

ANRC Newsletter – July 2008

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Nationals Results

The University of the South in Sewanee, TN, hosted the ANRC National Intercollegiate Equitation Championships on April 19 and 20, 2008. The Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) took top team honors over the University of Virginia (UVA) by the scant margin of .12. Sweet Briar College finished in third place. UVA's Whitney Roper was the individual champion, and Paul Frederick of SCAD was reserve. Team results have never been that close before, although last year, St. Andrews Presbyterian College bested Centenary College 161.30 to 160.73, and in 2004 and 2003, the difference between the top two teams was less than one point. Thirty-three horses and riders competed with teams from eight colleges and one individual rider. The colleges represented were: Sewanee: The University of the South (TN); St. Andrew's Presbyterian College (NC); University of Virginia (VA); Goucher College (MD); Sweet Briar College (VA); Centenary College (NJ); Christopher Newport University (VA) and Savannah College of Art and Design (GA). Samantha Erwin from Murray State University (KY) competed as an individual for her school. The judges for the riding phases of the competition were Sue Starling of Fairfield, Florida and Alice Coke-Corkern of Nashville, Tennessee. For detailed results and article, go to our website www.anrc.org.

Eleven riders received Level Three certifications at Nationals: Whitney Roper, Kirkland Brown, and Kathryn Clapp - UVA , Jennifer Elrod - Centenary College, Paul Frederick and Meredith Gallagher - SCAD, Brittany Martin - Goucher College, Caroline Willis - Sewanee, Kathryn Brock and Sarah Fishback - Sweet Briar College, and Janelle Harcus - St. Andrews Presbyterian College.

Several additional awards were presented at Nationals: Patte Zumbrun was selected as the ANRC nominee for the USHJA Professional Services Award, and Susan Deal was chosen to be the ANRC nominee for the USHJA Riding Instructor Award. SCAD's Paul Frederick was the ANRC's nominee for the USHJA Collegiate Amateur Award, and Rachel Samuels of Centenary College received the ANRC Sportsmanship Award.

Future Nationals

Nationals will be held at St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, NC, on April 18 and 19, 2009, and at Sweet Briar College in Sweet Briar, VA, on April 17 and 18, 2010. ANRC memberships are required for competing schools. Memberships are free to schools competing at Nationals for the first time. For more information, contact Jon Conyers, Intercollegiate Chair, at jconyers@sbc.edu.

ANRC Benefit Horse Shows

North Fork School of Equitation in Jefferson, MD, hosted its second ANRC Benefit Horse Show on May 18, 2008. Goucher College plans to include ANRC benefit equitation classes in its shows on August 16-17 and September 6 - 7. For more information and/or prize lists, contact Patte Zumbrun at pzumbrun@goucher.edu. For information on hosting an ANRC benefit horse show, contact Marion Lee at marionhlee@verizon.net.

Equitrials, Clinics and Certification Centers

Thirty riders participated in the Equitrial at Sweet Briar College on March 27, 2008. Two riders were certified at the North Fork School of Equitation Equitrial on April 27: Suzanne Markowitz at Level One and Catherine Bartgis at Level Two. Jill Randles was the judge. At Goucher College's Certification Center on May 16, Sam Miller was awarded Level Four, Jen Bunty Level Three, and Amanda Takacs Level Two. Sweet Briar College hosted an ANRC clinic on May 11 - 13, 2008, followed by a Certification Center on May 15. For information on hosting a clinic, equitrial, or certification center with ANRC instructors and/or judges, go to www.anrc.org or contact Marion Lee at marionhlee@verizon.net. Our publication, "Clinic and Certification Center Handbook", can also be ordered from the ANRC website.

USEF Summit for Collegiate Riding

Chair Patte Zumbrun attended the USEF Summit for Collegiate Riding on June 23. It was organized by Marion Maybank, USEF Director for Hunter and Collegiate Activities and conducted by USEF Chair David O'Connor. In addition to ANRC, there were representatives from IDA (Intercollegiate Dressage Association) NCAA, and IHSA, as well as Betsy Fishback and Archie Cox. The purpose of the summit was to bring collegiate equestrian groups together to discuss their goals and objectives and how USEF can benefit our programs and what our programs can do for USEF. Each organization

was allotted time to give an overview of their collegiate sport. A discussion followed about numbers of participants, recent growth and the impact on today's equestrian market. Attendees talked about a reduced USEF membership fee for college students as well as potential scholarships and sponsorships. They also discussed the topic of drug use in collegiate sports, and David Conner strongly suggested that IHSA consider drug testing to put actual teeth into our current policy.

From this meeting, a USEF Intercollegiate Committee was created that will include two representatives from each collegiate organization who may attend the USEF annual meeting. Representatives from high school organizations such as IEA will be invited to participate as non-voting members. USEF is creating a mission statement for the committee and will host four conference calls each year. An agenda was developed for the first conference call scheduled for July 16. Board member Peggy McElveen has agreed to join Patte in representing ANRC on the USEF Intercollegiate Committee.

USHJA

ANRC recently received a grant of \$1,000 from USHJA as an indication of their support for collegiate riding. USHJA's new Outreach USHJA membership is available for only \$15. It entitles you to a subscription to USHJA In Stride, participation in the USHJA-sponsored Equitation Awards Program, offered by USHJA affiliate organizations, and other benefits

ANRC Board Members in the News

Intercollegiate Chair Jon Conyers received the IHSA Lifetime Achievement Award, the association's most distinguished honor at the IHSA Zone 4, Region 2, Finals on February 29. Paul Cronin received the USHJA President's Distinguished Service Award for his work on the Trainers' Certification Program. Andrea Wells has accepted a position with the Savannah College of Arts and Design starting in July.

DVDs

ANRC DVDs "The American System of Forward Riding" are available on <http://totalvid.com/Equestrian-Videos/1> to stream, rent, or purchase. For direct purchase, go to the ANRC website www.anrc.org. Paul Cronin's book "Schooling and Riding the Sport Horse" is also available on the ANRC website.

Past Newsletters

This newsletter and the five most recent past newsletters are also available on the ANRC website <http://www.anrc.org>.

Hands and Hearts for Horses
by Karen Singletary

When I moved to Georgia in 1996, I started looking for something meaningful to occupy my time. My search turned into Hands and Hearts for Horses, a therapeutic riding program. We started in the summer of 2000 with three students. By the spring of 2001 we were up to 20. I spent my time and energy watching the program and enjoying the children's laughter and smiles as they successfully made a circle or trotted for the first time. I never knew I could impart my love of horses so simply by enabling a child to ride who otherwise could not.

But in the fall of 2006 my life was turned upside down as my five year old son Zach was diagnosed with a brain tumor. He endured seven hours of surgery to remove his tumor. The surgery was successful but he woke up unable to speak, sit up, or move his limbs voluntarily. The prognosis, "we don't know how long it will take and how much better he will get" were not words a mother wants to hear. While undergoing treatment in the hospital, Zach also spent hours in physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy relearning all those things five year olds should be able to do. I knew what he needed but we were two hours from home. Finally in January of 2007 he was able to come home on the weekends, and guess where I had Zach? With the help of our physical therapist, Zach sat on a horse for the first time since his diagnosis. Seeing Zach on a horse brought home how far he had come but also how far he needed to go. He still could not stand on his own, walk, or talk. His trunk strength was very weak, and he had trouble staying in the center of the horse. But we continued with the lessons because I knew trunk strength was the key. I had learned through teaching at Hands and Hearts the benefit of the horses' movement to improve the human walk and to increase lung capacity, which encourages kids to talk and play silly games. One month later Zach got up and took off running; days later words came from his mouth. Today Zach continues to ride weekly at Hands and Hearts on his favorite pony Bert. He still has some balance issues, but I know therapeutic riding will continue to improve his balance and coordination as his strength returns.

It is endlessly rewarding to be able to provide a service for so many parents and children in our small community, and it is awe-inspiring to see the self-esteem and self-confidence that the horses create. I have spent my life with horses, but in the last eight years I have found an even greater appreciation for this magnificent animal. Take time to visit a therapeutic riding program in your area and see how these wonderful creatures show us the meaning of hope. Then consider volunteering your time to help to bring a smile to a child.