

## LAHJA July 2010 E-News

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### Upcoming Dates:

July 23-25: Gold Coast 5 [http://www.langershows.com/laec/show\\_details.php?show\\_id=152](http://www.langershows.com/laec/show_details.php?show_id=152)  
July 24-25 Foxfield Summer <http://www.foxfield.com/events/events/rated-events.html>  
Aug 8: Rainbow Canyon Summer <http://www.rainbowcanyonranch.com/>  
Aug 28: Camelot August <http://www.camelotevents.com/horseshows.html>

### Horse Truth:

Children and ponies are natural allies and often have identical dispositions.

### **President's Message**

Some of the greatest aspects of LAHJA are the educational programs and activities. Through education we increase our knowledge, which we then use to increase our experience. LAHJA's new affiliation with Bernie Traurig's EquestrianCoach.com is an excellent opportunity to add to your knowledge. This is an excellent way to add to your knowledge with information shared by some of the top horsemen in the country.

Our flagship educational program is clearly the LAHJA Horsemastership Scholarship. Junior members have an opportunity to win a college scholarship and learn more about their horse and horsemanship. Board member Sandrine Seifert runs two half day seminars to help juniors prepare for the competition. Specific information about the seminars is in this e-news and on the LAHJA website.

Our monthly *From the Judge's Box* also provides information to common questions answered by judges from around the country.

And every time you work with your horse, ride, and show, you learn. Hopefully you are striving to improve, add to your skills, and learn about the sport we are all involved in.

Marnye Langer

### **LAHJA Silent Auction**

Once again, LAHJA will be holding a silent auction during this year's Gold Coast 6 show September 2-5. We need items donated to the auction to help raise funds for our educational programs, such as the \$5,000 in scholarships awarded to the Horsemastership winners. In the past, we have raised as much as \$10,000 through this auction. We are seeking both horse-related and non horse-related items, such as gift certificates to tack stores or restaurants, gift baskets, tack or tickets to the movies. Feel free to be creative! As a nonprofit organization (IRS 501 (c) 3), cash donations are tax deductible as provided for by the IRS code sections. If you would like to make a donation, please notify one of the contacts below by August 10th:

Lisa Winn – Auction Chairman [lisaswinn@yahoo.com](mailto:lisaswinn@yahoo.com)

Marnye Langer – LAHJA President [marnyelanger@gmail.com](mailto:marnyelanger@gmail.com)

Charlotte Skinner – LAHJA Executive Director [ceskinner@earthlink.net](mailto:ceskinner@earthlink.net)

### **Year-end Perpetual Trophy sponsors:**

Large Pony Hunter

Everwood & Ginny Planke

[everwoodstable@yahoo.com](mailto:everwoodstable@yahoo.com)

A Equitation 14 & Under

Shadowbrook & Jeni Brown

[www.shadowbrookstable.com](http://www.shadowbrookstable.com)

A Equitation 15-17

Shining Star Trophy

B Equitation 15-17

Jigsaw Farms

Children's & Adult Amateur Jumpers

Langer Equestrian Group/ Larry & Marnye Langer

[www.langershows.com](http://www.langershows.com)

Junior & Amateur/Owner Jumpers  
Martin McAllister Training/ Jenni & Steve McAllister  
[www.martinmcallistertraining.com](http://www.martinmcallistertraining.com)

### **Horsemastership Registration and Important Dates**

One of LAHJA's most popular programs is the fabulous Horsemastership Program. The goal of the LAHJA Horsemastership Program and Competition is to encourage junior riders to develop comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the hunter/jumper sport, their equine partners, and an awareness of equestrian history. All LAHJA Junior members are encouraged to participate and the entry fee is \$50.00. The top three overall winners receive college scholarships totaling \$5,000 (1<sup>st</sup> - \$2,500, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$1,500, 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$1,000), there are four perpetual awards, and ribbons for all!

The Horsemastership Competition comprises three phases: riding, hands-on, and written. Workshops, study tools, practice questions, and Question and Answer Clinics are all included with the entry fee. The riding phase requires a DVD of a jumping round during this current show year, and is due November 15, 2010. The hands-on phase is on October 23, 2010 during the Gold Coast 7 show. The written exam is on the evening of October 23, 2010 around 6:30 p.m. To help participants prepare, board member Sandrine Seifert is conducting a Horsemastership Workshop on August 18-19 at the Hansen Dam Equestrian Center.

Please go online to the LAHJA website ([www.lahja.org](http://www.lahja.org)) for more information, including registration forms. Don't miss out on this fabulous learning experience!

#### **Dates of the Program for 2010**

Hands-on and written phases: Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 at Gold Coast 7

Test Review/Clinic: October 30th at 3:00 p.m. at Hansen Dam Fall Preview Horse Show

#### **Summer Seminars**

Sandrine Seifert, with help from graduated Horsemastership students, will hold a summer workshop for the Horsemastership Program at Hansen Dam Equestrian Center at D&D Stables on Wednesday and Thursday, August 18-19 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. This workshop is free for LAHJA members. Please register with Sandrine by email: [ddstables@gmail.com](mailto:ddstables@gmail.com).

### **Benefits of LAHJA Membership**

A small group of dedicated horsemen formed the Los Angeles Hunter/Jumper Association to

give horse show exhibitors a voice in how area horse shows are run. There are many benefits to being a member, like an excellent year end awards program, a competitive medal class and finals program, and a variety of educational programs. Below are some personal reasons our members support LAHJA:

“Being involved in a local organization like LAHJA can really connect you to the sport you are participating in,” says LAHJA President Marnye Langer. “LAHJA provides a strong framework for the hunter/jumper sport in our area, and we all benefit from that framework in a variety of ways, especially as it pertains to consistent and relevant rules, communication, awards, and education.”

Being a member of LAHJA qualifies you for a number of terrific programs that are designed to increase your enjoyment of your horse and showing. As Executive Director Charlotte Skinner says, “Members are included in the year end awards program and are eligible for medal classes for all ages and levels of riders with very impressive year end finals. They are also able to take advantage of our education programs, which include the Horsemastership scholarship program, feedback from judges on how they feel about various aspects of showing and informative columns in the E-news.”

Lori Quiett says, “The best benefit of LAHJA membership for me is being able to compete in the LAHJA Senior Medal classes and ride in the final.” Cheryl Child chimes in, “I think the best benefit is the quick flow of information to members and the great year end prizes.” Brittany Albrecq adds, “The best benefit of having a LAHJA membership, for me, is the scholarship opportunities that the association offers with its Horsemastership program.”

### **The Equestrian Minute**

Welcome to another scorching summer – the kind of season when the impracticality of black leather boots, wool jackets, and dark gloves really comes home! Since the show world isn’t likely to embrace spandex track suits anytime soon, we’re probably stuck with our show clothes, but we can learn to protect ourselves, and our horses, from the most damaging effects of riding and showing under extreme temperatures. Here are some hot-weather tips to keep you cool under pressure.

Read more about protecting yourself and your horse from dehydration and other heat-related problems in Karen Briggs’ article, “Beat the Heat” by clicking on the link below.

<http://www.lahja.org/iframes/pdf/beat%20the%20heat.pdf>

Remember, drinking plenty of water can be your number one best prevention for heat related problems. Make sure your horse has access to plenty of fresh water, and offer water after working.

### **USEF Emerging Athletes Program**

The USEF Emerging Athletes Program (EAP) was designed to identify promising young riders and provide them with support and education for reaching their full potential in the sport. Four LAHJA members, Morgan Geller, Olivia Champ, Zoie Nagelhout and Alyssa Bansbach, participated in the Level I program and were selected to move on to Level II.

This year was 16-year-old Morgan's (Frontier Farm, trainers) first experience with the program. "I chose to participate in the EAP this year because I thought it would be a good opportunity to connect horsemanship skills with riding," she explained. "It is the best riders who understand horse care and carry that over to riding." Morgan has been riding for 10 years.

Alyssa (Mark Watring Stables, trainers), on the other hand, participated last year but decided to come back. "I chose to participate in the EAP because I really wanted to expand my knowledge of horses and the equestrian world. I participated last year, and I fell in love with the program. I learned so much, and had such a great experience, which is why I was anxious to participate again this year."

Olivia and Zoie, who both train with Archie Cox, were also in the program last year and chose to come back to expand their knowledge and see how far they could go in the program.

Level I was a riding clinic with Olympic Team Gold Medalist Melanie Smith Taylor at either the 1.10m or the 1.20m level. Participants had to apply and were selected based on the information they provided, including but not limited to merit, competition record and recommendations. The Zone 10 based EAP clinic took place May 22-23, and all three of the girls who participated last year agreed that the sessions had a different emphasis this year, with new exercises, problems to address and questions asked. There was more focus on jumper style courses this year.

"We focused on thinking about the horse in relation to the rider's actions," 13-year-old Olivia recounted. "We learned about feeling your horse's attitude, movement, and mood, adjusting your body to match his, working together as a team, and doing what suits your horse the best. She talked about developing awareness, feel, timing and accuracy by being a thinker."

Seventeen-year-old Zoie added, "I got a lot out of looking at old concepts in a new way and solidifying what I know by learning from other riders' mistakes and accomplishments so that I can be a more successful rider and horsewoman."

The four riders had nothing but praise for Melanie's teaching style and vast level of knowledge. Morgan said, "I really enjoyed Melanie's clinic and I thought it was one of the best clinics I have been in. She emphasized the importance of the attitude of the horse and how they are feeling rather than just the skills of the rider."

Allyssa added, "I thought that Melanie was an amazing trainer who had a way of making difficult concepts easy to understand. I was amazed at the passion I heard in her voice while she spoke about the sport, and it made my motivation to learn even stronger. Her teaching methods were very effective and she gave confidence to students even when things weren't going perfectly. I feel so honored that I was able to learn from her."

The riders move on to Level II on July 26-27 at J Bar J Boys Ranch in Bend, Oregon. There, they will clinic with Callan Solem. Their selection to move on to this phase of the program was based on riding skills, general impression of potential, overall horsemanship and written test scores as determined during their evaluations after the Level I sessions.

"In Level Two I am hoping to hone my riding skills and learn more about each aspect of horsemanship, including shoeing, veterinary care and stable management," Morgan said, while Olivia added, "I want to learn more on vetting, details of horse care, and course design in relation to riding."

After the Level II session, the riders will be evaluated again and a select 12 riders from across the nation will be selected to move on to Level III, which will take place in Buffalo, New York in November.

### **A Reminder about Medal Finals**

Medal Finals are coming up. Do you have all your qualifications in line? The DaMoor's Feed and Tack Rosewood Final and LAHJA Horsemanship Final will take place during Gold Coast 6, the LAHJA Benefit Horse show, September 2-5. The LA Saddlery Junior and Senior Medal Finals and the LAHJA Pony Medal Finals will run during the National Preview November 10-14.

Qualified riders will receive letters. If you have any questions regarding eligibility or qualification, please contact the LAHJA office at [info@lahja.org](mailto:info@lahja.org).

For prize lists, please contact Brenda Outwater at [brenout@aol.com](mailto:brenout@aol.com).

### **From the Judge's Box**

**Do you have any show ring attire items you particularly like to see? Things that particularly bother you? How do you feel about: Hunt coat colors? Helmet adornments? Bling on spur straps, bracelets, or in braids?**

“I like gloves and clean, well fitting clothes and boots. No discernible bling.” --Fran Dotoli

“It is always appreciated when a horse and rider are turned out well. I particularly like to see properly fitting ring attire: riding pants and coats not too tight or too baggy. I also prefer traditional colors. I don't like to see bling and I don't like loud and unusual colors. It does depend on how garish any of these things are as to whether there would be any reflection in my score. I do not mind a single braid with a very small amount of sparkle or color in an otherwise traditionally braided mane.” --Katie Young

“I am conservative in what I like in riding attire. No bling works for me whether it is on the spurs, bridle, or belt. Let your riding do the talking, not your attire. I actually prefer darker colored coats, but none of that would ever be anything more than a comment unless it was *really* offensive.” --Betty Beran

“I like conservative clothes in the show ring. I am particularly bothered by an excess of ‘sheepskin’ on boots, girths, and saddle pads; I find that distracting and outdated. I do not think helmet adornments are appropriate for the hunters and equitation. No bling for me either. I like classic, dark hunt coats and white shirts in equitation.” --Beverly Jovais

“To me, ring attire should be conservative. No bling on anything! Something to think about is how your outfit complements your horse. For instance, if you're riding a chestnut horse, navy or beige might look better than a brown jacket. It's just a subtlety and isn't really that important, but it can add to the judge's perception.” --Penny Carpenter

“I like a workmanlike appearance: dark colored coat, beige breeches, gloves, polished boots, clean tack, polished bit. No helmet adornments or colored yarn in braids.” --Debbie Sands