

CENTRAL VIRGINIA COMBINED TRAINING ASSOCIATION

2008 YEAR IN REVIEW

THANK YOU!

All I can say is thank you for all of your support this year. It has been an amazing experience, Gina and I are so grateful to each and ever one of you for joining us on this exciting journey. When we first began this club we worried that no one would want to be a part of it. Then, when people came, we worried that we would not have enough for members to do! 2008 was a big year.

We made a lot of new friends, had some fun, informal coffee and cross rails rides, two pot luck dinners, a number of excellent speakers, a mock trial, a hunter pace, hosted three combined tests and a clinic. The ground work is set for this group to flourish in 2009. Please remember that the club needs and fully appreciates every volunteer. We welcome suggestions and

new ideas for activities and fund raisers.

Thank you so much for making our first year a roaring success!

Hollyn



THIS YEAR IN EVENTING

This year has been an interesting one for the eventing community. We have been faced with a number of tragedies both equine and human, which has left our sport reeling. In the wake of these events we have been challenged with trying to make our sport safer for both horse and rider. How can we accomplish this? We can be good stewards of our sport by being good horsemen and women. Striving to always ride within our capabilities and to seek knowl-

edgeable trainers from whom to learn. If we surround ourselves with quality instructors, we will ride better, compete more confidently and be better custodians of our equine companions.

By offering our CT's and other schooling opportunities, clinics and speakers, we are enabling you, our members, ways to increase your skills and knowledge, both in the saddle and the stable.

The USEA is also working

towards improving safety by investigating new collapsible fence designs, instituting the one fall elimination rule on cross country, creating a dangerous riding penalty, tightening move-up qualifications, and creating a watch list for competitors who are consistently riding dangerously.

In 2009 let's show our commitment to eventing by working hard and riding well.

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Special points of interest:

- We ended the year with 61 members.
- 19 members participated in the year end awards program. That's 31% of the club!

Training Three Day Event

"The Ride of Your Life"

Here in USEA Area 2, we are very fortunate to have access to an amazing training event called the Training Three Day Event. For many riders it will be the pinnacle of their eventing career, the one opportunity they experience the true, classic three day. A number of riders and trainers are quite passionate in their belief that the T3D serves as the appropriate stepping stone before advancing to Preliminary. While not all of us can compete in this event, many of us can offer to groom for a friend, serve as a volunteer for the event, or audit the demonstrations and lectures. So, when you are arranging your schedule this year, consider saving some time at the end of October to travel to Waredaca in Maryland to get the inside scoop on the origins of the sport and what it takes to make it to the top at any level of riding.

The T3D is a unique hybrid of educational clinic and competitive event. It's similar in format to international level "classic" three day events, with the traditional element of endurance which involves a timed steeplechase and roads and tracks portions, that are scaled down to provide adult and junior amateur riders a safe learning experience with their horses.

The T3D offers lower level competitors the opportunity to experience the traditional "classic" format, but more importantly, includes education at nearly every phase of the competition, as dispensed by an incredible array of top level eventing horsemen. Olympic

medalists, Pan Am Games medalists, World Championship contenders, national eventing champions, USET eventing squad members, and nationally ranked upper level riders all volunteer their time and expertise to assist the riders from the first "jog" to the last stadium round on Saturday morning. This unique venue offers riders the tools they need to be successful and safe, while the competition takes place, as the professionals give daily demonstrations, lectures, coaching and provide on-site assistance to insure the complete welfare of the horse is always paramount.

A "classic" three day event involves a first veterinary inspection of all horses before the competition begins, known as the "jog", where riders present their horses spit polished and braided; Those that pass then perform a dressage test on the first day. The second day brings the meat of the competition, known as endurance day, starting with a short roads and tracks phase, the steeplechase, another roads and tracks phase, a mandatory stop for the "vet box" where the horse's physical condition is checked before allowing the rider to continue on the final cross country phase with up to 30 obstacles. The third day begins with a final veterinary inspection (jog) to see if horses are sound to continue. Those that pass move to the final test, a stadium jumping course. All obstacles and distances are scaled down to Training Level, usually under

3'3" in height with speeds no faster than 520 meters per minute.

The USEA Area 2 Adult Rider program, which sponsors the T3D, encompasses adult riders of all skill and experience levels. The program promotes education, sportsmanship and horsemanship skills. By providing riders with this chance to participate in a T3D where they learn what is needed to succeed and be safe while competing, the program is fulfilling its obligation to the adult amateur.

More than 75% of USEA members compete at the novice and training levels, the levels which are designed to introduce the sport to the first-time competitor. The USEA boasts approximately 14,000 members in the United States. Area II alone has over 3,000 members. Adult riders are economic forces in the marketplace and many are ordinary working men and women who love horses and love eventing sport.

Thank you to Gigi Carillo for organizing trail rides for us and Laurie Dowling-McIntire for working on the Inaugural Newsletter. Also, thank you Taska Parker and Mary Millhiser for serving on the bilaws committee and Molly Armentrout, Megan Holt and Beth Schooley for working so diligently on organizing our shows, and Gina Sybert and Megan Proffitt for working on the Mock Trials and the Hunter Pace. And thank you yo everyone who gave their time to volunteer at our events. THANK YOU!!!!!!!

CVACTA BOARD

Thank you to our outgoing 2008 Board for all of your hours of dedication and hard work.

Hollyn Mangione—President
Gina Sybert—Vice President
Kelly Yeong—Secretary
Megan Proffitt—Treasurer
Pat Albertson—Web Site Manager
Pat Martin—Year End Awards Coordina-

tor
Wendy Schmitt—Education Coordinator
Molly Armentrout—Membership Coordinator

Welcome to our 2009 Board who will have some pretty big shoes to fill!
Hollyn Mangione—President

Megan Holt—Vice President
Pat Martin—Secretary
Megan Proffitt—Treasurer
Kristine Slovis—Membership Coordinator
Gina Sybert—Events Coordinator
Pat Albertson—Marketing Coordinator
Beth Schooley—Year End Award Coordinator

ACCOLADES TO THOSE WHO COMPETED!

This year saw skyrocketing gas prices and an economic downward spiral. Despite these hardships, a number of our members participated in the year end awards program. Here are the results:

Introductory Level:

Champion: Megan Proffitt on Elegant Lady
Reserve: Sally Eddowes on Clover Clan
Third: Sherri Booye on Endless Echo,
Megan Proffitt on Soldier, and Gina Sybert on Navigator
Fourth: Catherine Slusser on Afton

Advanced Green Level:

Champion: Megan Proffitt on Soldier
Reserve: Sherri Booye on Endless Echo,
Gina Sybert on Belz Fancy, and Lynn Llewellyn on Red Gold

Beginner Novice Level:

Champion: Lynn Llewellyn on Red Gold
Reserve: Hollyn Mangione on Ticket to Ride (Thanks Pat!)
Third: Sally Eddowes on Clover Clan
Fourth: Sherri Booye on Quiet Confidence, Anne Schmidt-Salisbury on Always a Fox
Fifth: Anne Schmidt –Salisbury on Embargoed, and Laurel Loux on Shiloh

Novice Level:

Champion: Kristine Slovis on Athena
Reserve: Jennifer Khoury on Take a Chance

Training Level:

Champion: Kristine Slovis on Athena
Anne Schmidt-Salisbury and No Worries

Farm have donated the following awards.

Horse of the Year:

Athena, owned and ridden by Kristine Slovis

Volunteer of the Year:

Gina Sybert

We are looking forward to even more participation in 2009. In order to participate in the awards program you must complete 4 volunteer hours and turn in your scores! Check the website for more details on how the program works.

"To have a horse go well, after all the preparation...it is magic." David O'Connor

USEA ANNOUNCED MEDAL PROGRAM FOR 2009

Updated: 2008-12-18

from USEA website)

The USEA announced at the Annual Meeting and Convention last weekend an exciting new medal program, which will provide our members with recognition through a goal oriented program within the various levels of eventing.

There are several goals of this new program, the most important being that as we strive to make eventing safer by changing the dominant culture from focusing on moving up the levels to focusing on mastering the skills demanded by each level. Also, we would like to provide a goal to our members who, for various reasons, do not consider moving up the levels a goal. This new program will also allow the horse

to achieve a medal separately from the rider, which provides owners an additional sales tool.

Each individual member may earn a Bronze, Silver, and/or Gold medal at the Beginner Novice, Novice, Training, and Preliminary levels. A separate medal will be awarded for a horse registered with the USEA, based on the same scores. The goal is to begin the program on February 1, 2009 and results from that point forward may be put toward earning a medal, with results being cumulative. Members will submit their scores to the USEA for verification once the requirements of a medal have been met. The form will be available online or at events and there will be no fee associated with

the submission of this document. Once the scores have been verified the member or horse owner will be provided with the associated awards for the medal achieved. Should there be a discrepancy with the scores or required membership status, the rider or owner will be contacted via email. We're working towards using the USEA database for easy point submissions. We'll keep you updated on any changes in the coming weeks. (Individual medal winners will earn a pin (at the level won) and certificate. The person's name will also be published on the USEA website, and possibly the magazine. Also, Gold medal winners will be recognized in person at the USEA Convention for their achievements. We'll keep you posted on some new updates on this exciting program – including general requirements, scores, and submission forms for all levels.

2009 WILL BE A BUSY YEAR FOR CVACTA

If you have not already done so, check out the club's website to catch up on our upcoming activities!

January:

8th Club meeting at Rockville Library.
Rider fitness, wear comfy clothes.
10th Fix A Test with Molly Armentrout at Oakdale Farm
17th CT and Dressage show at Campbell Springs

February:

12th Meeting and Awards Ceremony at Wendy Schmitt's house in Ashland!
21st CT and Dressage show at CSF

March:

11th Club Meeting
14th CT and Dressage Show at CSF

April:

9th Club Meeting

May:

9th Members only Mock Horse Trial at Oakdale Farm
14th Club Meeting

June:

11th Club Meeting

July:

9th Club Meeting
11th Open Schooling members only at Oakdale Farm

August:

13th Club Meeting

September:

10th Club Meeting
TBA CT at Tuckahoe Plantation

October:

8th Club Meeting
24th Open Schooling members only at Oakdale Farm

November:

12th Club Meeting

December:

10th Club Meeting
Also planned but not scheduled: CT at No Worries Farm and Club Hunter Pace.

CENTRAL VIRGINIA COMBINED TRAINING ASSOCIATION

WWW.CVACTA.ORG Check us out!

Membership runs January 1—December 31, so please renew your membership for 2009 so you don't miss out on any fun activities.

In 2009, the USEA will hold its Annual Meeting in Reston, Va in early December. If you have not been to a National Meeting, this will be a great opportunity to attend educational sessions and to learn about the governance of our sport. Please consider attending.



Photos courtesy of Grace Kellogg of Unbridled Images Photography. Pictures from Aria and No Worries still available on Smug Mug.



Lynn Llewellyn and Colby 2008 BN Champions



Megan Proffitt and Elegant Lady 2008 Introductory Level Champion

Want to keep up with what your friends are doing? Looking for someone to ride with?Check out the CVACTA Forums.....

CLINIC CORNER

Here's your chance to tell us about your clinic experiences. Share your stories and make us all wish we'd been there.

January 14, 2009 By Kristine Slovis

This clinic focused on the first step in the Training Scale, Rhythm. Jimmy set up the course so that there was a 1 stride in the center of the ring on the diagonal then another 2 stride oxer combo in the center on the opposite diagonal. He then had a single fence (a gate and an oxer) on each long side, a single fence at one end and then an oxer and a bounce at the other end side by side. We warmed up by trotting the first fence of the one stride and gradually built on that until we were trotting in over a single fence and cantering out over an oxer. After each fence he had us make a canter circle at the end of the arena until we got our rhythm back and then we were able to stop. We circled for however long it took to establish a good rhythm and balance and until we felt like we could easily

add in another jump. He really wanted us to sit into our horses to bring them back and establish our rhythm. Once we achieved this he gradually added a fence. We always began by trotting into either the 1 stride or 2 stride combo cantering out then circling to get our rhythm then jump a fence off a turn then circle again. We continued to do this until we added a second and third fence after the combo but always circling in between to develop and maintain our rhythm to the next fence. Athena and I got into a not so pretty spot on one of the single fences and this is when Jimmy had me begin counting. As soon as I was on a straight line to a fence I began to count up. The first time I did this it worked but the last number I called out was a bit rushed and much louder than the rest. So this told me that the last stride before the fence her rhythm had changed and the last stride was rushed. The focus was to keep the rhythm and tone of my

numbers the same. It sounds strange but it really works. I then began having a problem with Athena getting quick after the fences, which is also a problem we have in competition as well. Our stadium courses usually start out at a nice pace and gradually picks up speed and falls apart. Jimmy picked up on this quickly and began having me count up upon landing as well. When you do this, the rhythm in the counting should not change before or after the fence. Jimmy believes that the stadium round, especially at the lower levels should very closely mimic a nice hunter round, where the course is very fluid, the horses speed does not change, etc. It was amazing to me how much just counting before and after a fence can help your horses' rhythm. Jimmy is an amazing clinician and if you ever get a chance to ride with him, I guarantee you will learn a ton.