

LAHJA February 2011 E-News

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Upcoming Dates:

Feb 27: Camelot <http://www.camelotevents.com/horseshows.html>

Mar 5-6: Verdugo Hills 2 [http://langershows.com/verdugo/show\\_details.php?show\\_id=195](http://langershows.com/verdugo/show_details.php?show_id=195)

Mar 12: Camelot <http://www.camelotevents.com/horseshows.html>

Mar 18-20: LAEC Winter [http://langershows.com/laec/show\\_details.php?show\\_id=182](http://langershows.com/laec/show_details.php?show_id=182)

Mar 26: Camelot <http://www.camelotevents.com/horseshows.html>

Mar 27: Elvenstar <http://elvenstar.com/Pineridge/ElvenstarRegionalCompetitionCalendar.pdf>

Horse Truth: The worse a person rides, the more likely they are going to blame it on the horse.

**President's Message**

We may only be in February, but there is a lot going on! We've already had a few LAHJA shows and there are plenty more to come. Let's just hope the weather gods cooperate!

Have you seen Cavalia? Don't miss this lovely, inspiring extravaganza that combines the spectacle of Cirque du Soleil artistry and acrobatics with amazing feats of horsemanship. It's playing right in downtown Burbank, and you can't miss the stunning big top tents piercing the sky. <http://www.cavalia.net/pages/upComingShows/los-angeles.aspx>

New for 2011: LAHJA Pony Jumpers! Pony jumper riders can now compete for a year end award, and this category is also counted for the LAHJA Pony Overall Award. The specifications for this new section are in this month's E-News and in the 2011 LAHJA Rule Book. The USHJA will begin counting points for Low Pony Jumpers in September for the 2011-12 point season. LAHJA Pony Jumpers will be consistent with the USHJA Low Pony Jumpers, giving members opportunities for more awards.

And once again the USHJA will host an Emerging Athletes Program Level 1 clinic right in LAHJA territory. Hansen Dam Equestrian Center will be the site of the May 7-8 training session. For more information on this excellent program, visit the USHJA website: <http://www.ushja.org/EAP/default.aspx> This is a great program for junior riders, and I encourage as many of you as possible to apply.

So as you can see, there is a lot going with LAHJA. Get out there, have fun, and since it is Valentine's Day this month, give your horse or pony an extra kiss!

Marnye Langer

**Year-end Perpetual Trophy sponsors:**

Large Pony Hunter  
Everwood & Ginny Planke  
[everwoodstable@yahoo.com](mailto:everwoodstable@yahoo.com)

A Equitation 14 & Under  
Shadowbrook & Jeni Brown  
[www.shadowbrookstable.com](http://www.shadowbrookstable.com)

A Equitation 15-17  
Shining Star Trophy

B Equitation 15-17  
Jigsaw Farms

Children's & Adult Amateur Jumpers  
Langer Equestrian Group/ Larry & Marnye Langer  
[www.langershows.com](http://www.langershows.com)

Junior & Amateur/Owner Jumpers  
Martin McAllister Training/ Jenni & Steve McAllister  
[www.martinmcallistertraining.com](http://www.martinmcallistertraining.com)

## Horsemastership Program

The 2010 Horsemastership program concluded in November after three phases of competition: Riding, in which participants submitted a video from a competition round during the year, Hands-on, a stable management test, and Written, where they answered a variety of questions about horsemanship, parts of the horse, and other knowledge based questions. With all the points tallied, Ali Ohringer (Elvenstar, trainer) emerged the winner. In fact, she has won twice before and placed second once. All told, she has earned \$9,000 toward her college education through the Horsemastership program.

Ali's consistently high performance throughout the competition earned her a final score of 265.95. She won the Written phase with 94.95 and tied for first in the Hands-on with Claire Sears and Rebecca Wemicke with 98. Since this phase resulted in a tie, the girls will share the perpetual trophy, each keeping it for four months.

"I was definitely excited to win this year," Ali commented. "My goal for Horsemastership 2010 was to finish in the top three so I could save a little more money for college. I've been competing in this program ever since its very first year, learning new things along the way. Every year is an opportunity to reinforce good habits (in the hands-on phase) and to gain and secure new knowledge (in the written phase). I really enjoy participating in Horsemastership, so I am glad I competed again."

The race for the trophies was a hot one, but having some friends in the competition with her made it all the better for Ali. "These girls I competed against are incredibly knowledgeable about horsemanship, but they are smart outside of the horse world, too. There was camaraderie, as there always is with Elvenstar students. We all went to Sandrine Seiffert's summer clinic, where we helped each other out, studied, and learned new things together."

Ali started riding 12 years ago when she got a postcard in the mail for Elvenstar Summer camp. She is currently a senior at Westlake High, and she is off to college this fall. Although she doesn't know yet where she'll be going, she plans to keep horses in her life. "Almost all of the schools that I applied to have either an IHSA or NCAA equestrian team, and those that don't have a barn nearby. I will definitely continue to ride in college, and I will come home to Elvenstar during winter, spring, and summer breaks."

Ali's barnmate, Kayla Lott, was pleasantly surprised and very happy when she learned she won the Riding phase of the competition with a score of 84. Having just turned eleven in January of this year, Kayla was one of the youngest kids in the competition. "She felt very proud of herself," commented her mother, Michelle. "She a little shocked, because she was competing against older kids at her barn. It was her first year in the program, so she just wanted to see what it was all

about. I wanted her to get the experience. Kayla loves horses, and I thought it was good for her to participate in the education side, not just the fun side."

The seventh grader at Monte Vista Middle School in Camarillo has been riding for four-and-a-half years. Kayla still has several years ahead of her to see what she can do in the Horsemastership program. "It's a great opportunity for the younger kids, even though they might not do as well as the older ones," Michelle continued. "However, if they do it while they're younger, they'll know what to expect for the next year. Kayla will keep participating, and she'll have a few years under her belt by the time she has the opportunity to win a scholarship."

Claire Sears (Mary Gatti, trainer) placed second overall with 262.75 points after tying with Ali for first place in the Hands-on phase and placing second in the Written phase. Emma Blackwood (Vickie Hanson, trainer) came in third overall with 259.5 points and placed third in the Written phase. Eden Ritholz (Mary Gatti, trainer) earned the 11 & Under award for the second time, this year with a total score of 231.

The Horsemastership program awards a \$5,000 scholarship each year, with \$2,500 to the first place overall winner, \$1,500 to second place, and \$1,000 to third. Trophies are also awarded the overall winner and winners of each phase.

Information on the 2011 Horsemastership program will be available on the LAHJA website ([www.lahja.org](http://www.lahja.org)) and in the E-news later this year.

### **Pony Jumper Specifications**

The specifications for the new Pony Jumpers section, as outlined in the LAHJA rulebook, are below. For complete rules as they pertain to our organization, visit the website at <http://lahja.org/pdf/RuleChangesfor2011.pdf>.

#### **PONY JUMPERS – .95M (3'1") - 1.M (3'3") – 'A' Rated Section**

Riders may not cross enter into any jumper class at the same show with fences exceeding 1.10M (3'7"), except Junior/Amateur Modified Jumpers and Regular Children's Jumpers.

Classes to count: Pony Jumper classes held at heights of .95M (3'1") or 1.00M (3'3"), or Low Children's Jumper classes set within the same height specifications.

If two Pony Jumper sections are offered, i.e. "Low" Pony Jumper, only the section set within the defined heights will count for points. Should both sections be set within the defined heights, only the lower level will count for points.

## **EquestrianCoach.com Member Discount Program**

As a special benefit to LAHJA members, EquestrianCoach.com offers a special discount on subscriptions to the site. To sign up, simply go to [www.EquestrianCoach.com](http://www.EquestrianCoach.com) and click on "JOIN". Be sure to put "LAHJA" in the coupon code box to get your 10% discount.

## **The Equestrian Minute**

**Written by: Sandrine Seifert and the LAHJA Education Committee**

Welcome to the Equestrian Minute! Education is an important aspect of LAHJA, and the association strives to educate members about horsemanship, horse care, knowledge of association and show rules, and more. If you have any ideas or suggestions for a topic of the month for Equestrian Minute, email Sandrine Seifert at [ddstables@gmail.com](mailto:ddstables@gmail.com). Your topic may be chosen next!

Last month, we gave some barn safety tips, and we will look at some more this month.

1. When you groom, bridle, or show clip your horse's face, do not stand directly in front of him, but to the side. That way, if the horse were to lunge forward at you, you would not get hurt, bitten, or run over. Also, a horse cannot see directly in front of him, so if you stand directly in front of him, he may not see you and could be startled.
2. When giving your horse treats, pay attention. Horses may not intend to bite your fingers, but they may do it by mistake, especially if you're looking away or talking to a friend and allow your fingers to get in the way. Form a shallow "cup" with your hands so that your fingers and thumb are not separated and the treats are in the middle. This way, your horse won't accidentally mistake your finger for a treat.
3. When you get off of your horse, run your stirrups up. If you leave your stirrups hanging, they could get caught on something, which could scare your horse and possibly cause damage or injury. Also, if aren't paying attention and your horse were to turn his head to his side, he could get his bit stuck in the stirrup (especially if he is wearing a full cheek) and possibly hurt himself. Also, if your horse were to get loose with the stirrups hanging, he could get scared with the stirrups flapping on his sides, or the stirrups could get caught on something.
4. While on your horse, be careful of people handing things to you. Make sure they approach slowly and carefully. A quick movement or noise from a plastic bag, opening of an aluminum can, or a sleeve flapping from a sweater or sweatshirt could spook your horse. While grabbing something from someone on the ground, you are in a vulnerable position. Be aware, have your feet in your stirrups, and keep a good grip on your reins.

Even the “bomb proof” horses can occasionally get scared, so it’s best to make sure you are always prepared and in a safe position in case they do.

Next month: learn about TPR. What does it stand for? How do you take or check each? And what are the normal ranges of each?

### **Committees**

Committees make sure that someone is in charge of handling all of the important operations of the association. Descriptions of each of LAHJA’s committees are below; visit the website (<http://www.lahja.org/committees.php>) for more information or for contact information for current committee chairs.

**Budget and Finance:** The purpose of this committee is to put on the most extravagant, lavish year-end banquet possible and present the highest quality awards possible. When there is money left over, it is used to fund other programs as needed, such as scholarships. Income is derived from horse show fees and membership dues, and it is hoped that when the economy improves, there will be more sponsorships as well to help fund needed programs.

**Show Dates:** This committee inspects eligibility of show date applications, determines their eligibility under the current rules, and recommends either approval or denial to the Board. This committee reviews the current requirements for shows to be approved, the current standards for approved shows, and makes recommendations for rule or procedure changes to the Board in these areas.

**Rules:** This committee has the responsibility to review the rules, interpret the rules, clarify the rules, and propose rule changes. All proposed rule changes go to this committee before they are presented to the whole board.

**Banquet:** The purpose of the Banquet Committee is to create an atmosphere that enhances the awards ceremony, as LAHJA accomplishments represent a high level of achievement. Occurring at year end, it allows many recipients to finish the season with a fond and lasting memory of their accomplishments. It also signals to those with fewer accomplishments that year that a new competition season is just around the corner and ready to start.

**Education:** The Education Committee runs a monthly blurb in the LAHJA e-news called the Equestrian Minute. This will be a question and answer mini session to educate riders on horsemanship, show rules, riding and grooming techniques. The Education Committee is also responsible for the Horsemastership Program, which is a program that awards Scholarships for Overall Top Scorers of the program. The Horsemastership Program is made up of hands-on,

written, and riding phases with education and workshops preparing participants for the three-phased test.

Hunter/Jumper/Equitation: The Hunter/Jumper/Equitation Committee discusses and proposes rule changes that benefit the LAHJA Membership.

### **Board Member Profile: Nick Karazissis, Jr.**

This month, we'll get to know a little more about LAHJA's newest board member, Nick Karazissis, Jr.

LAHJA E-news: How long have you been riding, and how did you get started?

Nick: I've been riding on and off for as long as I can remember, but I've been taking it seriously since I was about 14. I played baseball and did horses during high school, then focused on horses after I graduated. My family has owned Far West Farms for about 40 years, so I grew up in horse world. My father, Nick, my uncle Kost, my aunt Jenny, and my sister Cassandra and cousin Katrina are all in the business. We also consider Lisa Winn to be part of our family. She provides a lot of support and is a key factor in helping me to become the rider that I am today.

LAHJA E-news: At what point did you become a trainer, and what are the best parts of your job?

Nick: When I was 18, I was going to community college and balancing riding horses with doing school work. Then I got a job as an assistant to Ray Texel, and that was when I decided I wanted to do this for the rest of my life. I think I knew it even before that with my father being a trainer, but Ray was a big inspiration for me, being an Olympic hopeful at the age of 27. I worked with him at Beverly Hills Equestrian Park for four-and-a-half years, and now I've been working at Mike Edrick Stables in Agoura Hills for about seven years.

The best part of my job is sharing my love of horses with others who also have the love for the animal. I love working with kids--teaching them and whatever I can help them with. Getting a pony kid going into ring for the first time and experiencing their nerves and joys with them is probably the most fun.

LAHJA E-news: Why did you join the LAHJA Board? What is your vision--what do you hope to accomplish?

Nick: This goes back to the pony kids. We're always on the road going to A-rated shows, but we also go to Gold Coast and other local shows. I think it's so important that local community and the local horse shows are supported, and to make sure they are going in the right direction. I like to be able to share ideas and be a part of that. I think the board does a great job, leading us forward in a direction that's positive with the scholarships, awards, etc.

LAHJA E-news: What do you feel is the greatest benefit to membership in LAHJA?

Nick: I think the educational program is huge, and the scholarships are fantastic. We also have some of the nicest year-end awards, and the banquet was beautifully done. To be a part of that is pretty special. I think everything within LAHJA is done just right.