

ANRC Newsletter – July 2009

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2009 ANRC National Collegiate Championship Horse Show

Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) riders bested nine other colleges to win the team championship at the 2009 ANRC National Intercollegiate Equitation Championship hosted by St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, North Carolina. The competition took place on April 18 and 19 and was judged by Dacia Johnson of Monticello, FL, and Paddy Downing-Nygard, Thonotosassa, FL. Ten colleges were represented: Centenary College (NJ); Duke University (NC); Goucher College (MD); Otterbein College (OH); Savannah College of Art and Design (GA); St. Andrew's Presbyterian College (NC); Sweet Briar College (VA); and University of the South (Sewanee) (TN); Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MA), and the College of William and Mary (VA).

SCAD's Kelse Bonham was the overall individual champion out of the thirty-six riders entered; she received the Jon Conyers Memorial Trophy for her achievement. This year's championship was dedicated to the memory of Jon Conyers, former ANRC Intercollegiate Chair, teacher, coach, judge, and show manager, who influenced many equestrians and their horses during his 26 year career. Lindsay Mohr from Centenary was the overall individual reserve champion. Sunny, cool weather and good footing provided ideal conditions as colleges showcased their most talented riders. The competition was judged and scored on four phases: (1) a Written Test (2) a Dressage Sportif (a program ride with USEF hunter equitation tests), (3) a Hunter Trials Equitation Phase over an outside course at 3' and (4) a Hunter Seat Medal Phase at 3'. The written test phase was judged by Marion Lee from Leesburg, Virginia. The test included questions on Forward Riding Theory and this year's chosen topic: Conformation,

Movement, and Soundness. Goucher College won the team competition for this phase and Caroline Taylor from St. Andrew's had the top score of 98.1.

The Dressage Sportif was held on Saturday. The judges scored each movement of the six-minute test on the rider's ability to execute their flatwork with soft, precise control. The ride included a variety of transitions, a serpentine, counter canter, turn on the haunch, a trot fence, a canter fence, halt and back. Centenary rider Lindsay Mohr received the top score slightly ahead of SCAD's Kelse Bonham. Centenary College took the team honors in this phase, followed by SCAD and St. Andrews.

The Hunter Trials Phase was held on Sunday morning in a large field, allowing riders to show their horses' flowing stride between fences. The natural obstacles included a bank, stone wall, aiken, and a choice of two panels in an option fence. SCAD made a clean sweep of the individual top honors: Kelse Bonham won with a score of 93.5, followed by Meredith Gallagher with 93 points and Chelsea McCarthy with a 92.5. SCAD was the top team in this phase, with Centenary College second and Sweet Briar College third.

For the final phase, R. Scot Evans of Annapolis, MD designed a challenging course in St. Andrew's sizeable covered ring. Competitors aimed for an even and accurate ride over angled jumps, oxers, combinations, and one narrow fence. Kelse Bonham scored a 93 to win this phase and Centenary's Lindsay Mohr received a 92 to secure her a second place win overall. Kelly MacDonald of Sweet Briar College scored 90 to place third. SCAD won the team competition in the Hunt Seat Medal phase just ahead of Sweet Briar College.

All competitors received an "Excellence in Equitation" pin from USHJA and the top ten scorers received an USHJA cap. Jennifer Elrod of Centenary College was selected for the 2009 USHJA Collegiate Amateur Rider Award by best representing the spirit of intercollegiate competition, outstanding horsemanship, and sportsmanship throughout. Peggy McElveen, Director of the St. Andrew's College Equestrian Program, was presented with an engraved plate as the recipient of the 2009 USHJA Affiliate Professional Service Award. This award is given annually by ANRC to the individual who has contributed significantly to the ANRC organization and has personified the Forward Riding System in their professional area. The ANRC Sportsmanship award went to Liz Harris of St. Andrews who cheerfully and competently manned the starting gate for all phases of the competition.

Six riders earned their Level 3 certifications at Nationals,: Kelse Bonham and Chelsea McCarthy of SCAD; Lindsey Mohr and Marissa Cohen of Centenary; Kelly McDonald of Sweet Briar; Kelsi Peterson of St. Andrews; Claire McMahon and Julie Fink of Goucher. Alison Sims, Sarah Fishback, and Meredith Gallagher also had Level 3 qualifying scores, but they had already received their certification at a previous competition.

2010 Nationals

The next ANRC National Intercollegiate Championships will be held at Sweet Briar College in Sweet Briar, VA, on April 17 and 18, 2010. ANRC memberships are required for competing schools. Scholarships covering team entry fees will be offered for the first three colleges submitting completed entries who have never shown at Nationals before. Anne Keenan and Bill Moroney have accepted invitations to judge. Anne Kenan has been involved in all aspects of the horse show industry for over three decades and has trained such students as Laura Kent Kraut (2008 Olympic Show Jumping team Gold Medal winner) and Holly Hays Orlando (one of the leading hunter riders in the country, who is now moving on to excel in the jumpers). She is a USEF "R" judge, and she previously judged the ANRC Championships in 2004. Bill Moroney has been professionally involved in the hunter and jumper industry for over 30 years, participating as a trainer, rider, owner, and judge. As a USEF Licensed "R" Judge in Hunter and Hunt Seat Equitation, he has officiated at such prestigious competitions as Devon, the National Horse Show, the Winter Equestrian Festival, the USEF National Medal Finals, and the USEF National Pony Medal Finals. Bill is the current President of the USHJA and serves on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the USEF.

To find out more about the 2010 Nationals, check the ANRC website www.anrc.org, or contact Mimi Wroten, Intercollegiate Chair, at mwroten@sbc.edu. If your school hasn't competed at Nationals before, check it out and get your entries in early!

USEF News

The next issue of the USEF magazine will contain an article about intercollegiate riding with information about ANRC, IHSA, VE, and IDA (what each organization offers to prospective students, similarities and differences in competition formats, etc.). In the near future, a reconstructed USEF website will have a "collegiate page" devoted to ANRC information, pictures, stories, and results.

ANRC Benefit Horse Show

North Fork School of Equitation in Jefferson, MD, hosted its third annual ANRC Benefit Horse Show on April 26, 2009, with equitation classes on the flat and over fences for all levels of riders. Proceeds from the benefit shows help to support ANRC's education and competitive activities. contact Marion Lee at marionhlee@verizon.net if you would like to hold an ANRC Benefit Show at your location.

Equitrials, Clinics and Certification Centers

Sweet Briar College's Spring Equitrial was held on April 4, 2009, with 29 participants. Jessica Straus, Michelle Karpaitis, Caroline King, and Laura Seymour qualified for certification at Level One. Sarah Lightbody, Jordan Fedrizzi, Emily Richonne, and Mollie Linden received Level Two certification. At the Sweet Briar College May 20, 2009 Certification Center, the following riders were certified: Louise Goodling at Level Three, and Ian McCartney, Jason Berry, and Alison Sims at Level Four. Congratulations to all the newly-certified riders! 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.

ANRC Board Members in the News

Shelby French's article "We are the Base of the Hunter/Jumper Pyramid" appears in the July 24, 2009 edition of the Chronicle of the Horse. Shelby provides a strong rationale why more riding instructors at the lower levels should be proud of their efforts in providing students with the "elements" of riding. Riders can then carry these basics forward to more advanced work or enjoy their skills in pleasure riding, foxhunting, or local showing. Shelby is Director of Riding at Sweet Briar College.

DVDs and Books

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

Past Newsletters

You can read newsletters from the last several years on the ANRC website www.anrc.org.