

**WINTER
2011**



HOOF BEATS

MONTANA HUNTER JUMPER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

President's Letter.

Happy New Year! We start this new year with a lot of *new stuff*- new board members, new ideas, new rules, a new affiliate program and a new sportsmanship award. Oh, and a new president! I feel privileged to be taking the reins of such an amazing organization. I look forward to the challenges that all our "new stuff" brings. I'm confident, with this incredible group of women on the board with me, that we will take MHJA in a positive and promising direction.

Our new board members, Riley Funkhouser, Tomi Bush, and Jean Laurent have had their first MHJA board meeting. They brought new energy and ideas along with them. They have experience, knowledge and connections that can benefit our organization immensely.

All the new rules that we passed at our year end meeting have been compiled and added to the rule book which will be on the MHJA website. Be sure to download a copy for yourself and review the many changes. I think we'll all notice improvements at our shows this summer due to these changes.

Our new USHJA affiliate program will be introduced this year as a pilot program and if successful will go into full effect in 2012. It will work like our equitation program with bronze, silver, gold and platinum levels but will be for hunter classes. The best part is, for only the \$15 affiliation fee, we will be qualified to earn national awards for hunter classes without changing a thing! Gayl Russell, our USHJA representative, has included the info in this newsletter so be sure to take a look.

The new sportsmanship award begins this year. In response to a series of disappointing behavior at horse shows this past year we're introducing the MHJA Member of the Year Award. It will involve nominations and specific criteria in which to determine the winners

(one junior and one adult). I've included an article in this newsletter with details about the award. I hope you all will be on the lookout for exemplary behavior by our members and pass on your observations to a board member. We have many amazing and special individuals in MHJA and it would be great to see those people and their behavior highlighted this summer rather than the disappointing highlights of last summer. We love horses and we love showing- let's spread that love!!

Deanna Hovland

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MHJA Member of the Year Award:

Last summer the issue of poor sportsmanship came up several times. In response to that, the board is introducing a new sportsmanship award. The award is the MHJA Member of the Year. It will be awarded to one junior and one adult member. We decided the answer isn't to police and punish bad behavior but to highlight the behavior we want to emulate MHJA. If we teach and learn by example we can create and maintain a healthy competitive spirit among our members. To nominate someone for the award, a member will send or email, to a board member, a written explanation of why they think that individual qualifies for the award. A member can nominate more than one member for the award. Nominations can take place at anytime during the show season until the announced deadline. Nominees and those placing the nominations must be MHJA members.

The goal is to recognize outstanding members who exemplify good horsemanship, sportsmanship and integrity. Consider nominating someone who is a good role model for you, your children and/or your students; Someone who makes a difference to MHJA and it's members; Someone who shows a good competitive spirit by being a good winner and a good loser; Someone who is consistently ready to help others and give their support; Someone who exemplifies impressive and conscientious treatment of their horses; Someone you think represents MHJA in an outstanding manner; Someone you respect, look up to or aspire to be like.

Eventually we can expand this award to the USHJA Affiliate Sportsmanship Awards program. We can submit our winners for regional and national awards. So, be on the lookout this show season for behavior befitting to this distinguished award.



Earn National Awards at MHJA Shows

For 2011, the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) has some WONDERFUL new opportunities for Junior riders and Adult Amateurs. To qualify for these special awards, you need only join the USHJA as an Outreach member, (if you are not a regular member) for \$15.00 and ride in the same classes you normally do!!! The requirements are two over-fences classes, consisting of one "regular" class and one "handy" class. Qualifying classes are the 2'3" Hunter (Bronze), 2'6" Hunter (Silver), 3' Hunter (Gold), and the 3'3" Hunter (Platinum). These classes will be run as a "class-within-a-class", so no divisions will be added to the shows. However, ONLY USHJA members will accumulate points for these national awards. There are also additional awards and opportunities for Juniors, including an invitation to the Capital Challenge Horse Show held in Washington DC. More information can be found on the Montana Hunter Jumper website, or contact Gayl Russell @ grpaintjumper1@gmail.com or find her at the MHJA shows this coming show season. An application form is included in this newsletter.

THANK YOU!

Many thanks go out to Joanna Shelton for all her years as our president. She was responsible for the huge improvement to our website which is now very functional and informative. She has lead the board in a very promising direction. All the new changes that are occurring for us would not have happened without her leadership. She has been a very fair, diligent, and compassionate leader with a special gift for managing strong, independent members in heated discussions! I am thankful to serve on the board with her. She is stepping down this year to take the roll as vice president due to a very full schedule in other areas of her life. Fortunately, she is still here to facilitate a smooth transition of leadership. She has been a good role model for all of us and will continue to be so. On behalf of the board and the entire membership, I send out a huge THANK YOU!! to Joanna.

Deanna Hovland

MHJA Members in the news and MHJA with news:

Christy, Jackie and Jack Wich, adopted and rescued two miniature donkeys, *Piper and Russell*, from a horrible life at the notorious *Niarada* animal sanctuary that was in the news the past few months. The duo have been at the *Wich's* Frenchtown farm for over a month, and are now just feeling happy and safe enough to let loose their full-size songs, or brays. The farm's three horses--- *MT*, a rescued quarter horse, and *Parker and Max*, two well-bred thoroughbreds-- have finally gotten used to the loud little souls in their lives, according to *Christy*. Despite the donkey's past of severe neglect and abuse, they are blossoming into loving, cheerful members of the *Wich* family. The *Wichs* feel so strongly about giving a helping hand to four-leggeds in need, they pick one item in their Missoula bakery, the *Black Cat*, and donate 40 percent of the profits they make on that product each month to *Animeals*, a non-profit that rescues and feeds suffering animals. If you need any other reason for eating a delicious pastry, swing by the bakery on W. Broadway and indulge for a good cause.

Gayl Russell and Artic Moon, the 17-year-old barely broke gelding she saved from the sales ring last March, were featured in a photo in the Feb. 7 edition of *Chronicle of the Horse*. The duo earned championship ribbons across Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana during the 2010 season.

Ashley Wren's jumper, *Popular Nightmare*, went in his first Grand Prix in November at the Show for Champions in Denver and placed 6th in a tough course and against tough competition. Ashley has also added several Grand Prix potentials to her herd. The four Holsteiners (a stallion, mare, and two geldings) are from the Cudmore's Heartland Farm. The stallion, who goes by the name Cheetah, is out of the famed Conejo. Ashley hopes to compete the big boy on the Grand Prix Circuit by end of summer. *Popular Nightmare* is taking a break from showing to recover from some hoof issues. If all goes according to plan, the familiar pair on the MHJA circuit will be back in the ring for April competition in Washington or Colorado.

This in from *Kate Lufkin*, president of UM's equestrian team: We are planning to do a show again but don't have a date set or anything yet-we're figuring out our members schedules and show schedule of our own for the beginning of fall as we speak. We currently are leading the region as the Hunt Seat champion team and are working really hard to keep our lead. It would be awesome if we could win the championship and send our entire team to the IHSA zone show in April. New this year: we will be hosting weekend camps for kids this coming spring. They will be the weekends of Feb 26-27, March 12-13, March 19-20 and April 16-17. For more information about these camps, contact our the team's public relations officer, Natasha at natasha.vancleave-schottland@umconnect.umt.edu or at (310)890-4674

Bella Cavallo Training and Tomi Anne Bush, located at Johnson's Ranch just 5 miles north of the heart of Bigfork, are gearing up for the 2011 show season! We have a few up-and-comers, as well as the veterans, looking forward to a successful year. Situated on 120 acres on the Flathead river, the ranch has just put beautiful new footing in the indoor which is specialized for hunter/jumper horses. Come visit us for a tour! We still have a few openings for students and horses for the 2011 season. www.belacavallo.com.

At the United States Equestrian Federation's annual banquet in Lexington, KY, USEF President *David O'Connor* awarded *Rebecca Broussard* a coveted and prestigious Pegasus award in recognition for lifetime of service to equestrian sport, particularly the growth of eventing west of the Mississippi. Broussard died in December and the award was accepted by her daughter *Sarah Kelly* and her husband *Jerome Broussard*.



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Equestrians around the World Mourn the Passing of Becky Broussard

WHITEFISH, MONT. (December 27, 2010) - Rebecca Broussard, a visionary in the world of Equestrian Eventing, died on Dec. 24 after a brave battle with cancer. Friends and family gathered on Christmas to honor her life, while public celebrations of her legacy will be planned at equestrian competitions this summer.

Born in Jeanerette, Louisiana on February 17, 1942, she is survived by her husband Jerome, daughters Rebecca and Sarah, grandchildren Lorraine and Raymond Nicholson, Tommye and Alexander Kelly, brothers Barry Shaw and John Chaney, sisters Rosemary Thomas and Mildred Shaw, uncle Pat Neff, nieces Jamie Horton, Marcus Shaw, Sam, Emma and Grace Thomas.

Becky was often touted as one of the strongest supporters of Equestrian Eventing in the United States. She was the founder of The Event at Rebecca Farm, an equestrian triathlon and World Cup qualifier held annually in Kalispell that will celebrate its 10th anniversary this summer.

“She is, hands down, the most important person in Eventing in the Western United States and arguably the most important person in Eventing in the entire nation,” said U.S. Eventing Association (USEA) President Kevin Baumgardner, in a *Chronicle of the Horse* article this past summer.

Becky had long talked about her love of helping riders in the West compete on the world stage and her vision included the historic possibilities of bringing riders from Europe to Montana in the future. This past summer she helped organize an historic flight of 18 horses from the East Coast, including many Olympians, who competed at her namesake Event.

“My mom touched the Eventing careers of so many riders,” said her daughter, Sarah Broussard-Kelly. “She will truly be missed, but she has left behind a legacy that will live on forever. Not only at The Event at Rebecca Farm, but through all of the lives that she has touched that will keep her and her memory alive.” Mrs. Broussard got her nursing degree in the late 1970s

from the University of Evansville in Evansville, Ind. and worked as a nurse in Henderson, Ky. until she moved to Anchorage, Ky. She worked with Hospice when she lived in Mandeville, Jamaica. She was a board member of the U.S. Equestrian Team, a Trustee on the Endowment Foundation of the USEA, as well as a member of the Board of Governors and Executive Committee for the USEA.

Becky was also a member of PEO, an international association that supports education for women, and involved in the Flathead Festival, Glacier Chorale & Symphony, Backcountry Horsemen, Human Therapy on Horseback, Whitefish Winter Classic, and the local Eventing association. She established a million dollar scholarship fund at Flathead Valley Community College, was a major supporter of the Kentucky Horse Park, served on the international committee for The World Equestrian Games, and supported dozens of local charities such as Shepherd’s Hand and the United Way.

Donations in Becky’s name may be directed to the following charities: United States Eventing Association Endowment Trust (USEA, 525 Old Waterford Rd. NW, Leesburg, VA 20176 703-779-0440 www.useventing.com); Shepherd’s Hand Clinic (5150 River Lakes Parkway, Whitefish, MT 59937, Attn: Meg Erickson); or Broussard Family Scholarship (Flathead Valley Community College Foundation, 777 Grandview Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901, Attn: Colleen Unterreiner).



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY:

If you don't want your contact information published in the online MHJA directory, please contact Jean Laurent. The directory will include member's name, email and city.

Jean's contact info: jean2chix@aol.com or Jean Laurent, 26366 Bear Hollow, Polson, MT 59860

MHJA SHOW SCHEDULE:

please continue to check MHJA website for additions to the schedule, we are expecting to add a few more shows, but details have not been nailed down yet.

- May 7 (tentative) –Missoula Equestrian Park
- June 25-26- John X's farm in Dillon
- May 21-22- Rebecca Farm, Kalispell
- July 9-10—Rebecca Farm, Kalispell
- Aug 11-14—Great Falls All Breeds Show
- Sept 10-11—Rebecca Farms, Kalispell
- Sept 23-25—John X's farm, Dillon

MHJA HAS MADE SEVERAL RULE CHANGES TO THE RULEBOOK

MHJA has made several rule changes to the rulebook. Please refer to the MHJA website for those changes.

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“Vote for the location of the 2011 Banquet!” Members, now is the time to tell us where you want to party at the year-end festivities: Missoula, Kalispell, Butte, Bozeman, Billings??? Let Tomi Anne know before March 15. Email her at: tomianne@centurytel.net.

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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.



GET OVER IT!

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HOOF BEATS NEWSLETTER!

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