

ANRC Newsletter – February 2011

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2011 ANRC National Intercollegiate Championship

It's official!! It's new!!! For the first time, a 2'6" Novice division will be offered at the upcoming ANRC Nationals, in addition to the 3' National division. Also for the first time, The College of Art and Design (SCAD) in Savannah, Georgia, will be hosting the event. The dates are on April 14 – 17, 2011. Courses for the Novice level will be at 2'6", and the Dressage Sportif ride will be the current ANRC Level Three ride. The Written Test will be the same for both levels. Christine Jones and Bobbie Keber will be the judges. ANRC memberships are required for competing schools. **Scholarships are available for colleges submitting competing at Nationals for the first time.** For a prize list or more information about the 2011 Nationals, check the ANRC website <http://www.anrc.org>, or contact Andrea Wells at awells@scad.edu. The closing date for entries is March 18, 2011.

ANRC Board Members in the News

Shelby French, longtime ANRC board member and director of Sweet Briar's riding program for 10 years, has been appointed chief executive officer of the USHJA effective May 5, 2011. French will be replacing former USHJA Executive Director Susan Dotson, who recently relocated to Atlanta. Mimi Wroten, the current ANRC Intercollegiate Chair, who has served as associate director at Sweet Briar since 1999 and instructor since 1996 will take over as Sweet Briar's director of riding.

Shelby has served on ANRC's board in many capacities – as Education Chair for three years and as Clinic and Center Chair for three years before that. She was the major force (with Scot Evans) in designing, filming, producing, and marketing the successful DVD series “The American System of Forward Riding” for ANRC. Shelby will still be available to ANRC as a judge and clinician.

Susan Deal has recently completed the requirements for certification as a USHJA instructor, joining previously certified board members Patte Zumbrun, Mimi Wroten, Jen Bunty, and Karen Fenwick. Karen's colleague and co-coach of Hood College's riding team, Lisa Mitchell, also received her USHJA certification recently.

We are pleased to welcome Tara Clausen to the ANRC board as an Advisory Member. Tara has coached the highly successful Centenary College riding team at Nationals for several years.

USHJA Affiliate News

At the USHJA Affiliates Council meeting in December, ANRC Chair Patte Zumbrun and Shelby French presented a proposal for a USHJA/ANRC partnership to offer a new competitive format as part of the USHJA Outreach Program. We are all very excited about this development and plan to have it ready to launch in 2012. It should appeal to a broad base of riders in our sport while serving the educational goals of the USHJA and ANRC and help preserve and promote the American Forward Riding System. The ultimate goals of this new competitive format and partnership endeavor are to:

- Provide a competitive experience that appeals to the many riders in our sport who are not chasing high score awards but are riding and competing as a way to enjoy their horse, improve their riding skills, and enjoy the camaraderie of other like-minded people.
- Offer an appealing competitive experience for organizations and/or business enterprises whose primary focus is teaching riders, and that will serve as a bridge to a more traditional competitive experience.
- Reward participation and the pursuit of education, rather than points earned, to advance from a local competition to a State or Zone level.
- Serve as a compliment to the USHJA Emerging Athletes Program by offering educational opportunities for young riders and amateurs in our industry that will impact members in the lower half of the competitive pyramid.
- Create momentum toward education and support the goals of the Trainers Certification Program.

The USHJA/ANRC competition format can be conducted in two, three or four phases: a Program Ride (judged and scored on each movement); a Derby Style Course (natural obstacles simulating hunt country in a ring or field); a Medal Course (in a ring); and a written test (based on assigned sections of the TCP manual).

Each competition host would have a menu of options to conduct the competition based on their facility and client base, making it an attractive, user friendly event. Riders may

compete individually and/or as a team, and will receive a written evaluation of their performance along with feedback from the judge(s). Following is a brief description of what the competition format would look like at each level.

USHJA/ANRC American Forward Riding Horsemanship Program Competition Levels
Level One - Program Ride and Medal Course 2'3" - 2'6" (add Written Test to make it a Three Phase)

Level Two - Program Ride and Medal Course 2'6" - 2'9" (add Written Test and/or Derby Style Course to make it a Three Phase or Four Phase)

Level Three - Program Ride and Medal Course 2'9" - 3' (add Written Test and/or Derby Style Course to make it a Three Phase or Four Phase).

Equitrials and Certifications

Centenary College hosted an extremely successful ANRC Intercollegiate Equitation Invitational competition on October 23 and 24, 2010. Twenty-six riders from six colleges (Centenary College, Cornell University, Goucher College, Pace University, St. Lawrence University, and the US Military Academy) competed at either National (3') level or Novice (2'6") level. Centenary won both team championships with Pace reserve at the National Level and Cornell reserve at 2'6". Centenary garnered two individual championships as well: Colin Savaria at 3' and Randi Cashman at 2'6". Five riders received ANRC certification at the competition: Colin Savaria, Brittany Cunnane, and Kelly Arvidson of Centenary; Suzanne Snyder of St. Lawrence, and Jacqueline Smith of Pace.

Two very popular ANRC Equitrials were held this fall. Twenty-nine riders competed at Sweet Briar College on October 16 and 17, and 12 received qualifying scores for certification: Emily Bates, Brianna Better, Katy Coombs, Ali Davidson, Jodi Fritz, Catherine Marcks, Lauren Rogers, Olivia Smith, Amanda Wager, Eryn Wiley, and Clarkie Woods. Jill Randles was the judge.

Dacia Johnson judged 19 riders at Sewanee's first ever Equitrial on October 29 and 30 and certified seven riders: Kaylee Beauchamp, Amanda Callihan, Sarah Hope de Mayo, Lindsay Maxwell, Caroline Mckinney, Lillibet Motion, and Carolyn Pearigen.

Lizzie Hummel completed requirements for Level One Certification at North Fork School of Equitation on October 3, 2010.

Future ANRC Competitions

The North Fork School of Equitation in Jefferson, Maryland, has scheduled an Equitrial for June 19, 2011, (Jill Randles is judging) and an ANRC Benefit Show for September 25, 2011. The benefit show will have hunter equitation classes at several levels. Both competitions are open to all. Contact Karen Fenwick at NFSEKaren@aol.com or 301-834-9744 for more information. For additional future activities, check the ANRC website www.anrc.org.

Dressage vs. Forward Seat

As described in an article on stirrup length by dressage guru Lendon Gray, there are similarities between forward riding and dressage that you might not be aware of. In her article from the October 2009 USDF Connection, Lendon says "I believe that, at any gait, at any time, the rider should be able to take a little jumping position. If you can't, then the stirrup is a little too long. Another advantage of the jumping position is that it tells you if your leg is in the proper position. If it's too far forward or too far back, you can't get in the jumping position. You'll fall back or fall forward. To me, jumping position is the most valuable position tool there is, [the italics are mine] closely followed by working without stirrups. But first, I want you to be able to do the jumping position." Perhaps it helps that Lendon's riding experience prior to dressage was forward riding at Sweet Briar College.

DVDs and Books

ANRC DVDs "The American System of Forward Riding" and Paul Cronin's book "Schooling and Riding the Sport Horse" may be purchased directly from the ANRC website www.anrc.org

Past Newsletters

To see past newsletters and some great articles, look on the ANRC website <http://www.anrc.org>.