

MARCH  
2010



## HOOF BEATS MONTANA HUNTER JUMPER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

### President's Letter:

“Happy New Year” seems in order for this first newsletter of the year, even though it is coming out in March. The board met in late January and elected new officers -- you'll find the new job assignments elsewhere in this newsletter. Thanks to my fellow board members for electing me as president for another year. We have a strong board, in my opinion, and we manage to have fun at our meetings, even as we cover a long agenda of issues related to MHJA management and the upcoming show season.

Two exciting changes will give MHJA a new look and feel for 2010 and beyond. Our logo contest last year resulted in selection of a new design that will appear on our website and on logo wear that soon will be available for purchase through our website. Congratulations to the winner, Anna Duderstadt, a ceramic arts designer who works out of “The Rocking DC Studio” near Belgrade. The new logo was unveiled at our annual banquet in Butte on November 14, and Anna was presented with a check for \$200. Congratulations to Anna, and our thanks to all of the talented artists who submitted designs for the contest.

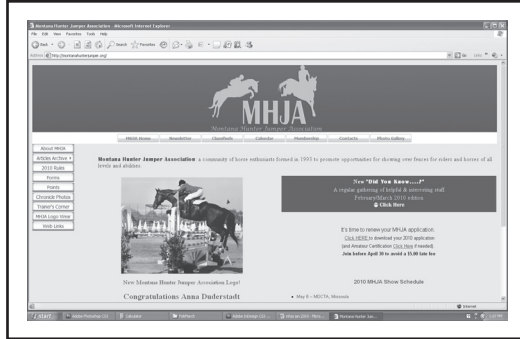
The other exciting news is our new website: [www.montanahunterjumper.org](http://www.montanahunterjumper.org). We'll be making

changes and additions to the new site in the weeks and months to come, so check back often. The board wants to make MHJA's new website the primary resource for members and show managers to get information on shows, print out forms, and find useful links to other websites. We welcome your feedback and suggestions. Welcome to our new web designer, Jeanne Broveak of Sunrise Arts fine art and web design. We also extend our sincere thanks to Michael Wilder, who designed the original website and managed it so ably for eight years.

At our annual meeting in November, we received an unprecedented number of rule change proposals – twenty-seven in all. Many changes were adopted at the meeting, and you can find those changes on our new website. An ad hoc rules committee, made up of seven members, was charged with formulating new rule change proposals to consider later this year to address a growing interest among our members in having opportunities to earn USHJA points at MHJA shows. You'll find more information about this issue elsewhere in the newsletter and on our new website.

Have a fun and safe show year. And let members of the board know of any questions, concerns, or suggestions you have for MHJA. We value your input.  
*Joanna Shelton*

**NEWS!**  
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**NEWS!**



## LET'S JUMP TO IT:

The New Web Site!

It's beautiful, its user friendly and we want it to belong to you - the members! Please check it out and let us know how to improve it.

[www.montanahunterjumper.org](http://www.montanahunterjumper.org)

Need to sell something? We make it easy! Give us your information and we'll get it posted on the Web site for free. Classifieds are free, but of course, MHJA would gladly accept donations for posting and managing your ad. All ads have a six month time limit before they are renewed or pulled from the Web site.

Trainers! We want to hear from you and put you in the spotlight. Send us some training tips, pointers, news and observations you want to share about showing and riding hunters and jumpers. We'll corral your thoughts and put them on our Web site under the heading "Trainer's Corner."

There's a reason we call them "show horses"- it's because we show them off. So let's do just that. Riders, we need action photos of you and your beautiful horses to put on our new snazzy Web site. Send those photos to [webmaster@montanahunterjumper.org](mailto:webmaster@montanahunterjumper.org) and we will get those images posted for the world to see.

## WWW.MONTANAHUNTERJUMPER.ORG

Also, we need old-fashioned hard-copy action photos to send to the Chronicle of the Horse at the end of the show season when we showcase our high point award winners. Send those photos to Deanna Hovland. (See bottom of newsletter for all board contact information.) Soon you'll find more information on our website about what we'll need from you to get these photos in the Chronicle.

Ok, so the 2010 show season hasn't begun, but really, it's never too early to plan a party.

With that in mind, the date for the year-end banquet has been set, and it's earlier than ever. **SAVE THE DATE: SAT. OCT. 23 AT THE WAR BONNET INN IN BUTTE.**



Looking to spruce up your riding wardrobe? What better way to look good and celebrate MHJA's new logo than sporting around in sharp-looking MHJA logo wear?! Julie and Deb are working hard to find us some gear we can be proud to wear. Keep an eye on the website and watch for display tables at some of our horse shows this summer.

Our Ad Hoc Rules Committee has been hard at work with a difficult task. In response to popular demand, the group is trying to find ways to painlessly mesh MHJA classes with the Class C "rated" requirements of the United States Hunter Jumper Association. The committee: Deanna Hovland, Gayl Russell, Ashley Wren, Kylie Izzie, Barb Pearson and Elaine Coller, has found some solutions, which will be up for vote at the year-end meeting in October. The biggest changes? To get a C rating, shows would offer lower

level jumping divisions. Basically, 3 feet and under - that exclude professionals and are open only to junior and adult riders. If shows are so motivated, they also have the option to offer open divisions: open to all riders, including professionals, in those lower levels. These changes, of course, are works in progress. To learn more about what is proposed keep an eye on the website or email Deanna.

### CLINICS:

Five Valley Pony Club will be hosting clinics with Meggan Holloway at Glen Holly Farm in Corvallis. Contact Wendy Livoni for information 961-3371. Priority is given to Pony Club Members.



**In Loving Memory** Our hearts go out to the following members of our horse community who lost one or more horses in 2009: Wanda Rosatti, Jaime Clark, Alex Amberlang, Jill Harmon, Kate Templeman. Well wishes for Gayl Russell's Buzzard to have a complete recovery.

### Seeking more News!

If you got something to share, let us know! Rumor has it that several Montana show barns went south for the winter and showed in California, Arizona and Texas. We'd love to know how they did and what they learned...Here's an example, thanks to Rebel Sky Farm. Ashley and company came back from the Denver Stock Show with a lot to share. Read on for notes about the show.

### MOVING UP - A SHOWS

Sooner or later it will cross your mind. Those beautiful pictures in Practical Horseman or The Chronicle. Overheard conversations about places like Thermal and Scottsdale.

**ARE YOU READY FOR AN - A SHOW?** This is the story of a small barn in Montana that said yes and went on the road and what you might think about if you are considering... moving up.

### PREPARATION

I was told to plan a year in advance and that is close to correct. You want to be competing successfully in your local shows. The horse/rider combinations should be a bit seasoned. A clinic or two carefully placed in advance of the big show is helpful. Time away from work/school/family has to be planned. The horses have to be properly conditioned and ready to be turned out at their finest.

### BUDGET

Hard to think about but part of making it happen. Everything is more expensive but not impossible. You will likely do fewer classes but each class entry will be more. You will also spend more on lodging, food, and gas. Don't forget shopping at the tack stores on site - trust me it will be impossible to resist. We brought an apprentice groom - a young rider hoping to compete at this level next year who helped with everything. This is an excellent way to help local riders, save money, and have enough help on hand at the show. Overall if the horse/rider combination is ready - one A show is well worth it in equestrian education and experience, not to mention the FUN.

### SHOW SELECTION

Another big decision. We chose an A show early in the year so that we could plan the rest of our show season. Length of journey is a big factor for everyone in Montana. Ideally horses should arrive and have the next day off with light schooling to recover. Our closest A show venue is the Denver area - a day's journey and at least 500 miles. Picking a show that offers your classes is important. Many A shows will offer smaller jumping classes but the show we selected started at 3 feet. That meant some riders were just not eligible for this show. Time of year factors into driving, weather, and school. Make arrangements ahead of time so that you can drive and arrive in daylight.

### PAPER WORK

Take a day well before the show to make sure this is in order. Check memberships in USHJA, USEF, horse registrations, vet health certificates, coggins. Make sure owners and person driving horses have copies of everything. Look over USEF drug rules if you are

considering giving your horse ANY supplements or medication within weeks of the show. Medal classes require special memberships and fees.

### ORGANIZATION

A big factor both before and during the show. Count the hay, have a packing list, try not to bring a lot of redundant items. At the show grounds delegate feeding and watering. Not everyone needs to be at the show grounds early early each day, divide it up as sleep is an important element for the competing equestrian. A large dry erase board or sticky notes will suffice. Communication is key as everyone will be a little or a lot stressed out.

### TEAM WORK

Make an effort to watch the rounds of everyone you know. A friendly face complementing a round is greatly appreciated on foreign turf. Make goals for each horse/rider combination that – in general – don't involve ribbons. Not forgetting courses, having horses well prepared, getting correct leads are examples. Watch the rounds of the division next up from yours. Visit with your neighbors at the barn and get to know some new people. You may meet someone that can help with a horse purchase, a clinic in Montana, or judging a local show.

### APPRECIATION

Everyone will be tired/hungry/stressed at times during the show. Take the time when it is over to thank your fellow show buddies, ring stewards, show announcers, and staff at the show office. Make a special effort to thank your TRAINER. No matter how hard you have worked he/she probably worked harder, slept less, worried more, and rode more than you did.

**So how did we do?** We did great! No one fell off, no one forgot their course. The kids with us - Stephan, Shelby, Amelia – all came home with ribbons and had several AWESOME rounds. The adults – Ashley and Kylie rode great and got ribbons (Ashley got the best ribbon – a 2nd in hunters in stiff competition). Anyway we came home tired but proud. So pull out those glossy magazines and take a look. Putting a show like this on your calendar may be in your future. Call us, we may go with you!



*The Rebel Sky  
Farm Team*

*Ashley, Chris, Kylie, Sharon, Stacey,  
Sophie, Stephan, Amelia, Shelby & Zion*

**Feeling a little bit rusty? Need a little tune-up before show season? Take the following quiz, compliments of Kate Templeman.**

#### **Round One - Hunter**

- 1) Name an item of tack that is NOT allowed in hunter under saddle, equitation under saddle or hunter hack classes.**
- 2) How many carter strides should the average horse pat in a 60' line?**
- 3) In a hunter class, two fences are set at a distance of 36". How are they identified on the course diagram? A. 7 & 8 or B. 7a and 7b**
- 4) Name something worn by the horse that is prohibited from all hunter classes.**
- 5) Traditionally, on which side of the horse's neck do you braid?**
- 6) In order to ride in a pony class, you must present a valid pony card issued by USEF, MHJA or Canada. What is the maximum height to qualify for as a pony?**
- 7) To determine the Champion and Reserve Champion at a horse show, the top four horses over fences receive points in the under saddle class. How is the show manager supposed to break a tie?**
- 8) What is the role of the Master of the Foxhounds?**
- 9. At USEF rated shows, the hunter divisions may include AA and AO Hunters. What does AA and AO stand for and which is run over higher fences?**

Quiz Answers: (1) Martinis (2) Four (3) 7 & 8 Each fence in a hunter class is an individual element. (4) Boots of any kind (5) The right side (6) 14.2 Hands (7) The points the two horses earn over fences would break the tie. Ex. Horse 1 has 15 points - 10 fences and 5 in the flat. Horse 2 has 15 points - 8 over fences and 7 in the flat. Horse 1 is Champion and Horse 2 is Reserve. (8) He/she is in charge of the rounds (9) Amateur Owner (5'6" and Adult Amateur (5'0"))

## MONTANA HUNTER JUMPER ASSOCIATION 2010 SHOW SCHEDULE

May 8	MDCTA, Missoula
May 29-30	Rebecca Farms (Tentative) Kalispell
June 5-6	Rebel Sky Farms, Billings
June 26-27	J&S Stables, Dillon
Aug. 12-15	Great Falls All Breeds Show
Aug. 21-22	Rebel Sky Farms, Billings
Aug. 28-29	Rebecca Farms (Tentative) Kalispell
Sept. 18-19	U of M Western Show, Dillon



"SHUT UP,  
AND RIDE"

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## ***FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD?***



As I sat listening to the discussions at the Year End Annual Meeting, I had the feeling that Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz had when she came to a fork in the Yellow Brick Road and didn't know which one to take to get to the Emerald City. MHJA is definitely at a crossroads in the many directions its membership apparently wants to take. Some of us want to continue the way we are and enjoy the gin and tonics at the end of the day, some of us want to chase the rated show path and bring MHJA into the 21st century, some of us just want to sit back and complain that shows aren't run the way we want them to be, but never step forward to offer assistance or ideas.

I have to commend the Ad Hoc committee that was formed at the Year End Meeting to look into bringing MHJA into line with many of the USEF/USHJA rules and regulations. They have worked hard to iron out many of the discrepancies in our rule books and get things ready to present to our members for voting. Much of this will be posted on the new website for evaluation and comment by the members soon. This is a small step to helping MHJA grow towards the future.

## **FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD? (CONT.)**

Many of the things that were brought up at the Year End Meeting by the membership are wonderful ideas, but they do require funds to make them happen. New software, new laptops that go with a specific job, like we did with the points, all require investment from the Club. With our membership down in 2009 and with fewer shows planned for 2010, this appears to be a continuing trend for MHJA. This of course leads us to look to possible increases in the yearly dues or show fees or reducing the Year End Awards that we are all so proud of. None of this is very palatable to the membership in general, I am sure, but the funds do need to come from somewhere. There has been talk of sponsoring a show somewhere to benefit MHJA for these plans, but finding the people to help put on a show is always a challenge. Volunteers are getting harder and harder to find for these shows, just ask any show manager.

As far as posting points, standings, membership lists and horses qualified on the website, there are software and servers available to do this with a click of a mouse. But there are fees associated with any of this, and again we say, where do we find the funds to supply what the membership wants?

The membership in general needs to have a say in many of the decisions facing MHJA or the Club runs the risk of following the path of a few very vocal people. I am just trying to encourage each and every one of the members to take a hard look at what they would like to see this club evolve into in the coming years. The younger members are our future and we need to hear from them, encourage them to get involved and help guide MHJA. I remember when I was recruited to run for the Board, encouraged by a then-Board member whom I respected. I stated that I certainly didn't know enough to run for the Board, and was told "How do you think you learn?" I also admit that there have been times of extreme frustration on my part during my time on the Board and in my involvement with MHJA. But, looking back over the years, it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life, and I have made more friends from this organization that I ever realized possible. I believe this is mostly due to the fact that, in spite of all the different ways we see things, in the end, we all love horses and the people involved with them.

My sincere hope for MHJA in the future is that we find a wise scarecrow standing in a cornfield at the cross-road and he points the way and tells us to continue to "Follow the Yellow Brick Road!"

Deb Anderson. MHJA member

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**HOOF BEATS  
NEWSLETTER!**

