



Winter 2013

HOOF BEATS
Montana Hunter Jumper Association Newsletter

Ponderings From Your President :

As the October Newsletter did not go out, for a number of reasons, I will do a quick wrap-up for the year, as well as touch on news for 2014. This has been a year for the records! All the shows were either early or late in the season. This created some difficulties for many. Hopefully, next year will be a bit more evened out. We had two board members resign, leaving only four to take up the slack.

This has been another wonderful year of shows and opportunities. One highlight in particular was the great success Sarah Kelly, Rebecca Farm, had with her Hunter Derby. What a great addition to our classes and venue! Many opportunities are available through the USHJA, if you want them. (Remember to renew USEF/USHJA memberships after November 30, 2013.) Scholarships, Stirrup Cup, Childrens/Adult Jumper Regionals, the list goes on! This year, Monika Frame and I both qualified, and went to Regionals in California. They were held during the Sacramento National Welcome Show. Since Montana was unable to field complete teams, we were on mixed teams. Monika rode on a mixed Zone 9 Team and I rode on an AZ/NV/MT Team. We had a great time and met some wonderful people. The competition was run on the Nations Cup format and the jumps were 1.10m the first day and increased to 1.15m after that. Monika's Team ended up 5th and my team was 4th. It would be great to see more riders from Montana representing our state!

The Awards Banquet was awesome, our thanks to Wanda Rosatti and Kate Templeman for the fun and educational MC job they did! Our Annual Meeting went well with very few rule changes. Welcome to our new board members, Michele Donaldson, Heather Davies, and Sue Russell.

We have one show date set, with a number in the works. Ashley Wren has already put her date in for the year end final show. Possible shows in Bozeman, Missoula, Livingston and Polson this year, along with Rebecca Farms. It looks to be a good show season with new and regular shows throughout the summer. Sue, Wanda and I attended the year-end USHJA Meeting in Atlanta in December. Look for a wrap-up in the February newsletter. A lot is in the works for hunter derby and affiliate shows.

My personal prayers go out to Alexa Clark and her family. It was great seeing you at the banquet. A quick reminder about sportsmanship and good behavior. While we all get wrapped up in competing, we need to remember it is a "sport". What we say and do affects many others. Let's try extra hard to be positive and enjoy riding this year. That's what it is all about!

Have a Merry Christmas, stay warm and give your equine partner a hug for all the enjoyment they bring us!

-Gayl Russell



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Minutes from the Annual Meeting

The annual Meeting was held on November 2nd at Fairmont Hot Springs. Despite low attendance, the meeting proved to be quite productive, as it was full of insightful discussions ranging from a Junior Advisor to grass roots collaboration with other equine organizations. Please see the highlights below:

- **Membership** for 2013 was 162, up from last year. Although encouraging, the increased membership resulted in less revenue from Non-Member fees at the shows
- An **MHJA Sponsored Show**, with proceeds benefiting the organization, is in the planning stages. A location has not yet been determined.
- The position of **Junior Advisory Board member** was unanimously approved. Nominations included Breyland McColl and Caitlynn Ratcliff, with voting and further nominations to occur at the banquet.
- **Liability Insurance** was revisited, with costs expected to be lower than originally anticipated. An official MHJA mailing address and EEOC non-discrimination and sexual harassment policy are necessary for the lower cost, which the members in attendance voted unanimously to adopt.
- **Postcards** will again be sent to End of the Year award winners in 2014.
- **Newsletters** will again be sent via snail mail as default, although members may elect to have copies sent via e-mail. Newsletter will now be sent on a quarterly basis to improve communication.
- **Outreach** to other Montana, Wyoming, Washington, and Idaho equestrian organizations was discussed at length. The benefits of **collaboration** and **cooperation** with other organizations would result in greater opportunities for members of all organizations. The membership directed the Board to pursue partnerships with other regional equestrian organizations. Research regarding regional equestrian organizations will be the first project for the Junior Advisor to the Board.
- There are currently four **Board members**: Marilyn Frame (Year End Awards), Gayl Russell (President, Horse Show Liason), Stephanie Galliardi (Website), and Ashley Wren (Facebook). Non-Board members with responsibilities are Deb Anderson (Membership/Points) and Pat Green (Treasurer). After a short discussion, the members in attendance voted to **keep** current Board Members and elect 3 new members, in order to reinstate a rolling board Direction and continue a separation of duties.
- The last two years' financial records were found to be in good order.
- **USHJA Sportsmanship Award - Amateur, Junior, Professional**. The deadline for submitting a nomination to MHJA is August 15.
- The following **Rule Changes** were **passed** by the membership
 - **"Hunter Derby" will be added as a class for a Year End Division**. You may ride different heights and you will receive points in whichever Derby you had the highest placing at that show. There will be **ONE year end award for the horse with the highest point total** at the end of the year.



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Rule Changes continued...

- **Perpetual Trophies** – The winner of the Perpetual Trophy is responsible to return the perpetual trophy to a Board Member by the end of September or sufficient time as to provide the Board the ability to have the trophy engraved for the next year's winner. If the trophy is damaged or lost, the recipient is responsible for replacing the trophy.
- **A Steward will be required to be present at all shows.** Stewards will be acting in an Official Show capacity and not allowed to ride or coach at the show. Stewards will submit qualifications to the Board in order to be eligible for consideration and those engaged will be paid \$75 daily fee. **Rates for membership have been increased by \$5 to cover the expense.**
- **No refunds to show managers** will be given **unless ALL required show materials and fees are remitted** to the association **within the two week post show period.**
- **Show managers can ride in jumper classes at their own show** as long as they are not involved in the course design.

Annual Banquet

The Annual Banquet was a treat again this year. Greater attendance, coupled with a more diverse representation of our membership resulted in a terrific evening. Wanda Rosatti and Kate Templeman did a wonderful job of officiating at the Luau-themed event. Attendees were busy beading ear bonnets, while Wanda and Kate handed out gorgeous end-of-the-year awards.

Sportsmanship awards were presented to Alexa Clark, Junior; Wanda Rosatti, Instructor; Ashley Wren, Professional; and a three way tie for the Amateur award between Kelly Fitzpatrick, Chloe Laurent, and Kate Templeman. New Board members are Sue Russell, Michelle Donaldson, and Heather Davies. Brennan Kappes is the new Junior Advisor to the Board.





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From the Judge's Booth

By: Ashley Wren

I had the great privilege to interview a couple of the nation's best hunter judges about what they look for in the horse and rider while they judge. I asked them questions regarding Working Hunter, under saddle, Equitation, their advice to competitors, and much more. Their answers may surprise you or confirm your showing style for the rest of the 2013 season and show seasons to come.

Carol Dean Porter is an USEF 'R' rated judge in Hunters, Jumpers, Equitation, Hunter Breeding, and certified Schooling Supervisor and been a professional hunter/jumper trainer more than 40 years. Carol is also one of the principle judges on www.judgemyride.net. She is available for teaching clinics, and next Arabian Sport Horse clinic will be in Tulsa in September!

Paddy Downing-Nyegard has been an USEF 'R' rated judge in Hunters, Jumpers, and Equitation since 1999. Paddy was the head hunter judge as the 2012 Arabian Sporthorse Nationals held Nampa, Idaho. She is also available for clinics.

Liza Dennehy is a USEF 'R' rated judge in Hunters, Jumpers, and Equitation. Liza grew up riding at Arapahoe Riding Club, under the guidance of her parents Wilson and Sandy Dennehy both whom are in the National Show Hunter Hall of Fame. Liza will be one of the judges judging the 2013 Sporthorse Nationals located at Virginia Horse Park.

Hunters Over Fences:

Question: *In order of importance can you list what you judge a hunter horse on during a course; i.e. form over the fences, pace, lead changes, distances, etc.*

Paddy: "I judge from the moment the horse enters the ring until it leaves the ring. It is a jumping competition therefore the jumps are very important then movement, pace, forward without running. Distances go with consistency. I think where people get confused is when a horse that jumps a 10 and has a few "minor" mistakes and still beats a horse that does not make

any mistakes but jumps a 5. It is a jumping competition."

Liza: "All of the above are important, as are others not mentioned. I place the highest emphasis on "jumping style" or "Quality" and "overall performance". Ultimately, it's the judge's job to sort out all of the mistakes and balance them with the quality of the horse."

Carol: "Hunters are judged on way of going, style of jumping, manners and smoothness around the course. Hunter courses are generally about 8 jumps and we usually see a couple changes of direction. I would love for a horse to enter the ring and pick up his even hunting pace, never changing the rhythm all the way around the course. He should move with flowing strides, jump in good form with knees tucked up nicely and neck lowered. He should keep a good expression and be relaxed all the way around the course. Penalties include poor jumping form, pace changes, tenseness, mouth opening, head throwing, rough or no changes, taking off, rushing the jumps and of course the major faults: refusals and knock downs"

Question: *In handy hunter rounds can a rider ride the course to handy? Any tips on getting a better score?*

Paddy: "The "Handy" must be efficient and done well. Directly to the first jump and exit directly after the last jump (if the course allows it.) HAND GALLOP if the course asks for it. It is important for me to see a true change of pace."

Liza: "Choices and consequences. Really handy turns can be risky, if they're done well, the result will be a higher score. If the turn is not executed well, the result will be a lower score."

Carol: "In the handy course, I expect to see a more "brilliant" pace, economical turns, smooth roll backs and still jump in good style and keep an even pace"



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Question: *When a course starts with a fence coming towards the in gate, how do you prefer a rider to approach it, down the rail or crossing the diagonal? Do you count off for a rider circling at the other end before approaching the fence?*

Paddy: "Any of the above. When a rider circles and it is not necessary it makes us wonder why? Anytime you can keep us from asking "WHY" you should."

Liza: "The entrance and approach should make sense and be fairly prompt. ONE circle is allowed."

Carol: "When a course starts coming back towards the in gate, I don't really care how the rider gets there but I think a trip all the way to the end of the ring should be sufficient time to establish pace and a circle should not be required. I don't necessarily penalize a circle in that case, but it is somewhat annoying to waste the time"

Hunter Under Saddle:

Question: *When judging a hunter under saddle class, do you prefer a rider to ride the canter in a full seat or half seat?*

Paddy: "I prefer somewhere in the middle. Light seat. However, if your horse moves the very best with a full seat or half seat ride then do it. It is all about being the best in the class that ring on that day."

Carol: "I prefer "light" seat, but two point is acceptable. Heavy driving type full seat is too much."

Liza: "A rider should use the seat he is most comfortable with, for his horse. I usually prefer a half seat."

Question: *Do you want to see the horse on the bit in a perpendicular frame or with their nose slightly out? What amount of contact do you prefer to see the horses shown in?*

Paddy: "Light contact, balanced, relaxed nose slightly out. Not on the ground. Light contact, it is in our rule book."

Liza: "I like the nose poked out. Light or even a loop in the rein."

Carol: "The rule book says the rider should have "light contact". I prefer horses to be slightly stretched

forward. Head carriage vertical is acceptable, inside the vertical never acceptable. The poll should be the

highest point. We often see horses break at the 3rd vertebrae, not the poll. This is incorrect."

Question: *Do you change your placings if a horse gets antsy in the line up?*

Paddy: "Antsy no. Rude yes."

Carol: "Most of the time, I have my class pretty much pinned by the time they line up. I do generally wait to see if they will stand quietly before handing in the results. If someone squirms just a bit I probably won't mind too much, maybe use it as a tie breaker. If someone refuses to stand, yes I penalize heavily. Kicking out at other horses is absolutely unacceptable and I will eliminate a horse with such bad manners."

Liza: "Not usually."

Tack

Question: *Do you care what kind of bit a horse has in their mouth, any type of bit that you dislike? Would a horse get favoritism for going in a bit like a loose ring verses a Pelham if they had equal rounds?*

Paddy: "Perfect world no as long as the horses go the same relaxed in a "soft" balanced frame."

Liza: "As long as it is a conventional hunter bit, use what you like and your horse goes well in."

Carol: "I despise kimberwicks. Other than that anything is ok. I prefer not to see twisted wire snaffles, but those are legal. I penalize a tightly adjusted martingale. I might place a snaffle over a pelham in a pleasure class, but in over fences classes, it does not matter. Just keep that light contact and don't get a death grip on your horse's mouth!"

Question: *Your thoughts on martingales? Better score if a horse does not need one in over fence class? Do you count off if they are too tight or lose?*



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Paddy: “Not a better score from me. Too tight is a big NO NO for me. Too loose makes me wonder why. Equipment must fit properly.”

Liza: “Sometimes a horse just looks better in a martingale. I think it’s impressive when a horse goes

nicely without a martingale. In the end I really don’t think it matters as long as the martingale is not too tight.”

Carol: “Martingales are permissible and it does not matter to me whether a horse wears one or not (always nice to see one without, but does not matter score wise). DO NOT adjust it too tightly, or I will penalize you!”

Question: *Are there any simple tips, the “little extra things”, on how to get your hunter horse stand apart from the rest?*

Paddy: “It is a “SHOW” no excuse for ill-fitting tack dirty horses dirty boots messy hair etc. Be sure that when you walk in the ring you look like you should be there.”

Liza: “A well turned out horse is always the first thing a judge notices.”

Carol: “Remember that you are being judged from the minute you enter the ring until you leave, so enter the ring ON TIME, ORGANIZED, with a plan! Don’t dawdle, get to work. In my flat classes, I am putting your number on my card from BEFORE the class is officially “called to order” so be aware! DO NOT spend lots of time circling and cutting across the ring. Stay out on the rail and be smart about using your corners to space yourself. If you are good, I will find you! “

Equitation

Question: *In order of importance can you list what you judge an equitation rider on during a course; ie position, execution, distances, etc? When you test an equitation rider what is the main thing you are looking for that sets a rider apart from the rest?*

Paddy: “Your job is to show me that you are capable executing what the course asks for. The rider’s

position and knowledge of horsemanship, working with their horse not against it.”

Liza: “I always take note of the general position of a rider and then judge the performance. It is important in equitation that a rider is in control of his horse at all

times. Horsemanship and skill flawlessly demonstrated.”

Carol: “Fence classes: riders are judged on their ability to establish and maintain and even hunting pace over the course of the fences. The position is inclined forward, not vertical. As the rider approaches the fence, his release begins first, before the break over. The rider should hold his jumping position on the approach and let the horse jump up to him, not throwing himself at the horse. The rider should maintain his position and release until the horse lands on the other side of the jump. Smooth lead changes are important. Soft and following hands are important. The ability to ride the track to show the horse off to the best of the rider’s ability is paramount. I want to see the rider who is in communication with his horse and keeping the animal between his hand and leg.”

Question: *When an equitation rider comes in for an over fence round do you prefer or care if they sit or post the trot in their courtesy circles?*

Paddy: “If a rider sits the trot they better be able to do it better than the top dressage riders! Why start with a negative.”

Liza: “At this point impression is key, show off only what is worth showing off!”

Carol: “I don’t care if the rider sits or posts the trot, but remember that the purpose of the circle is to establish pace. It makes no sense at all to trot the majority of the circle and then finally canter, as I so often see”

Question: *What is your favorite USEF equitation test to ask riders and why?*

Paddy: “If I shared that I would have to kill you.”

Liza: “New lines. (Not previously walked) To see the riders ability to ride off their eye. New, inside or shorter turns. To test a rider’s skill in turning, either for Handy Hunters, tight Time Allowed or Jump Offs. Ride-ability exercises! Good flat work and broke horses produce better performances, therefore it is



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important to practice such exercises on a regular basis.”

Carol: “I like to ask for BASICS, because so many riders lack basics! I ask for hand gallop to a fence, trot a fence, halt in a line and then regain the canter (sometimes I ask for halt/back and then canter). Basics are important! In flat classes, I almost always ask for sitting trot and halt. In more advanced classes I ask for lengthening of stride.”

Arabian Sport Horses

Question: *Many readers are wondering your opinion on the Arabian sport horses and if they could hold their own in the open hunter circuit? What challenges that the smaller purebred arabian horse face when being judge against the larger breeds, and if there is consideration of size when a horse has to lengthen more to get down the lines? That is there is any preference on the breed of a hunter horse in the open circuit?*

Paddy: “Yes, the Sport Horse is more than able to compete in the hunters at a recognized "USEF" show. I believe there were some at the finals I judged in Nampa last year that cross over. That does not mean that all of them are able to do both.”

Liza: “The obvious challenges would be length of stride and jumping style, both of which would

certainly be taken into consideration while comparing Arabian sport horses against a more typical warm blood or TB hunter.”

Carol: “Plenty of them can be and are very competitive in open shows. Now that said, if you are going to show at the open show: try to come to the ring in a traditional way. Trim the tail neatly above the fetlocks, don't show up with it dragging on the ground. Don't shave your bridle path back 8 inches, leave just enough width for the crown piece of the bridle (about 2 inches is sufficient). Pull the mane and braid with traditional braids, not the long running braid. Remember that your horse may be smaller and have a shorter stride (NOT ALWAYS!) than some of the other competitors, so don't enter him into a class where he does not belong. He will probably be more comfortable jumping 3' or 3'3" and where the lines are set on an 11 1/2 or 12 foot stride rather than a 12' 6" or 13' stride. If you encounter one of those, "I" prefer to see your horse jump the line in 7 strides rather than run for the 6. In a combination of 24 or 36 feet, you need to get the one or two strides, UNLESS your horse is very small, then you may need to add. In that case, it is unlikely you will beat the bigger horses. But remember that judging hunters is comparing one horse in the class to the others, not to a perfect score.”



YEAR-END CHAMPIONS. *Remember to get an action photo, along with the photographers release, to Gayl Russell by January 5th. Details can be found on the MHJA website under the "Chronicle" link. If you want your photo in the magazine, please follow the instructions listed. Thanks, Gayl*

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Around the Barn

News from our members, some gossip, and other happenings:

Congratulations to Gayl Russell and Artic Moon and Monika Frame and Locomotion for qualifying to compete in the west regional Adult Amateur and Children's Jumper Championships.

Over the years there have been on-going discussions among Adult Amateur and Children's Jumper members hoping to one day have their own championship; in 2013 USHJA made that vision a reality. Members of the special task force included Eric Straus, Robert Ridland, Jeff Campf, Charlotte Skinner, Britt McCormick, David Wright and Sandra Ruiz. Once satisfied with a concept, the members submitted their report to the newly- formed Jumper Working Group, who in turn, refined, finalized and approved the program.

In an effort to provide greater participation, an introduction to the team experience, more competition and less cost to exhibitors there will be four regions, composed of the USHJA zones as follows:

North Region – Zones 1, 2 and 5

South Region – Zones 3 and 4

Central Region – Zones 6 and 7

West Region – Zones 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12

Basic eligibility requirements for riders who wish to participate in the Children's and Adult Amateur Jumper Regional

Championships include U.S. citizenship, current active junior or adult amateur member in good standing with both USHJA and USEF, and their horse must be registered with USHJA plus recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF GR 1102 and shown under the owner of record. The rider, parent, and horse owner(s) must certify by signing the USHJA Code of Conduct that they understand this document and agree to be bound by it.

Competitions were held for teams and/or individual riders. A team consisted of a minimum of three horse and rider combinations, but not more than four. The

number of teams that each state could send to the Championship was determined by the number of children's jumper riders and Adult Amateur jumper riders residing in a state the previous year. As an example, a state with less than 150 Children's jumper riders will be permitted one team.

Gayl and Monika are proud to have had the opportunity to travel to the Sacramento International Horseshow in California to compete in this flagship event where both competitors represented our state well. Gayl and "Harley" had a double clear in the Nation's Cup portion of the competition. They were in the top ten entering the individual phase but were sidelined by a puffy ankle. Gayl chose to forgo the individual competition out of concern for her horse. Monika and "LoKi" completed the Nation's Cup portion and continued on to the individual competition where they improved with every round. Once again congrats to both.





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Congratulations to Ashley Wren on Galileo's amazing achievements this year! Galileo recently went to Canadian Nationals where he won 3 Championships, 2 Reserve Championships, and 4 Top Tens. He was ridden by Ashley Wren and Kristina Kilts. He is in the running for top horse in North America from points earned so far this year and rest of the year. He will be attending the Pacific Slopes

Sporthorse Championship held at LA Equestrian Center then Sporthorse Nationals at Virginia Horse Center. Ashley and he will return home for the REC home show Oct 4-6, where a special presentation is planned where he will receive his Legion of Honor, Legion of Supreme Honor, and Legion of Excellence given by the Arabian Horse Association. Honors many horses do not achieve in a lifetime but Galileo has earned in just a half a year.



NEWSLETTERS FOR 2014

We will be celebrating MHJA's 20th Anniversary throughout the next year. Please share your pictures and anecdotes from over the years with the entire membership as we reminisce on where we've been and where we are headed. Pictures can be emailed to hdaviesmt@gmail.com or snail mailed to 38023 MT Hwy 35, Polson, MT 59860

We will be adding a new section spotlighting members in an attempt to get to know each other better. Please be prepared (and willing) to answer a few brief questions about yourself and your riding experiences.

And.....be on the lookout for a newsletter facelift!