

ANRC Newsletter – July 2006

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Nationals in 2006

(This article is excerpted from a longer article by Pam Whitfield that appeared in The Chronicle of the Horse)

The 2006 ANRC National Intercollegiate Equitation Championship was held on April 22 and 23 at St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, NC. Patty Hueckerth and Carol Hoffman officiated.

Savannah College of Art and Design (Ga.) won their third team title, and SCAD senior Jordan Siegel won her third individual championship. St. Andrews Presbyterian College (NC) was the reserve champion team, with third year student Christina Kalinski finishing as the individual reserve champion by only 0.29 points. Goucher College's consistent rides earned them a close third place.

SCAD and St. Andrews ran neck in neck heading into the final phase, the hunter trials equitation, but Savannah junior Hattie Saltonstall hit a rhythm across the wide grass field and posted the day's highest score, a 90. Saltonstall also posted the high score of 90 in the morning's hunter seat equitation phase, and finished as individual winner of both phases. Siegel followed her teammate's ride with her own 89 on the outside course,

making SCAD uncatchable. The Georgia school's three riders---Siegel, Meredith Gallagher, and Saltonstall--finished first, third and fourth overall respectively.

Kalinski piloted St. Andrews mount Jean Claude to the reserve championship by placing second in the dressage phase and third in the hunter trials. "In the final phase, my game plan was to ride the rhythm and have fun," she said. "Jean Claude's forte is the flat phase [dressage sportif], but he likes the outside course."

St. Andrews' new 300 acre equestrian campus beckoned riders with its white fencing, sandy soil and large grassy schooling areas, but the jewel of the event was the sprawling outside course with its long gallops and picturesque jumps. It featured eleven natural obstacles, including an aiken, a trellis fence, and a step-up to a bank. Although the two-stride in-and-out and the log fence caused a few refusals, the greatest challenge of the course was the long gallops between each fence, requiring horses to be fit and riders to establish a hunting pace and find the jumps out of stride.

Three schools competed at ANRC Nationals for the first time: Virginia Tech, UNC-Chapel Hill, and Carleton College (MN). Like Christopher Newport (Va.), Virginia Tech leased horses from the host school, St. Andrews, but Carleton College's two riders arrived from 1300 miles away with three horses of their own, and spent the week acclimating and schooling.

USEF steward Jayne Nelson of Raleigh, NC, enjoyed the ANRC competition format. "I haven't seen an outside course in a long time," she noted. "It's challenging and good for [the riders] to get out of the ring. I listen to the kids as they come back in and they're excited and saying how much fun they had."

Judge Carol Hoffman said, "The three phases are terrific. It gets away from computerized riding; you have to 'horseback' more. You can't do what I call the zombie jumping." Hoffman also appreciated the educational component of the written test. "I was reading the study bibliography," said the USEF "R" judge. "I think that having [Captain] Littauer and Anne Kursinski as influences is great." Patty Heuckeroth, who last judged this event in 2002, said, "The competition has gotten stiffer and there are lots more riders. It's really first class. They're obviously doing a good job of teaching".

ANRC Chair Patte Zumbrun, who directs Goucher College's equestrian program, has brought teams to ANRC Nationals since 1984. "This competition personifies the ANRC and the forward riding system," she stated. "It's such a good education for riders because it requires them to ride the dressage test, go forward in the open field, and also ride the equitation course. You really have to be prepared; you can't just get lucky."

Lydia Davies (Malvern, Pa.) of Goucher College won the Sportsmanship Award at this year's Nationals.

The ANRC presented two new awards this year as part of the USHJA Affiliate Awards Program (see the last page for a description of the awards). Whitney Roper of UVA was

awarded the ANRC Collegiate Amateur Rider Award for outstanding sportsmanship and horsemanship. Whitney has won numerous awards in her showing career, including Best Child Rider at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show and the Bill Fitch Sportsmanship Award at Devon. The ANRC Professional Service Award was given to Paul Cronin of Rectortown, Va. for his contributions to the organization and his personification of the forward riding system. Cronin's recent book, *Schooling and Riding the Sporthorse: An American Hunter-Jumper System*, has updated the system in text for a new generation of riders and students of the horse.

Nationals in 2007 and 2008

Nationals will be held at Centenary College in Hackettstown, NJ, on April 21 and 22, 2007. For more information, contact Andrea Wells, awells52@aol.com. University of the South (Sewanee) will host Nationals in 2008. Contact Megan Taylor at mtaylor@sewanee.edu for additional information. Both Centenary and Sewanee have competed in Nationals over the past several years. We are excited to be able to offer participating colleges the challenges of these two new locations for our annual event.

The ANRC National Intercollegiate Championship is a USEF-sanctioned event, judged on equitation. Three riders from each school compete as a team. Individual riders may also compete. All riders must be authorized by a qualified official of the school they represent. The competition consists of three phases: an intermediate program ride on contact using the 1-19 USEF tests, a hunter trials outside course 3' in height, and a 3' hunter seat equitation course in the ring. All of the courses may be schooled prior to the competition. Riders ride the same horse throughout. They also sit for a written test on riding theory and equine science.

Board Members in the News

Laura Norment is ANRC's new Education Chair. Laura is the Event Management Director and a faculty member of the Equine Studies Department at St Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, NC, and was the Meet Director for the 2006 Nationals. She has been involved in the college riding world since 1995 through positions at St Andrews, Goucher College, and the University of Virginia. She is an ANRC Level 4 Rated Rider and an ANRC Recorded Judge. Her focus as Education Chair will be to encourage new locations to host clinics and certification centers. To learn more about how to hold an ANRC clinic, Equitrial, or certification center, check out the new "Clinic and Certification Center Handbook", which can be ordered on our website www.anrc.org or contact Laura at laura.underhillnorment@yahoo.com.

Shelby French and Scot Evans successfully presented two days of clinics focusing on the American System of Forward Riding for the 2006 Equine Affaire in Columbus, Ohio, on April 7 and 8. They taught four 90 minute sessions each day, working with local riders and horses to improve their riding skills using the American System of Forward Riding.

ANRC Publications Chair Pam Whitfield's article "ANRC: Educating Equestrians" appeared in the November 2005 issue of Practical Horseman. Versions of her report on Nationals for the Chronicle of the Horse also appeared in the Yankee Pedlar and Equine Journal.

Newly Certified Riders

Congratulations to the nine riders who were certified this spring. Ashley DeBongrazio, Julie Fink, Whitney Roper, and Jordan Siegel earned Level Three Certifications at Nationals on April 23. Krista Steinmetz and Emily Wiley received their Level Threes at the Sweet Briar College Certification Center on May 26. Three riders were certified at the MacNairs Country Acres Equitrial on June 16: Mary Furr - Level Three, Katie Chatas - Level Two, and Sarah Basham - Level Two.

Clinics, Equitrial, and Certification Centers

Are you interested in hosting a clinic, Equitrial, or certification center with ANRC instructors and/or judges at your barn? If so, contact Laura Norment, Education Chair, at lauraanderhillnorment@yahoo.com. Additional information is available in our new publication, "Clinic and Certification Center Handbook", which can be ordered from our website www.anrc.org. The handbook explains how to plan for and conduct these events and details the criteria for achieving certification at all levels.

USHJA Affiliate Awards

The USHJA recently established a year-end awards program to recognize outstanding junior, amateur, and professional riders. Each affiliate organization has the opportunity to participate in the program. ANRC has chosen to make awards for amateurs and professionals under this program. The awards are presented each year at Nationals, and award winners also receive special recognition from the USHJA. (See the report on Nationals 2006 above for the winners of this year's awards.)

ANRC Collegiate Amateur Rider Award

As an affiliate of the United States Hunter / Jumper Association, the ANRC Board will present the ANRC Collegiate Amateur Rider Award to an individual or team competitor at the ANRC Intercollegiate National Championship beginning 2006. The recipient of this award will best represent the spirit of intercollegiate competition in all phases of the championship, outstanding horsemanship and sportsmanship. An ANRC Board member or an official coach may nominate a competitor at any time during the competition, but no later than the conclusion of the final mounted phase. A designated committee consisting of at least three ANRC board members will determine the recipient of the award based on feedback received from coaches, stewards and judges. The winner will be announced at the awards ceremony immediately following the championship.

ANRC Professional Service Award

As an affiliate of the United States Hunter / Jumper Association, the ANRC Board will recognize annually an outstanding individual who has contributed significantly to the ANRC organization and has personified the Forward Riding System in their professional area, whether it may involve teaching, riding, training, judging or technical support. A designated committee consisting of at least three ANRC board members will determine the recipient of this award based on feedback from ANRC members and the equestrian community at large. The winner will be announced at the awards ceremony immediately following the ANRC National Collegiate Championship.

Available on the ANRC Website:

The ANRC DVDs "The American System of Forward Riding", produced by Shelby French and Scot Evans, and Paul Cronin's book "Schooling and Riding the Sport Horse" can be ordered via the ANRC website: www.anrc.org. The DVDs provide a systematic approach to riding, training, and teaching. Each volume contains two 50-minute DVDs and an accompanying workbook. Copies of the "Clinic and Certification Center Handbook" are also available on the website. The handbook provides guidelines on how to host a clinic, certification center, or Equitrial and contains criteria for certification at all levels.