

ANRC Newsletter – July 2011

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2011 ANRC National Intercollegiate Championship

The 34th annual National Intercollegiate Equitation Championships was hosted by the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) on April 14 – 17. While other areas experienced tornados and downpours, their Ronald C. Waranch Equestrian Center just outside Savannah GA in Hardeeville SC was luckily spared. Fifty-two riders from ten colleges were able to enjoy the beautiful facility, meticulously groomed arenas, challenging medal courses, and imposing new hunter trials fences.

For the first time this year, a Novice Division with fences at 2'6" was offered in addition to the 3' Nationals Division. Seven colleges fielded Novice teams or individual riders: Goucher College, Midway College, SCAD, St. Andrews Presbyterian College (SAPC), University of Georgia (UGA) The University of the South (Sewanee), and Virginia Intermont College (VIC). Midway, competing at their first Nationals, swept the Novice Division winning the team Championship over VIC. Midway's twin sisters, Alison and Erinn Born were Novice Individual Champion and Reserve.

Centenary College, Florida International University (FIU), Goucher, Midway, SCAD, SAPC, Sweet Briar College (SBC), UGA, Sewanee, and VIC all fielded Nationals riders. As first-time competitors, Midway, FIU, and UGA all received scholarship in the form of ANRC memberships. SCAD in its fourth team win in as many years was champion in the Nationals Division over Centenary and VIC. SCAD's Kels Bonham was the individual champion for the third time, besting her teammate Henrietta Armstrong.

Judges for the riding phases of the three-day competition were Bobbie Reber of Langley, British Columbia, Canada, and Caroline Jones, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Marion Lee, Leesburg, VA, judged the written phase.

Competition was preceded by two days of schooling, with riders from each college assigned times to practice with their coaches in each of the settings. Schooling began on Thursday, followed by the coaches' meeting and written test Thursday evening. A welcome party for competitors and coaches followed. The Novice Division written test was won by SAPC's Jennifer Callahan with a 96 over Goucher's Addie Jabin. Addie was unfortunately unable to continue in the competition as her horse came up lame the first day. Goucher's Amory Brandt scored a 98 to win the Nationals Division

written test phase over Laura Hannink of VIC (who was the 2010 winner) with 97.2. Topping the team score for the Novice Division written test phase was SAPC with 186 points over Goucher with 175. Goucher's Nationals Division riders upped the ante with a 195 team score over VIC's 187.2. The written test phase is highly contested even though its results do not count in the final overall scores, because scoring 95 or above results in bonus points added to the other phases, and a score below 71 results in a deduction of points in the ridden phases. Seventeen riders scored 90 or above in the written test this year, up from 10 last year.

Friday's Novice Division Dressage Sportif Phase was held in the beautifully manicured outdoor arena, which was flanked by an equally well-groomed and large warmup ring. The test included two jumps and movements such as counter canter, serpentines, backing, lengthening strides, and turn on the haunches. Alison Born of Midway was the individual winner with Bailey Cone of VIC second. Midway was the winning team over SCAD and SAPC. The Nationals riders performed their Dressage Sportif tests (with a second counter canter and more difficult transitions) on Saturday. Katie Haley of Centenary was the individual winner over Henrietta Armstrong of SCAD. SCAD's Nationals team bested Centenary in this phase.

On Sunday morning, doaches, riders, and spectators gathered by the far field to see riders and horses negotiate a beautifully built course that took riders from the field into the ring and back out over walls, aikes, banks, and an optional ditch that comprised the Hunter Trials Equitation Phase. Midway's Alison Born was the Novice Division individual winner over Mary-Ashley Marable and Bailey Cone – both from VIC. VIC secured the team win over Midway by one point. In the Nationals Division, SCAD's Kels Bonham posted the win over teammate Henrietta Armstrong and Goucher's Karli Postel. SCAD's Nationals team won by a close margin over SBC with VIC third.

Lunch was served to riders and coaches following the Hunter Trials Equitation Phase. Two special awards were presented: one to Peggy McElveen as the ANRC nominee for the USHJA Riding Instructor Award and the other to Marissa Cohen of Centenary College as the ANRC nominee for the USHJA Collegiate Amateur Award.

On Sunday afternoon, the Hunter Seat Equitation Phase, a USEF medal type course, was contested over a course designed by SCAD's Chair of Equestrian Studies Andrea Wells, who also designed the Hunter Trials course. Spreads, combinations, and changes of directions challenged horses and riders. Midway's sisters Alison and Erinn Born finished one-two over SCAD's Taylor Brown in the 2'6" division, and Midway's Novice team bested the SCAD and SAPC teams. In the Nationals Division, Goucher's Karli Postel won by a narrow margin over VIC's Lauren Hannick and SCAD's Lydia Todd. Goucher's team won (again by a narrow margin) over Centenary and VIC.

At the conclusion of the Hunter Seat Equitation, riders and horses gathered in the show ring for the final awards ceremony. A beautiful perpetual trophy sponsored by USEF was presented to the Novice team champion, Midway College. VIC was reserve, followed by SCAD and Sewanee. Alison Born was the Individual Overall Champion followed by her sister Erinn Born. VIC's Hayley Bolton was third. SCAD won the Betty Belser Memorial Trophy as the National team champion, with Centenary reserve, VIC third, and Goucher fourth. Kels Bonham received the Jon Conyers Memorial Trophy and the USHJA Affiliate Equitation Award as the overall high point Nationals rider. Henrietta Armstrong was a close second over Karli Postel and SAPC's Kimberly Graves. Marion Lee was awarded the ANRC nomination for the USHJA Professional Service Award. The awards ceremony was enhanced by special prizes donated by the competition's many sponsors, including USHJA, Dover Saddlery, Low Country Saddlery, Charles Owens, Randy Roy, Hoof and Woof, and Bahama Joes. SCAD's beautiful equitation mount Sculpture, who has participated on the winning SCAD team at seven ANRC Championships, was honored in a retirement ceremony.

Based on their scores in all four phases of the competition, eight riders received ANRC certification by mail following the event: SCAD's Henrietta Armstrong, Caroline Ingalls, and Hayley Bolton; VIC's Jordan Shelburne and Audrey Hanlon; Centenary's Kelsey Bernini and Katie Haley; and Goucher's Taylor Marcus. Five additional riders earned qualifying scores, but had already been certified in previous competitions or rating centers.

Coaches and competitors are looking forward to the 2012 Nationals competition, hosted by Centenary College in Long Valley NJ on April 20 – 22. For details see the ANRC website

ANRC Board Members in the News

A New Look

USHJA/ANRC Horsemanship Program

Coming in 2012! The USHJA will partner with ANRC to add a horsemanship curriculum to the USHJA Outreach Program. USHJA is working to achieve a horsemanship program that will provide a competitive experience that will appeal to riders and organizations in our sport by rewarding the participation and pursuit of education. Competitors in the USHJA/ ANRC Horsemanship Program may compete on an individual or team basis. Awards for each phase will be presented to the winning individual or team. Scores from each phase will be combined to form an overall score and/or determine a winner

Specifications for Competitors and Managers

The USHJA/ANRC Horsemanship Program is designed to allow each individual organization the flexibility and options necessary to best meet the needs of their facility and program participants. The Horsemanship Program provides three levels of competition. Each level consists of a program ride and a medal course, with the option to include a written test and/or derby style course.

Program rides are judged and scored on each movement and how skillfully it is performed by the horse and rider. Medal courses are performed in the constraints of a ring or arena. Written tests will be based on assigned topics from the Trainers Certification Manual (study guides are available online). The Derby style course includes natural fences placed outside of a ring or in a field.

USHJA/ANRC American Forward Riding Horsemanship Program Competition Levels

- Level One - Program Ride and Medal Course 2'3" - 2'6" (add Written Test option 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 option 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 option to make it a Three Phase or Four Phase)

Awards are given for individual winners of each phase, and by combining scores for each phase, awards are given for overall standings, all of which may be individual or team rankings. At the conclusion each participant will receive their program ride score sheet, scored written test, and may have an opportunity to receive feedback from the judge.

Management will be required to submit a \$5 entry fee for each participating USHJA member and a copy of the results to the USHJA Office within 10 days of the competition. The \$5 entry fee will be split between the USHJA and ANRC. The USHJA fee portion will be designated toward the support and awards for the USHJA/ANRC Horsemanship Class. The participant in each home region who earns the highest overall score (regardless of level or number of phases) at a single event throughout the competition year will be invited to attend an Emerging Athletes Program (EAP) training session of their choice as an auditor and will receive a travel stipend for the event.

Managers may conduct the USHJA/ANRC Horsemanship Program classes in conjunction with a regular horse show or it can be offered as a stand-alone event. Please refer to the show requirements for Outreach Level Competitions. Information and materials be found on the USHJA website at www.ushja.org to conduct and score any level or phase of the competition.

To learn more about the "American System of Forward Riding" visit the ANRC website at www.anrc.org. The DVD series called "*American System of Forward Riding: Life Lessons Learned with Horses*" by Shelby French and R. Scot Evans is available for purchase. You can also view segments of a program ride, derby course, and medal course from the 2011 ANRC National Intercollegiate Equitation Championship at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Equitrials and Certifications

Future ANRC Competitions

The North Fork School of Equitation in Jefferson, Maryland, has an ANRC Benefit Show for September 25, 2011. The benefit show will have hunter equitation classes at several levels and is open to all riders. 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.

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 www.anrc.org.