

FALL
2011



HOOF BEATS

MONTANA HUNTER JUMPER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

President's Letter.

Another show season is coming to an end. It was an eventful year starting out with the Equine Herpes Virus. This was an unprecedented event here in Montana having to cancel a show due to a disease outbreak. We had a huge drop in membership this year, which is going to have repercussions for a while. A big chunk of our money comes from membership. If any of you have ideas to increase our membership, please let us know. The board is actively working on ideas we've come up with already but input from members is greatly encouraged and appreciated. Other happenings include implementing our changes in MHJA's required class list and our changes in measurements for Jumpers. These changes have made us more in sync with USHJA and national standards. We have also made a lot of progress in gaining another affiliation award with USHJA. We were hoping to get our MHJA Member of the Year Award up and going this year but instead we've expanded it to encompass, not only an award for MHJA but, also USHJA's Affiliate Sportsmanship Award. This will give our members more opportunities for awards. It will begin during the 2012 season.

My summer plans didn't go as hoped and I wasn't able to show at all. I missed it and all of you immensely. I did receive a lot of feedback though. Some of it was really good...it sounds like the GFAB Show has a promising future at their new venue. Many members reported that the show ran efficiently, the stalls were nice, the arena was big with good footing and the jumps were beautiful. However, some of the feedback regarding other MHJA shows wasn't so good....

I received complaints about inefficient and inexperienced show management, complaints about

poor sportsmanship, mistreatment of horses, and poor judging. I also received complaints about safety regarding riders entering classes beyond their ability. There were even complaints about inefficiency at shows that normally have high standards and are well managed. We, the Board, take these complaints very seriously. However, if you are serious about your complaint, please, please fill out a protest form (soon to be renamed "complaint form") and send it to any board member. These forms are in all the show offices and on our web site. It's very important for us to get this feedback, especially if the complaint is an issue of safety. This form makes the complaint official and then we can act on it. Most of the complaints this summer came indirectly from third parties. It's difficult to make change in this situation. The board is listening to you and we have made a lot of changes this year with our Show Managers' Packet. But, it ultimately comes down to the show manager's choice as to what suggestions they decide to heed. If we have several complaint forms from our members to present to them, they may be more encouraged to accept our suggestions. After all, it is you—the membership—that are the customers of these shows. We will continue our efforts to improve the quality of horse shows here in Montana but we need your help.

With only two shows remaining in our season I encourage you to report any discrepancies in points to the points manager, Deb Anderson, as soon as possible. It's much easier to adjust errors now while the show season is still going than later on when final totals are calculated. Have a safe and fun end of the season and I hope to see all of you at the year-end meeting and banquet.

Deanna Hovland

What Makes a Good Horse Show? – Part One

By: Kate Templeman

I love to horse show. From March to October, we plan around horse shows, prepping for horse shows, and clinics/lessons to prepare for horse shows. I am happy to horse show on my birthday, on my wedding anniversary, in the rain, snow, mud, wind and hot sun (sometimes in the same weekend). In my early showing days, I can recall shows with nail infested 9x9 stalls, gopher hole laden footing, and oxers set backwards. Now with over twenty years of competing in Montana, Washington and Canada, I have seen a huge improvement in the quality and organization of our MHJA shows. Yes, there is always room for improvement which is the impetus for this article. What do I look for when deciding which shows to attend? Bear in mind that I am an adult amateur with two horses currently competing – a solid 3'0" Hunter/Equitation horse and a green 2'6" Jumper. Both mounts (and several others I have owned) have progressed from the walk/trot classes to their current levels. These are my opinions based on my horses, experience, and a lot of personal preference!

Evaluating the Premium

1. Format The first thing I look at in premium is the schedule. I prefer a 2 day show. I like to drive in on Friday, lightly hack the horses and let them have a night to settle in before competing. Next, I want the ability to show 2 - 3 jumper classes or 2 hunter divisions each day. Day One lets us get back in the groove; Day Two lets us have a chance to “fix” anything that was a little rough on Day One. To me a successful show is where the horses and I improve over the day or weekend. To this end, I will show my Hunter in Jumper classes or vice versa (if the course is appropriate) in order to further their/my education.

For a one day show, depending on the distance from home, I decide whether to go the night before. I am fortunate to leave near Missoula so the Equestrian Park is a day trip. One day shows tend to squeeze in a lot of classes and you need to be prepared for a long day. My packing list for these shows includes lots of water and sack lunches for the horses.

2. Facility My horses are good travelers and I am happy to bed them in either paddocks or stalls. The horse accommodations need to be safe, with good latches, and preferably water nearby. I stay on the grounds and sleep in my trailer. I do not expect show management to provide amenities like showers and power, but they are a nice bonus if offered.

3. Footing I have declined to go to shows because of the footing. Many of our venues are not specific for hunter/jumper shows and need to have a multi-purpose footing. The quality of the footing is more important than the type. Dirt, sand, rubber or grass are all good as long as the footing is consistent throughout the arena without holes, slick, deep or hard areas. I love it when a show has the ability to drag or rake after the course is set and during lunch and/or break period.

4. Management: Like most endeavors, running a good show takes practice. I had the pleasure of observing the Evergreen Classic this summer in Washington. This is a double A rated show held annually as a benefit for the Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Program. The people who run this show are PROFESSIONAL horse show managers with tons of hard-earned experience running many horse shows per season. Most of our managers have full time jobs and families in addition to putting together one or two shows for the year. What is most important to me for an MHJA show is a management person/team that has read the rulebook and manual, brought in a good crew for the office and ring, and educated them as to their role(s). Every show is going to have glitches; preparation, planning, and education go a long way to smoothing out the wrinkles.

In Part Two, I will offer my thoughts about what turns a good show into a great show – Management, Officials, and Courses. Right now, it's time to go do some show prep!



Around the Barn

News from our members, some gossip and other happenings:

Ashley Wren closed Rebel Sky Farms' doors a year and a half ago and has since reopened and started a new equestrian center called Rimrock Equestrian Center. According to Ashley "We have included three additional trainers besides me: Susan White- All Around and Beginners, Megan Tenney- FEI Dressage Trainer, and Frank Liss- Colt Starter. We plan on also hosting jumping, western, and dressage shows and clinics. Our New website is www.rimrockequestriancenter.com." The facility has another new addition: Cheetah, an 8-year- old beautiful and talented Holsteiner stud sired by the famous Conejo. Ashley plans to compete Cheetah in Grand Prix competitions very soon. Currently his fees are \$900 plus shipping, the fees will increase once he starts successfully showing.

Damian Gardiner and Jenny Carbonari are at the helm of Bigfork Montana's Dutch K Ranch jumpers (owned by Lloyd and Claudia Thorsrud): Polly's Irish Diamond, an Irish sport horse bred by Jenny's mother, and Tango, a Hanovarian mare purchased from Blair and Karen Cudmore. Both have been shown this summer at The Oaks (San Juan Capistrano) and Showpark (Del Mar) with great results and a couple of wins each. Gardiner Showjumping is currently wrapping up 2011 with more shows in Southern CA and a possible show in Las Vegas in November. Claudia has been to visit several times and remarks (boy, this traffic is really something! Thank heavens for my phone and GPS!!)

The Treasure State Hunt would like to invite all interested to attend our Third Annual Blessing of the Hounds and Opening Meet on October 15 at 9:30 AM. The Ceremony will talk place at J & S Sporthorses in Dillon, Montana, followed by a morning of mounted fox hunting in the foothills just west of our facility. Dress is formal, English show attire is acceptable. Western style riders are also encouraged to join us; clean, neat attire. We will offer a first and second flight for riders; First flight is for riders willing to gallop on and jump, second flight is available for those riders who are less confident over uneven terrain or for horses and riders new to fox hunting. Treasure State Hunt will host a breakfast to follow hunting, which all is welcome to join. If you are interested in joining us please e-mail John Xanthopoulos, MFH at j_xant@yahoo.com. We are also offering open hound exercise for anyone interested in introducing their horses to the hounds prior to hunting. Look forward to seeing you in the future, Happy Hunting!

Facebook Fans: MHJA members Ashley Wren started the Montana Sporthorse Group, and Martha Price started the Montana Horse Blanket and Tack Exchange. If you want to be part of the fun and discussion, just "like" the groups. The new sites are a great place to network with horse people, ask questions, find or sell all things related to horses, including horses.

Equus and Paws Holistic Dog Grooming Spa & Boutique is a new business in Missoula that specializing in Equine Sports and Canine Massage. The boutique is owned by Elizabeth McNeilly, a certified equine and dog massage therapist. Coming to Equus Means your Pet gets his own individual apt. to cater to his needs Equine or grooming alike. Whether it's for a tune up for your show Pony to your Arthritic Canine companion Massage can help for all Levels and Stages of life. . Equine Massage we still Travel. All are products are USA Made & MT and Completely Holistic "Natural "or natural as possible. From are shampoo's with recyclable bottles to are "Dog Tuff "Toy's upfront. We are located off of N Reserve on 2825 Stockyard Rd. E4 in "North Reserve Bus. Ctr." Right behind IHOP, and Jiffy Lube. You can also contact the shop at www.facebook.com/equusandpawsboutique, www.twitter.com/equusandpaws, www.equusandpaws.com. The USEF network www.usefnetwork.com. Is a great resource, particularly during the long cold winter months to study, learn and listen from top hunter/jumper trainers and riders.

Continued...

Questions? Concerns? News to Share?

Contact Betsy Cohen

2010bcohen@gmail.com



~ Montana Hunter Jumper Association ~

2011 Year-End Banquet

October 29, 5:30pm • Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula, MT

- **We hope you are saving the date of October 29th to come enjoy the festivities.**
- **Pull out your semi-formal festive attire, or surprise us with your best Halloween costume!**
- A buffet dinner will be available at a rate of \$ 29 for adults and \$ 15 for kids 8 and under. Along with our awards banquet and dinner we will be enjoying silent and live auctions with proceeds to benefit MHJA, as well as a no-host tack exchange. Come early to bid on your favorite auction item!

Please fill out the sign up sheet to reserve your spot at the banquet, and return to:

Tomi Anne Bush BY OCTOBER 14TH at:

tomianne@centurytel.net or 48 Harbin Hill Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901.

**** We WILL NOT be able to accept registration the day of the event! ****

****Please make sure to RSVP by 10/14!****

- Name: _____
- # of Adults _____ x \$ 29 per person \$ _____
- # of Children (8 and under) _____ X \$ 15 per child _____
- Total \$ _____



More from Around the Barn

News from our members, some gossip and other happenings:

Continued....

Riley Haines, is leaving the MHJA board to put her energies into hosting horse shows in Montana. Riley currently lives and teaches out of Bozeman, and she brings a lifetime of experience to her venture. In her own words, Riley shares her background: I grew up in Indiana where my mother and father ran a large hunter/jumper farm along with our fox hunt club, Romwell Fox Hounds. My parents put on horse shows year round from schooling shows to B, A and AA rated shows, some of which had over five hundred entries. I come from a long line of horse people. My grandparents were trainers in Virginia Beach at a farm called Hillcrest and my aunt, Pam Baker Cantwell, is a well known trainer in Virginia and took over the Hillcrest farm name. My mother is a large R judge and has been an amateur for 11 years after being a pro for 30 years. My father passed away when I was ten so my mother and Jerry Steinmetz, my parents business partner and coach of the Purdue equestrian team, ran the business together. As a young rider I had many state championships and once I began showing at the rated shows in the children's hunters I qualified for the first year of the Marshall and Sterling at Washington. Then my horse came up lame before the big show. I was so bummed because I was eleven and I would have been showing at my first indoor show that year. I moved up to the Jr. Hunters and all of the medals at the age of thirteen. I qualified for Harrisburg at fourteen at the Kentucky regionals. I was the youngest to qualify in the region. I qualified for Harrisburg, New York, and Washington up until I was sixteen and then decide to try other activities because I wanted to know how other kids lived. Looking back it is my biggest regret because I could have maybe won one of those prestigious medals if I had just stuck with it. But, taking a break from the horses introduced me to many other experiences and passions such as bronze sculpting, snowboarding and rock climbing. I have been teaching since I was in high school and took a break during college. Then I taught at a farm in Colorado after graduating from Western State College and decided this is what I want to do for a living (crazy, I know). Then I took a job near Lake Tahoe at a show barn where I had young riders

that I took to shows and had girls showing in the local and national medals. Most all of my riders qualified for these medals and I was having much success there. While in California my husband and I were given the opportunity to come home and run the large show facility, Foxton Farm. We went back to Indiana to run the one hundred acre family farm and run shows and the lesson programs. Foxton was and still is ideal for putting on shows since we had two indoor arenas, three outdoor sand arena and a large grass arena. We also had one hundred and fifty stalls and all the bells and whistles that go with a nice show facility. I helped with the Purdue equestrian team while home and also with the IHSA shows that we hosted. We had our own series along with IHJA so people really enjoyed coming to our shows knowing they were earning double points. They also loved coming to our shows because they were well run and really catered to the exhibitors and their horses. My goal here in Montana is to find a lovely facility and start to put on my own shows. I currently put on what I call "fun shows" at the Holloways, where I teach out of. Due to this year's virus and a rainy spring I had to cancel my little shows. I hope to put one on Oct. 15th and then one Nov. 12th of this year. Next year I will try again for my little fun shows and also try to put on MHJA shows, provided I can come up with a nice facility. If anyone has an idea for a nice facility please contact me at 970-275-8697 or email me at hainesriley@yahoo.com. Please be checking your email, the MHJA website and MHJA Facebook for info. on these two dates I mentioned earlier. Thank you and I hope to see you all at the shows next year.



GET OVER IT!

WWW.MONTANAHUNTERJUMPER.ORG

MHJA Year-End Meeting and Banquet

The MHJA year-end meeting and banquet takes place at the Hilton Garden Inn in Missoula on Saturday, Oct. 29. Members are encouraged to attend the meeting, which begins at 1:30 p.m. Anyone who is proposing rule changes is asked—but it is not mandatory-- to email those changes to Deanna before the meeting so that the board can be better prepared to discuss the matters. Banquet festivities begin at 5: 30 p.m.; more details about the party are in the invitation included in this newsletter.

Speaking of invitations, here's another one: "Calling all MHJA members! We are looking for items for our silent and live auctions to be held at the upcoming banquet. All proceeds go to benefit your MHJA! If you have an item you would like to donate, please contact Tomi Anne Bush at tomianne@centurytel.net. Thank you for supporting your organization!"

IF YOU ARE A FAN OF MHJA...PROVE IT!

Become a fan on our Facebook page!

We welcome news and photos at both sites. Also, please keep checking in with the website, we are updating it frequently.



In other board news: We have a few board openings in the coming year, anyone who is interested in serving on the board, or knows of someone who would be interested in serving is encouraged to contact MHJA board president Deanna Hovland. Please send a biography to Deanna or go to the MHJA website and download the election form. Voting for the new board members will take place at the year-end banquet by the attendees in a ballot election.

MHJA will also proudly display and sell its new logo wear at the banquet. The new fleece vests, sweatshirts and polo shirts come in an array of new beautiful colors and new sizes.



MHJA would like to thank Linda and John at PostNet in Missoula for their excellent service, support and help in printing the newsletter.

WWW.MONTANAJUMPERASSOCIATION.ORG

HOOF BEATS NEWSLETTER!



Betsy Cohen
201 W. Central Ave.
Missoula, MT 59801