



EVENTFULLY YOURS

NEWSLETTER

November 2011

www.albertahorsetrials.com

ANOTHER SEASON HAS COME AND GONE

Wow, that seemed like a really quick season. Hope you got out there and had fun with your horse. We've just had our Annual General Meeting in October and had a really good turn out. Members actually outnumbered board members. Thanks so much to all of you who came out to support our association and our board. We've elected a few new board members as a few have decided to put themselves "out to pasture". We're hoping we can get them back from retirement soon.

Leaving us this year is our President George Balogh. George has volunteered for many years and we greatly appreciate all he has done for us. I'm sure we'll be calling on him lots as Past President. Michelle Ziekhle has stepped down as our secretary and we will have a hard time replacing her and her hard work. Dawne Clarke has resigned from her High Performance Chair position as well as Linda Choney has left her past President position, both ladies will be greatly missed. Graham Torn has stepped down as a board member but we've managed to keep him as our statistician.

Our new board members are Sharon Roberts, Kat Townsend, Derek Jackson and Mary Busch. Welcome aboard. We look forward to working with you.

Our Annual Banquet was another great success. Lots of faces and fun. Congrats to the new faces who won lots of awards. There is a listing of awards won further in the newsletter. A lot of very nice prizes, event entries, money and door prizes were handed out. Thanks to Charlene Thomas for her great efforts in organizing and getting all the "trinkets" for the banquet. Many thanks to Alison and Joan Barbour for their photography skills of our winners at the banquet.

Looking forward to seeing you all next year!!

Nancy Watson

Our Preliminary Upgrading Award Winners



Laurie Powell

Erica Ingraham

Courtney Ziegler

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LESLIE LAW CLINIC

by Courtney Ziegler

This August, we were fortunate enough to have Olympian Leslie Law return to Alberta for a second year. Hosted at Alhambra Stables in Red Deer, we were able to steal Leslie away from his summer base in Virginia for nearly a week once travel was factored in! Two clinics were ran over the span of four days, with horses and riders ranging in level from Pre-Training up to Advanced, and over forty horse/rider combinations.

The first day of each clinic features flat work, followed by show jumping. This year, Leslie had riders focusing on the “Training Scale” in both the flat work, and jumping. The Training Scale builds in the following manner: Rhythm, Relaxation, Connection, Impulsion, Straightness, ending with Collection.

Outline of the horses while jumping was also an important factor that Leslie explained; noting that the angle of the head should be about the same angle of the shoulder, with the poll being the highest point. This gives the horse the best chance to avoid becoming “flat” (occurring if their nose was out further) and also allows them to see the jump (which can be a problem if they are “behind the vertical”).

During the show jumping lessons, Leslie set up exercises with placing rails, as well as exercises designed to test the riders, as they had the possibility of riding in two different distances. Although you don’t get off completing just one of the distances, riders had to do both!



Leslie Law with a few of the lucky students

Photo Courtesy of Jessica Kerschbaumer

Cross country day showed the importance of the Training Scale work, where rhythm, straightness, and impulsion became important over skinny barrels, lines through the water jump and off drops, as well as through coffins – which sometimes featured the line riding on an angle. The importance of being able to “ride the moment” while on cross-country was also discussed.

Leslie always seems to be able to bring the best out of both horses and riders, and some positive transformations can be seen over only two days of riding. Any daunting feeling individuals may have about riding with an Olympic Gold Medalist is quickly put to rest with Leslie’s sense of humour and compassion. The clinic participants seemed to enjoy themselves, and Leslie appreciated how polite and coachable the riders were. We are happy to have the opportunity to bring such a talented International Event Rider to Alberta, and hope that it will continue to be an annual occurrence.

A big thank-you is due to a number of people including:

Kathleen Ziegler for organizing both the 2010 and 2011 Leslie Law Clinics.

Ulrika Wikner (Alhambra Stables) for hosting the clinic .

Alberta Horse Trials Association who offset costs for clinic participants via funds from the annual silent auction.

AHTA SPONSORS

Donnelly Family - Alborak Stable
Country Junction-Wetaskiwin Co-op Association Ltd.
Greenhawk Red Deer
Victory Tack

Canadian Sport Horse Association - Alberta Chapter
Canadian Thoroughbred Association - Alberta Division
Canadian Warmblood Horse Breeders Association - Alberta Chapter
Alhambra Victory Tack Summer & Fall Event

Beaumont Horse Trials
Cochrane Horse Trials
South Peace Horse Trials
Thompson Country Horse Trials

Parks Foundation Calgary/Amateur Sport Grant Program
Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks & Wildlife Foundation

Karen Nyrop
wins the
Canadian Warmblood Association
Year end High Point award
for her horse
Ba Ba Bing aka "Binger".



An Eventer at the Masters – Spruce Meadows

By Joan Barbour

What do I have in common with Eric Lamaze, the number 1 ranked rider in the world? We both competed at the Masters at Spruce Meadows this fall. While Hickstead and Eric competed for Team Canada in the Nations Cup, my horse Mito and I competed for Team Paint in the Battle of the Breeds. Of course, that's where the comparison stops!

For those unfamiliar with the Battle of the Breeds format, each year, during the Masters Tournament, more than 10 breeds compete to be the most versatile breed. Each four-member team competes in the Battle's 5 unique events including compulsory skills, jeopardy jumping, precision driving, barrel racing and trail riding. Each team consists of four riders and four horses and two team members must compete in each event with points awarded according to placement. In order to win, a team must demonstrate great adaptability, horsemanship and have extremely well broke horses. The overall winners for 2011 were Team Morgan with a masterful and steady performance and excellent contributions from some Alberta eventers. Team Paint finished a respectable 4th place with grand ambitions for the 2012 event!

My horse, Majors Mito Azure, and I have been competing on the Alberta Horse Trials Association circuit for three years and have progressed through the levels to finish the 2011 season at the training level. Mito and I love eventing but I have long harboured a dream of competing on the hallowed grounds of Spruce Meadows and have aspired to be a member of Team Paint. And what a thrill it was to finally compete at the same venue as the international stars of the show jumping. The highlight memories from competing in the Battle of the Breeds include:

- Warming up in a ring adjacent to the wonderful RCMP Musical Ride (and attempting to convince them that a few paint horses would fit into their ranks perfectly).
- Riding shotgun in a driving cart with my Team Paint colleague as we careened around the beautiful jumping arenas at Spruce Meadows
- Competing in the wild 4 leaf clover barrel racing event in front of big crowds and realizing that Mito really likes this stuff
- Entering the Meadows on the Green arena to compete in the Jeopardy Jumping event for the first time...and clearing the TELUS Bonus Jump!



As a Battle of the Breeds competitor, I would encourage other eventers to consider joining a Breed team for the thrill of a lifetime! If you have steady nerves and an interest in competing in a variety of equestrian events, maybe the Battle of the Breeds is for you.

To learn more about the Battle of the Breeds, visit the Spruce Meadows website at

<http://www.sprucemeadows.com/index.jsp>. Thank you to Tricia Dahms who prepared Mito and I for our Jeopardy Jumping event.

Provincial Championship Winners 2011

Preliminary Open	Champion Reserve	Erica Ingraham Kayla Bushell	Zacky Vengeance Malibu
Training Open	Champion Reserve	Rebecca Lee Denise Nitschke	Mardigrks Mardigras' Andante
Training Regular	Champion Reserve	Abbey Busch Donna White	Klondike Mike Cortez
Pre Training Open	Champion Reserve	Susan Bercha Karen Nyrop	Wyndira Binger
Pre Training Regular	Champion Reserve	Shelby Friesen Heather Gnenz	Heathcliff Elusive
Entry Regular	Champion Reserve	Kendyl Stretch Courtney Benton	Fear Factor Lexus
Pre Entry Open	Champion Reserve	Erika Andrews Melissa Stephen	Jazzette Idle Time
Pre Entry Regular	Champion Reserve	Hunter Trombley Stephanie Stafford	Montego Bay Ice
Starter	Champion Reserve	Burke Simpson Kelly Stasiuk	Just a Jolly Molly Prime Time Scooter



Hunter Trombley—Pre Entry Regular



Susan Bercha—Pretraining Open

AHTA YEAR END DIVISION CHAMPIONS

<i>Advanced</i>	<i>Champion</i>	<i>Sandra Donnelly</i>	<i>Buenos Aires</i>
<i>Intermediate</i>	<i>Champion</i>	<i>Joelle Baskerville</i>	<i>Malibu</i>
	<i>Reserve</i>	<i>Katelyn Ziegler</i>	<i>Peninsula Lion</i>
	<i>Third</i>	<i>Sandra Donnelly</i>	<i>Buenos Aires</i>



Katelyn Ziegler—Intermediate Reserve



Denise Nitschke
Training Open Reserve

<i>Preliminary</i>	<i>Champion</i>	<i>Rebecca Lee</i>	<i>Jaunty Star</i>
	<i>Reserve</i>	<i>David Ziegler</i>	<i>Peninsula Top Man</i>
	<i>Third</i>	<i>Kayla Bushell</i>	<i>Malibu</i>
<i>Training Open</i>	<i>Champion</i>	<i>Rebecca Lee</i>	<i>Mardigrks Mardigras'</i>
	<i>Reserve</i>	<i>Denise Nitschke</i>	<i>Andante</i>
	<i>Third</i>	<i>Christine Austerman</i>	<i>First Place Feeds Jackpot</i>
<i>Training</i>	<i>Champion</i>	<i>Donna White</i>	<i>Cortez</i>
	<i>Reserve</i>	<i>Abbey Busch</i>	<i>Klondike Mike</i>
	<i>Third</i>	<i>Georgia Tooke</i>	<i>Coolmore</i>

AHTA YEAR END DIVISION CHAMPIONS

Pre Training Open **Champion**
Reserve
Third

Margo Gaglione
Karen Nyrop
Susan Bercha

Azarius
Binger
Wyndira



Pre Training

Champion
Reserve
Third

Shelby Friesen
Allie Busch
Heather Grenz

Heathcliff
Wanja
Elusive

AHTA YEAR END DIVISION CHAMPIONS

Entry Open

Champion

Sharon Roberts

W.C. Mighty Mac

Reserve

Noel Clark

Levi's Liaison

Third

Emily Martin

My King's Alegro



Sharon Roberts—Entry Open Champion



Kendyl Stretch—Entry Champion

Entry

Champion

Kendyl Stretch

Fear Factor

Reserve

Courtney Benton

Lexus

Third

Charlotte Adams

Sun River

AHTA YEAR END DIVISION CHAMPIONS

Pre Entry Open

Champion

Erika Andrews

Jazzette

Reserve

Pari Vinden

Brierly

Third

Zoe Taylor

Emanuel del Rio



Erika Andrews
Pre Entry Open Champion



Courtney Benton
Pre Entry Champion

Pre Entry

Champion

Courtney Benton

Lexus

Reserve

Hunter Trombley

Montego Bay

Third

Kelsey Soldan

Bodacious

Prizes

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Champion | Embroidered Stormtech Full Zip Hoodie & Horsey Sign stall plaque
(www.horseysigns.com) |
| Reserve | Embroidered Ogio Half Dome Bag & free event entry or \$100.00 |
| Third | Monogrammed Kustom Fit Halter |

YEAR END AWARDS

Top Rider of the Year	Advanced Division	Sandra Donnelly
Old Timers Award	Donna White	
Preliminary Upgrading Award	Meagann Breakey Erica Ingraham Laurie Powell Courtney Ziegler	Ivinghoe Beacon Zacky Vengeance Wellington Wren Mad Skillz
Dressage Award	Kristine Haut	
Show Jumping Award	Victoria Duke	Linneau McKercher

Canadian Thoroughbred of the Year "ZACKY VENGENANCE"

Sponsored by the CDN Thoroughbred Horse Society - Alberta Chapter (\$100.00 gift certificate)
Owned and shown by Erica Ingraham

Canadian Warmblood of the Year

"BA BA BING"

Sponsored by the CDN Warmblood Breeders - Alberta Division (cooler)
Owned and shown by Karen Nyrop

Canadian Sport Horse of the Year

"AZARIUS"

Sponsored by the Canadian Sport Horse Association - AB Chapter (cooler)
Owned and shown by Margo Gaglione



Heather Gnenz presenting Donna White
with the Old Timers Award

AHTA 2011 PRESIDENT'S AWARD

When I began thinking about this year's AHTA President's Award, (given for Outstanding Contributions to our Sport), the decision wasn't really a challenge. Last year's deserving recipient Margo Gaglione was chosen for her ongoing excellence as an athlete, a mentor, a volunteer and positive role model – very high standards to live up to for certain. The biggest challenge this year is really my ability to speak to the recipient's accomplishments in a way to keep the audience guessing and to not reveal their name until the end of my talk. I don't believe it's actually possible.

I have known this year's award recipient since my involvement in the sport began about 8 or 9 years ago - someone my children ran into a just about every event, who always greeted us with a cheerful smile and positive words of encouragement. (Did that narrow it down?). In addition to the tremendous dedication and enthusiasm this individual displays through their actions, their investment and huge time commitment to the sport of eventing is truly amazing.

Every one of you here tonight has been impacted by this person in some very direct ways - because every time your horse jumps a cross-country course in Alberta there's a very good chance that many of the fences and obstacles were designed and/or built by Barry Tyerman.

I cannot think of a more dedicated, hard working (and mostly cheerful) individual than Barry. He has served on the Board of Directors in the past, and when he's not building fences or designing courses, he's competing on his own horses – not just in Alberta but in other provinces and the USA.

AHTA 2011 PRESIDENT'S AWARD



Barry Tyerman competing at Cochrane Horse Trials

It's almost unbelievable to think that Barry ever has time to rest and relax, but his wife Leanne tells us it's true. In fact she tells us that Barry even managed to actually wear out his favourite recliner to the point where it has been repaired numerous times. (Leanne also told us it's ready for the scrap heap).

So tonight we honour Barry Tyerman, and in recognition of his contributions and achievements, we present Barry with a gift certificate to the Lazy Boy Gallery where his new recliner awaits. Does anyone else find it ironic that Barry would need a Lazy Boy? Never thought I'd say those 2 words in the same sentence!

Congratulations to Barry.

Thank you, **George Balogh - President, AHTA**

TENATIVE 2012 Calendar of Competitions

June 2-3	Beaumont Horse Trials
June 23-24	Cochrane Horse Trials
July 6-8	Thompson Country Horse Trials
July 28-29	Mind's Eye Ranch Horse Trials
August 17-19	Alhambra Summer Event
Sept. 1-2	South Peace Horse Trials
Sept. 22-23	Alhambra Fall Event & Provincial Championships



Abbey and Allie Busch bring home the prizes at the Awards Banquet.