



E-News

April 2010

President's Message



If the adage, “April showers bring May flowers” is true, we should enjoy a palette of color this Spring. Our unseasonal cold and rainy weather just when we thought Southern California Spring was here caused me to pull out my sweaters and

my barn unpacked the winter blankets they had so cheerfully packed away. However, I have enjoyed riding throughout Griffith Park surrounded by a bounty of wild flowers. I hope many of our members venture out of the confines of the arena for some scenic outside riding.

The LAHJA show season is in full swing. Be sure to check your points online and familiarize yourself with the changes to the year-end point structure. This year you have to earn points at a minimum of five shows in order to be eligible for a year end award. Details about the revisions to the point structure are highlighted in our monthly e-newsletters and in the LAHJA Rule Book.

The LAHJA Horsemastership Scholarship is another must-do for our junior members. Not only will you learn more about your horse and general horsemanship, but you will have a chance to win a scholarship for college. Every year LAHJA awards \$5,000 in college scholarships to the top finishers in the LAHJA Horsemastership competition. Once again Sandrine Seifert will conduct Horsemastership seminars in the summer months. Check the [LAHJA website](#) and the e-news for dates and times. If you want more information, [e-mail Sandrine](#) directly.

For the riding phase of the Horsemastership your DVDs will be due in the fall, and the written and hands-on portions of the competition will be held in conjunction with Gold Coast 7 (Oct. 21-24). Stay tuned and we hope to see

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Horse Truth:

People who don't take care of their own horses will be the first ones to tell you how to care for yours.

Upcoming Dates:

April 24-25: [Foxfield Spring](#)
 April 25: [Elvenstar April B](#)
 Apr 30-May 2: [Flintridge Children's](#)
 May 8: [Camelot May](#)
 May 15-16: [Verdugo Hills/Lake View 4](#)
 May 21-23: [Gold Coast 3](#)
 May 27-31: [Memorial Day Classic](#)

Visit LAHJA on the web at www.lahja.org.

Get extra exposure for your business by displaying your link here. [Contact Marnye](#) for information on sponsorship opportunities.

lots of juniors participating.

And be sure to check out our perpetual sponsors and thank them for supporting LAHJA's awards. If you are interested in sponsoring a year-end award, contact [Sterling Champ](#) or [Marnye Langer](#).

I hope you enjoy this month's LAHJA E-News and take a trail ride one of these days to see what you can see. Perhaps Dr. Suess's *To Think That I Saw it on Mulberry Street* will be an inspiration. [E-mail me](#) your trail riding adventures and experiences and I'll include them in a future LAHJA E-Newsletter.

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Horsemastership Important Dates

Dates of the Program for 2010

Hands on and Written Phase will be held during Gold Coast 7 on Saturday, October, 23rd 2010.

Dates of the Test Review for 2010

Test Review/Clinic will be held during the Hansen Dam Fall Preview Horse Show on Saturday afternoon, October 30th at 3:00 P.M. (This is the day prior to the 1st IEL show.)

Summer Seminars

Summer Workshop for the Horsemastership Program will be held at D&D Stables at Hansen Dam Equestrian Center on Wednesday and Thursday August 18-19 from 2:00 - 4:00 PM.

Sandrine Seifert will be holding this workshop with some help from our graduated Horsemastership students. This workshop is free for LAHJA members. Please register with Sandrine by email: ddstables@gmail.com.

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Perpetual Trophies

LAHJA is in the process of creating perpetual trophies for the year-end awards. A big thank you to the sponsors we have received so far! If you would like to sponsor a perpetual trophy or know someone who does, please [contact Marnye](#).

Sponsors and trophies we've received so far are:

Large Pony Hunter: [Everwood & Ginny Planke](#)

A Equitation 14 & Under: [Shadowbrook & Jeni Brown](#)

A Equitation 15-17: Shining Star Trophy

B Equitation 15-17: Jigsaw Farms

Children's & Adult Amateur Jumpers: [Langer Equestrian Group/ Larry & Marnye Langer](#)

Junior & Amateur/Owner Jumpers [Martin McAllister Training/ Jenni & Steve McAllister](#)

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Member Profile: Susan Krieg

LAHJA E-News: When and how did you start riding?

Susan Krieg: When I was about nine, my mom thought it might be nice for me take a couple of riding lessons over the summer. Next thing she knew she was buying me a pony.

LAHJA E-News: What do you consider to be the highlights of your riding career thus far?

Susan Krieg: Sometimes I think just finishing a course well is a great achievement, but I'm also proud to have won the USHJA Regional Sportsmanship Award, PCHA Adult Horsemanship Finals, and the PHA West (now the CPHA Foundation) Finals.

LAHJA E-News: Do you have any hobbies outside of riding?

Susan Krieg: I never thought I would say this, but I actually enjoy running. It keeps me in good shape for riding.

LAHJA E-News: Is there a rider you particularly admire or enjoy watching/learning from? Why?

Susan Krieg: My trainers Jeni and Emma both ride great but have very different styles. I learn a lot just by watching them. Their confidence and experience always inspires me.

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From the Judge's Box

Question: When a trot fence is part of an equitation test after a halt, how do you feel if riders canter and then break to the trot? (Especially when the trot fence is a distance from the halt point.)

“I use this one as a tie breaker. If the test doesn't call for cantering before trotting I'd rather not see it done this way. If I wanted to see the canter, I'd ask for it. I try to arrange my tests so that this is not an option.” -- Debbie Sands

“The test is to trot the fence, so I don't really mind if the rider canters first and then breaks back to the trot shortly before the jump. If a rider halts and can canter beautifully out of the halt and then do a smooth trot transition and jump a lovely trot jump out of a rhythmic trot, then they might well beat the person who just trots down to the jump and also jumps it well. Equitation is about showing the partnership that you have with your horse, and the more you can show me about the quality of the performance that your horse is willing to give for you the better. Just remember, getting fancy and doing it poorly is never going to beat doing the basics well.” -- Shelby French

“I would prefer that a rider use the canter and then transition to the trot. I always wonder why riders and their trainers fail to use this opportunity to show their riding/training skills.” -- DiAnn Langer

“I would expect them to canter and then show a downward transition to the trot a few strides from the trot jump.” -- Skip Thornbury

“I think that every trot fence should be done in a straight line, unless otherwise instructed. Therefore, after a halt, if the trot fence is straight ahead on a line, then cantering is not appropriate. However, if the trot fence is far away, I see nothing wrong with cantering until the rider is on a straight line, then breaking to the trot, unless otherwise instructed by the judge.” -- Penny Carpenter

“I think if the test is halt and then trot a jump they should trot to the jump. Unless the trot jump is very, very far from the halt point.” -- Susie Schoelkopf

If you have a question for From the Judge's Box, please send it to Marnye Langer at marnyelanger@gmail.com.

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Board Member Profile: Betsy Woods

This month, we'll learn a little about Betsy Woods, board member of LAHJA.

LAHJA E-News: What is your function as a board member? What are some of your responsibilities?

Betsy Woods: My duties include bringing ideas forward to the board and the committees I serve on (hunter/jumper/show). I listen to ideas, complaints, problems, issues, etc. from others and form my best opinion on each while representing the members of LAHJA. I try to be unbiased toward any interest group.

LAHJA E-News: What do you get out of being a board member? Why do you do it?

Betsy Woods: I love to serve on boards of directors because you can set the direction for the organization and therefore the sport. You have a chance to implement what the members want.

LAHJA E-News: How long have you been involved with LAHJA and with showing horses? How did you get started?

Betsy Woods: I have been on the LAHJA board 5 years (I think) and was on the Santa Barbara board for 20 years! With the Santa Barbara board, I served in every capacity-- president, vice president, secretary, treasurer--at least once.

I started into the horse business as a teenager teaching my neighbors how to ride. My first job was in high school as a dude ranch instructor. In college I started working for Sujack Arabians in Hidden Hills. Eventually I moved to Santa Barbara to start my own hunter/jumper business. I have done many things in the industry, including ground driving, saddle seat showing on Morgans and Arabians, breaking babies, artificial insemination technician in Santa Ynez with Arabians, breeding ranch manager with three stallions and 125 mares. I could go on and on!

LAHJA E-News: What are your goals/plans for this show year?

Betsy Woods: This year I am hoping to qualify two or three of my students for Harrisburg. We will go back for that and Capital Challenge and maybe Maclay. Also, I have a lot of wonderful, talented greener riders showing mainly in Santa Barbara. Some good amateurs, too.

LAHJA E-News: Do you have any visions for the future of LAHJA?

Betsy Woods: I am very happy with the progressive attitude of the LAHJA in recent years. Many new programs have begun that are educational, affordable and innovative. This board is not afraid to try new things.

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The monthly LAHJA E-News is sponsored by LEG Up News. LEG Up News provides public relations and marketing services to the equestrian sport, especially show jumping and dressage. LEG Up News features stories about events, riders and associations from the West Coast, as well as coverage of key competitions that have national and international championships. For more information or to obtain photos, please contact LEG UP News at marnyelanger@gmail.com. Please contact us for additional stories from this and other shows, as well as additional quotes.

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