowboy has also been retired. These three ponies have earned their wings long ago, as they have patiently taught countless riders over the years. Gone, but not ever forgotten and never to be replaced.

Our horses and farm family make the long winter, stress of work and school and busy lives bearable. We are so thankful to have such a place to call home away from home. We look forward to thawing out in the Spring and hope all of you are very well.

Gypsy Farms

The winter of 2018 tested the mettle of our horses and riders! We are glad that our horse show season is quickly upon us! The past several months has seen everyone back in the saddle working hard, setting goals for this

season, and enjoying our barn family comradery.



Greg spent the entire month of January in Texas, training for the new model jet his employer has purchased. Sue held down the fort while he was gone, managing both their own farm and the facility at Gypsy, but she did plan time to school and lesson on Eva! Thank goodness for Inmere, our terrific help at Gypsy who continues to care for the horses so well - especially during the cold weather.

We have terrific news! Sarah Reckner is engaged to Mike Mack...the great man you may have seen with Sarah at some of the shows. We wish much happiness as they begin their new life adventure. No wedding date has been

In late April, Courtney Dickinson attended a week of training at the stables of Luciana Diniz in Wachtberg, Germany. She was provided a chance to learn from an outstanding rider and horsewoman, along with education from Luciana's support team about 5\* level horse care, mental preparation, focus, and gratitude. We look forward to hearing about her experiences in Germany! Nancy enjoyed her time volunteering at Super Bowl LIVE and working on the Opening Night and Super Bowl Sunday for the NFL. Since Crew 52 was so experienced working outside, the NFL chose to use this group to shepherd fans going Sunday's pregame party at the armory and on to the stadium. The Minnesota phrase "cold enough for you?" was apropos for

Michael continues to enjoy his new and rapidly growing black lab pup, Diesel. Michael so impressed a local hunting dog trainer with the work he has done with Diesel, that Michael now has a new part time position! He is Assistant Dog Trainer at Wings and Whistles. Congratulations, Michael! You have quite the way with both horses AND dogs!

All of us at Gypsy Farms wish everyone a safe and successful show season! See you at the ingate!

# Harvest Hill Farm

Happy 2018! First and foremost: No, Suzanne and Alex have not fallen off the face of the earth. They started their own barn in November, Harvest Hill Farm (in Corcoran), and have been working hard and having fun ever since.

A lot of hunter/jumper people know of this location as Cody Williams' old place. Well, with plenty of elbow grease, painting, new fencing, improved footing, and LOTS of insulation, we are working to bring the barn back to its former glory. It's amazing how many improvements have already been made - and also amazing that we're down to only one open stall. We are all getting through these frigid winter days by keeping our eyes on the prize of spring and summer riding, when we'll be able to enjoy riding outside in the lovely fields, outdoor ring or on the bridle path.

In preparation for the 2018 show season, many of our riders have moved on to new ponies and horses. Congratulations to Quinn on her new horse, Cupid (Howie) - we can't wait to see how far you'll go together! After her success on Webster and crushing her 2017 season goals, Tara is moving on to the medium pony divisions with Modern Love (David). Thank you to Wild Oak for their loan of Elite Honeybee – it has been so exciting to watch Sarah learn and progress with this wonderful pony! Moving on to short stirrup with new ponies are Julia on Truly Yours (Trudy) and sisters Madeleine and Gabrielle with I'm Not Blue (Sophie) and Webster. Harvest Hill's smallest duo, 6-year-old Paloma and 12 hand Rosie, will be doing shortest stirrup. Aida and Jessica are now moving on to their new horse, Martina. And in dressage-land, we are so pleased for Natalie to welcome her new horse, Rico.

As if a new barn and all these new ponies and horses weren't enough to keep us busy, we also fostered 6 adorable kittens and the mother cat, Honey. While we let 4 of the kittens go to new homes, we couldn't part with two of them, Bobcat and Rabbit Cat, which we have kept with high hopes for them becoming great mousers. So far, no mice have been caught but many rolls of toilet paper have been attacked. All our riders have now extended their time at the barn to include kitten-cuddling time.

In December, Suzanne went on a buying trip to Holland and Germany with the Hatfields and bought three beautiful dressage horses. At the end of February, she'll be heading back to Germany to train. And in March, as soon as Suzanne returns, Alex will be leaving for New Zealand - her first vacation in a decade. After they're both back and Minnesota's temps are reliably warmer, stay tuned for an open house - we look forward to showing you around Harvest Hill Farm!

# Silver Creek

It's the time of year where we're grateful for fleece lined riding pants and hot cocoa. We had a festive holiday season and we are appropriately hunkered down for the cold weather.

Diane is happiest under a warm blanket and keeps busy with her grandson who is attending Stillwater High School. Terry Reed had an unbelievably busy holiday season at her salon, beautifying her patrons is a never-ending job! Lisa Brustman's ankle recovered nicely. With her spare days off she traveled with friends to the UK and Iceland. We're envious of the beautiful scenery captured in her photos! Tammy Johnson horses know her as a treat machine; she has a demanding new job that has kept her extra busy. Anne Steeves is the most limber of the bunch, she finished yoga teacher training. The perfect "it's too cold to ride" activity. When Rachel Allan isn't riding she's hitting the ski slopes competing on the Stillwater High School team. Rachel Johnson is off at the U of MN Crookston and competes on the equestrian team. Lee (Reer) Geffre is back in the saddle. After her daughter, Nadia, sat on a horse first time, it was easy to tell she was hooked.

# Spring Meadow Farm

While it may be cold outside, things are heating up at Spring Meadow Farm! From our "Ugly Sweater Day" to a successful two weeks showing at the World Equestrian Center (Wilmington, OH), we're cruising towards Spring at full speed. A few highlights include....

Fearless leader, Heather Parish, took a small group to Ohio for 2 weeks of showing at the amazing World Equestrian Center. While it may have been sub zero temperatures outside, it was always 60 degrees and "sunny" at this lovely indoor show. Our star studded group included Audrey and Richelle Fermanich and their adorable "Ollie," Dr. Laura Critchett and the handsome "Elton," and Ashley Slade and her "Carrying-a-few-holidaypounds, Finnley." Stabling with our Wisconsin friends Mark and Amy Aplin, many rounds of Cards Against Humanity were played and many mint Milano cookies were eaten.

When we weren't blurting out inappropriate cards or getting a Milano sugar high, we actually showed—and did pretty darn well!!! Audrey and Ollie got top ribbons in classes with 30 plus people (mostly pros!). Laura and Elton were consistently in the top placings in the 1.05 Adult Jumpers, and finished week 2 with a win in the Classic! Ashley and Finnley also had a blast and won the Future's Prix during week 2.

While Heather and the girls were in Ohio, things didn't miss a beat at home. Courtney Hieb is doing a great job getting her "Canelo" back in top form after he was sidelined this fall with a shoulder injury. They look stronger than ever and can't wait to get back in the Adult Hunter ring this spring! Soren Peterson is also assisting in Canelo's "fitness program" and takes a couple lessons on him each week.

Mary Jo Cody and her "Henri" continue to be the most adorable pair ever, jumping flawless course after flawless course. When she's not escaping to her home in California, Mary Jo is at the barn taking care of all of us!

Farynn Kimmes and her "Alec" have also had a great winter and continue to push themselves over challenging courses at home. While Farynn is busy completing her first year of Vet School at the U of M, Morgan Brown takes the reins (literally). Between Farynn and Morgan, Alec pretty much has the best life ever.

Jan Olson and her beautiful bay "Mr. Finn" enjoyed a holiday visit from Jan's daughter, Merilee, who is also an accomplished equestrienne. Exhibiting such natural horsewomanship, a love of horses clearly runs in the familyand what fun to have a mother/ daughter riding weekend!

Kaitlyn Carlson and her adorable "Adeline" are having a blast jumping bigger and more technical courses. It's so hard to believe that Adeline has only shown a handful of times, and that this pair has only been together for one short year—they look like

seasoned professionals! Kaitlyn's husband, Drew, has even been spotted riding Adeline....stay tuned for more updates on his potential riding career.

Maura Gunter is continuing to bond with her favorite man, Tank. Taking on a full lease, Maura spends many hours in the saddle each week and is now cantering courses! How this Wonder Woman has time to ride—in between taking classes at Augsburg, getting her EMT certification, and engaging in a multitude of volunteer and social obligations—is inspiring! Look out for this pair in the hunter ring this spring.

Speaking of Wonder Women, a huge congratulations goes to Kaylyn Cody and Katie Engler, who both just graduated with advanced degrees. Kaylyn received her MBA—all while maintaining a full time job as a CPA and riding her young horses, "George" and "Lexie" daily.

Katie graduated from nursing school and is excited to enter a field that she's so passionate about. She's also excited to have a little more free time with her "Smoke." We can't wait to see how far these dynamic duos do in the future!

Nicole Kovanda is riding "Tad" as much as she can, often coming right from working an overnight shift at the U. She's also back in school (how she finds time amazes us all!)

We'd also like to welcome Caitlin Andersen and her absolutely adorable "Cal." When Heather's not riding him, Cal can be found tossing his big green ball around in his stall. He's a stitch to watch and pretty entertaining for his neighbors, too!



# **MORE 2017 CHAMPIONS**

In addition to the riders and horses highlighted in the 2017 Champions feature in our last issue, the following individuals also earned champion status in 2017.

Congratulations!



Anna Paton and Piper Klemm's Stonewall Black Pearl

Champion Short Stirrup Hunter Champion Short Stirrup Equitation



Terry Reed and Beau Coup

Champion Long Stirrup Hunter 18+ Champion Long Stirrup 18+ Champion Modified Adult Hunter 2'9" Snowy River High Point Long Stirrup Hunter Trophy



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