May 31, 2006

MAY 2006 LAHSA E-NEWS

Marnye Langer - President

Summer is calling. For all of us who are parents, our kids are counting the days – and even the hours -- until school is out. In getting ready for summer, the LAHSA Board of Directors and committees have been hard at work.

Clinics

There are a number of clinics being held in our area, and I encourage you to take part. Clinics are a great way to learn about your riding and horsemanship from some excellent horsemen. Even if you can't ride in a clinic, go audit. You will be amazed at how much insight you glean. This past weekend (June 3-4) Flintridge Riding Club hosted a clinic with Linda Allen. There is no charge for auditing. Linda was a top jumper rider and represented the U.S. in international competition. She is now one of about a dozen FEI "O" course designers in the world. The "O" ranking is the highest level and Linda has designed courses for the Olympics. A complete list of clinics is listed on our LAHSA website.

Barbaro

I am sure many of you watched the Kentucky Derby and cheered for Barbaro and Michael Matz. Just as many of us shed a tear for the tragedy sustained at the Preakness when Barbaro broke down. So far it looks like the three year old is going to recover, although he will never race again. If you wish to send a message to Barbaro or his trainer, Michael Matz, the USEF is compiling messages at: matzbarbaro@usef.org. For those who may not know, Michael has been one of our top jumper riders for several decades. He has represented our country in three Olympic Games (1976, 1992 and 1996), and helped our team win a Silver medal in 1996. He was honored with carrying the flag in the closing ceremonies of that same Olympics.

Goal Setting

We have another article on our LAHSA website from award winning journalist Karen Briggs. In this article Karen talks about the importance of setting goals, and she talked to two LAHSA trainers. Kay Altheuser talks about goal setting for junior riders, and Philip Klipa talked about setting goals with adult riders. It's a great article, so be sure to check it out.

LAHSA Horsemastership

Can you name a plant that is poisonous to horses? What are two common vaccines you would have the vet give your horse? Where is the "frog" as it pertains to your horse? Can you answer these questions? If so, make sure you sign up for the LAHSA Horsemastership competition. Hey parents, there is a $5,000 college scholarship that will be split among the top three winners!

The LAHSA Horsemastership competition consists of a riding test (submit a VHS or DVD of a round during a 2006 horse show), and written and hands-on tests that will be given during Gold Coast 7 in October. We'll have more information on the LAHSA website, and e-mail Program Coordinator Katie Gardner for more information (kgcece28@hotmail.com).

Championship Shows

The Championship Shows Committee has been working to plan our LAHSA A and LAHSA B Championship Shows. As specified by our rules, the A Championship Show is held at the LAHSA Benefit Show (aka Gold Coast 6). With the Rosewood Finals and LAHSA Horsemanship Finals this is not a show to be missed.

The B Championship Show will be held at Gold Coast 7 this year. Stay tuned for more details.

Volunteers

A number of LAHSA members and parents have responded to our requests for volunteers. Some people have volunteered to write stories about LAHSA shows they attend. Others are going to help create scrapbooks and slide shows highlighting our history and special events. There are many ways to get involved, so if you want to help out please e-mail: marnyelanger@aol.com.

What Do You Think?

That's right, we want to hear from you. In my last E-News I asked people about their favorite horse books. Not many people responded, but Carrie Wolf took the time to tell me that she found the novel, "Riders" highly entertaining. Our own Executive Director, Charlotte Skinner, is a huge fan of horse stories but she had a hard time picking her favorites. Finally, she admitted that "Skyrocket," a story about a little girl and her jumping pony, and "Dark Horse Barnaby" were two special favorites.

Here is my question for this month, and I hope many of you will take the time to share your thoughts:

> What does LAHSA mean to you? Do you join for more than the chance to compete for year end awards and to ride in the medal classes? What would you like from LAHSA? Are there things we could offer that we aren't? What shouldn't we change?

Okay, so that is more than one question, but I hope many of you will take the time to answer at least one of my questions. I know we have some terrific members with some great ideas and thoughts about our organization. The board is here to work for you, so let us know what you think. E-mail me at: marnyelanger@aol.com.

Have a great summer and take it easy in the heat while all of us and our horses acclimate to the warmer temperatures.

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