

## ANRC Newsletter - February 2006

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**The New ANRC**

ANRC is now an independent corporation with the new name of **American National Riding Commission, Inc** (still “ANRC”). Our goals of promoting educated riding are still the same, and we hope to soon be granted non-profit status.

*Visit the ANRC Website* ([www.anrc.org](http://www.anrc.org)) for up-to-date information:

Calendar of Events  
Articles of Interest

**Nationals in 2006 and 2007**

The ANRC National Intercollegiate Championship in 2006 will be held on April 22 and 23 at St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, NC. Patty Hueckeroth and Carol

Hoffman will officiate. For more information, contact Peggy McElveen at 910-277-5467 or [mcelveen@sapc.edu](mailto:mcelveen@sapc.edu).

In 2007, Nationals will be held at Centenary College in Hackettstown, NJ. For more information, contact Andrea Wells, [awells52@aol.com](mailto:awells52@aol.com). Centenary has competed in Nationals for the past several years.

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. The competition consists of three phases. On Saturday there is an intermediate program ride on contact using the 1-19 USEF tests to be ridden from memory. On Sunday there is an outdoor course 3' in height and a 3' hunter seat equitation course in the ring. All of the courses may be schooled on Thursday and Friday. Riders ride the same horse throughout the competition. They also sit for a written test on riding theory and equine science.

#### **Other upcoming ANRC events:**

**April 14, 2006** - Equitrial at Sweet Briar College. Contact Shelby French at (434)381-6347 or [sfrench@sbc.edu](mailto:sfrench@sbc.edu).

**May 26, 2006** - Certification Center at Sweet Briar College. Contact Shelby French at (434)381-6347 or [sfrench@sbc.edu](mailto:sfrench@sbc.edu).

#### **Board Members in the News**

Shelby French, Education Chair, was elected to the US Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) Board of Directors and serves as Co-Chair of the USHJA Affiliates Group of which the ANRC is a member.

Shelby French and Scot Evans have been invited to present two days of clinics focusing on the American System of Forward Riding for the 2006 Equine Affaire to be held in Columbus, Ohio, on April 7 and 8. Shelby and Scot will teach four 90 minute session each day, working with local riders and horses to improve their riding skills using the American System of Forward Riding.

Susan Deal, ANRC Director-at-Large, won the Theodora A. Randolph Field Hunter Championship of America aboard her Penn Park on October 2 at Glenwood Park in Middleburg, VA. For the championships, participants hunt with five different Northern Virginia hunts in the course of a week. Susan and Penn Park ("Rocky") were selected for the finals in their first hunt. She then participated with 19 other finalists in a mock hunt around Glenwood Par and negotiated a course of jumps, which included a trot jump, a halt, and a gate. Susan lauds Rocky as being an ideal hunter—she can trust him to trot up to a big fence while she is holding mane and looking back at her students. He is equally capable of going in front and keeping up.

#### **Noteworthy References**

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](http://www.anrc.org). The DVDs provide a systematic approach to riding, training, and teaching. Each volume contains two 50-minute DVDs and an accompanying

### Tributes

December saw the passing of two of ANRC's long-term supporters, Mary Aiken Littauer and Mrs. Katharine Russell.

Mary Aiken Littauer died at her home in Syosset, NY, on December 7. She was 93. She was the widow of Capt. Vladimir Littauer (well known for his books on forward riding), who died in 1989.

Mrs. Littauer's love of horses began with a childhood pony. As young woman, she was a volunteer courier in the Frontier Nursing Service in rural Kentucky. The chance to ride horses for many miles over roadless, mountainous terrain in a good cause was grand adventure. She met her future husband at the Boots and Saddles Club, a riding academy he founded in Manhattan with two other Russian emigres.

Mrs. Littauer was renowned for her extraordinary work in the field of archaeology, specializing in equestrian artifacts. Although she had no formal college education and didn't embark on her archaeological career until her mid-50s, Mrs. Littauer was nevertheless a highly respected scholar and a prolific author, writing more than 65 articles for various academic journals.

She frequently collaborated with Dr. Joost Crouwel, with whom she wrote two books: "Wheeled Vehicles and Ridden Animals in the Ancient Near East" and "Chariots and Related Equipment from the tomb of Tutankhamen". Both became standard reference works. She frequently advised colleagues on how an ancient bit or bridle was probably used, or where the chariot driver would have stood. She was keenly observant and famously analytical. Her suggestions were utterly practical, and her ability to interpret evidence found by others became legendary. To the chagrin of embarrassed curators in the British Museum, she once pointed out that an ancient horse's bit was being displayed upside down.

Also an accomplished linguist, Mrs. Littauer was fluent in French, and she taught herself ancient Greek, German, and Russian.

Katharine (Kay) Russell, director of the North Fork School of Equitation in Jefferson, MD, died at home after a short illness on December 22. She was 91.

Mrs. Russell founded the North Fork School of Equitation, a resident riding program and summer camp in Purcellville, VA, in 1959, and operated it there for 26 years. In 1985, she moved the school to Jefferson, MD, where she continued to teach riding up until her death. She was a staunch proponent of the forward riding system from its early days in the 1950's, when she participated in clinics at Sweet Briar College and absorbed the teachings of Capt. Vladimir Littauer, Clayton Bailey, and Harriet Rogers. She earned the highest rider Certification with the ANRC, then known as the DGWS (Division of Girls' and Women's Sports) and became a National Judge. She judged at many Certification centers and conducted clinics with Mr. Bailey and Jimmy Cantwell. Her articles on riding theory and teaching techniques were featured in DGWS publications.

Prior to starting her own school, Mrs. Russell was the Director of Riding at the Montesor School in Leesburg, Virginia. She also worked with Jane Dillon at the Junior Equitation School in Vienna, Virginia, for several years and ran the Hood College Riding Program from 1977 until 1992.

Mrs. Russell was passionate about fox hunting and rode regularly with several Virginia hunts until her late 70s, including Middleburg, Loudoun, and Short Hills. She was honored with a Life Membership by the Loudoun Hunt of Leesburg, Virginia. One of her greatest pleasures was taking her horses on overnight camping trips with her friends and pupils. She enjoyed occasional riding vacations in Ireland and Colorado. For many years, she competed in the 100-mile and 50-mile rides at the Homestead in Virginia.