

Bits and Brags

Volume 2

May 2008

Top 10 Spooky Things A horse's point of view

10. Blowing Paper: "At any moment it could whip up into our faces, covering our noses. We could suffocate. And don't try to tell us you'd do CPR."
9. Barking Dogs: "What? You've never read Steven King's *CUJO*?"
8. Puddles of Water: "Quicksand."
7. Trash Cans: "They've been known to swallow horses and transport them into another dimension."
6. Babies and Li'l Kids: "Long lost tribe of horse-eating pygmies."
5. Plaid Horse Blankets: "Hey, when was the last time you wore plaid? It adds 100 lbs."
4. Ropes and Hoses on the Ground: "Dreaded North American Trail Snakes."
3. Ponies: "Cute, clever, hardy. They want to take over the world."
2. Windy Days: "Two Words: impending tornado."
1. Carts and Wagons: "Look. You put a human on our backs; we can always buck them off. But hitching a horse to a wheeled object? It's just not right."

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GHCTA NEWS!

Points Information

GHCTA will also be giving out division high point awards to members for EACH level at EACH show in the 2008 season! We will be awarding each level of horse trial offered. Intermediate-Green As Grass. For example, the GHCTA member with the lowest novice horse trial score will be getting a prize. There will also be a Volunteer prize given by the show management, so make sure you volunteer! The prizes for the 2008 shows are \$50 Gift Certificates to Legacy Tack!! Winners will be notified after the horse show, and we will be emailing the gift certificates.

GHCTA Membership Information 2008

Effective immediately—all GHCTA membership applications and horse registrations must be mailed to: Ruth Sawin 1720 Hwy 159 E Bellville, TX 77418 and paid for by check (no cash) made out to GHCTA. These applications, registrations and checks must be received by the membership chairman before the start of the show in order for the GHCTA member to receive points. Dropping off a membership form at a show, schooling, banquet or enclosing it in with an entry will not guarantee timely receipt by the membership chairman. Please check the membership list at shows and on the website to determine if your membership and your horse's registration are current.



FEATURE
STORY -
WRITTEN

Horses, for those who love them, have a way of changing lives. Melissa Hunsberger's life changed at age 12 when introduced to riding at a summer camp in Pennsylvania. Her first horse, a young ex-race horse mare named Black Diamond took her through Prelim and she was hooked for good. At age 18, not wealthy and realizing that to pursue her dreams of competing at the top levels of the sport she would need much expert advice, she applied to well known eventer Phyllis Dawson's highly regarded Windchase Farms working student program. Although Melissa and Diamond had more guts than finesse at that point, galloping all fences at 600 meters per minute, Phyllis was impressed by Melissa's courage and willing attitude and offered her a spot in the program. Melissa was thrilled. Windchase, a 245-acre farm nestled in the heart of horse country outside Purcellville, Virginia, is an unbelievably beautiful place that comes about as close to Heaven on Earth as is possible for a horse person. It is also home to nearly 70 horses, lovely equine facilities and an on-property cross country course featuring fences through Intermediate level. And Phyllis, having competed in such illustrious events as the 1988 Seoul Olympics and Open European Championships at Burghley in 1997 among others, was the perfect person to help her make horses and eventing her career. She knew it would be hard work but that was a price she was more than willing to pay.

And work hard she did. At Windchase Melissa began to learn what it took to be a complete horse person, often starting the day before the sun was fully up and ending long after it had set. Money was always tight but the learning opportunities were vast. Melissa flourished and when the time of the apprenticeship was up, Phyllis was so impressed by her she offered Melissa a job. While at Windchase she had been working with Black Diamond and had her going so well she was able to sell her for a nice profit and use the funds to buy a young 3 year old prospect and lease Snowy River, the four star horse Phyllis had ridden around the formidable Burghley course. Between the young mare Expedience and the old opinionated campaigner Snowy, Melissa got quite an education. If she wasn't encouraging enough with the young mare things could go wrong fast; if she wasn't exact enough in her riding to a fence Snowy would stop. After some time and many ups and downs however things began to really take shape and Melissa was able to ultimately get mileage with Snowy at Intermediate level by 2002 before his retirement late that year. But 2003 would bring a new partner named Just Fun Stuff and Melissa's life would change again.

Melissa and Fun clicked right from the beginning. He had come to Windchase on consignment. And after riding and competing on him, he completely stole her heart. Money still was tight, but Melissa had been buying, training, and reselling young horses with Phyllis' help. Between selling a couple of those horses and a no-interest loan from a relative, Fun was hers. Now, working with Expedience and Fun, things again began to gel with some inevitable bumps along the way. Always hungry to learn and do more, Melissa made the decision to take both horses Advanced at the Maui Jim Wayne Horse Trails in July 2005. The effort was a success. Melissa finished 8th on Expedience and 16th on Fun. Her hard work and dedication was paying off. There was much more to learn and aim for but she felt her dream was coming true.

2007 was shaping up to be the best year ever for Melissa and her horses. Since 1999 when Melissa had seen her first Rolex Kentucky 3 Day Event she had dreamed of riding in it. That dream came true this past spring when Melissa and Just Fun Stuff not only competed in the CCI**** Rolex but also went clean cross country and finished 17th overall in very tough company. Having had such a successful spring, Melissa looked forward to the fall competitions. Early fall brought more good news with a 2nd place on Expedience and a 3rd place on Fun going Advanced at the difficult Morven Park Horse Trails. Everyone was looking with anticipation towards CCI*** Fair Hill in October. Things started out well for Melissa and Fun had a bad fall. Melissa was bruised and shaken but all right, but Fun was not so fortunate. As he stood again it was apparent that he had sustained a serious injury. After being taken to the equine hospital it was determined he had broken his scapula.

The good news is that Fun is recovering at Windchase where Melissa hopes someday to begin to ride him again. Melissa herself is trying to plan for the future. She has high aspirations, and hopes to someday represent her country in International competition like her mentor Phyllis. With Fun out of the picture at least for the time being, she will need to find a promising young horse to bring along and aim for the top. Phyllis Dawson says, "We are trying to start a fund for Melissa to buy a young horse who will be a great prospect for the future. The American Horse Trials Foundation is an organization that is set up to allow individuals to donate funds to a particular rider, in a way that is tax deductible. If you would like to contribute, your help would be much appreciated."

If you wish to donate, make a check out to the AHTF. Do not put Melissa's name on the check anywhere, just make it out as a contribution to the Foundation. Send it to Phyllis Dawson at Windchase Farm 36502 Kidwell Road Purcellville, VA 20132 (or go to the Windchase website at www.teamwindchase.com) and she will send it on to the American Horse Trials Foundation with a cover letter and the proper paperwork. Through the Foundation, your contribution will go entirely to Melissa. The AHTF will send you a letter of receipt and thanks that will be documentation for the IRS for tax-deductible status.

Eventer Common Knowledge

Eventer is slightly hunched over. This could be from carrying three saddles, three bridles, three bits, and all related color coordinated gear to every event, or it could possibly be a defensive posture where he/she is unconsciously protecting his/her wallet, which is, of course, nearly empty from buying three saddles, three bridles, three bits and all related color coordinated gear. Looked down on by the H/J's as "people who just run their horses at fences" and by the DQ's as "not real dressage riders" Eventers are smugly convinced that they are in fact the only people in the horse world who CAN ride, since the H/J's don't jump real fences and the DQ's don't ride real horses.

Eventer -- "I broke my collarbone/ribs/ankle again last week, but I'll be fine for the jog-up tomorrow." "How do you get pond water out of saddle leather?" "Did you see our showjumping where Fastnhighasican bounced the two stride combination?" "Did you see our final gallopdowncenterlineandrear? I think he is finally starting to relax in dressage." "Oh, it's just a little concussion. Have you seen my horse?"

Tips

During hot and humid weather, keep a fan blowing in your tack room (or wherever you keep your horse gear) to circulate air and help prevent mold and mildew.

Check the stirrup bars on your saddle, (or any saddle you ride in) and always make sure the safety latches are in the down position. The safety latch is intended to hold the leathers in place yet allow them to come away if a rider falls off and gets dragged, but modern saddles have recessed stirrup bars which give the leathers a more snug fit so it's rare they slide off during normal riding. The problem is that a lot of latches are stiff or even rusted in the upright position which is a definite hazard, so for safety's sake just leave them permanently in the down position.

For shiny bits, first wash in hot water then place in a bowl of tomato sauce, which will give a good shine and is preferable over chemical metal polishes.

Cheap rechargeable 'people' clippers from Kmart make good touch-up clippers for short hair areas like socks and under the chin.

GHCTA Recognized Show High Point Prize Award!

Best Score” award list for March 2008:

Preliminary: Celise Eberle and Clifton Charisma 51.30

Training: Ashley Randermann and Cor de Charisma 38.00

Novice: Sarah Goodyear and Ronan 32.50

Beginner Novice: Bethany Kubicki and Jubilant 32.10

GAG: Sarah Shepardson and Pepsie’s Express 29.50

Volunteer Award: Alyce Hinkle. Alyce stepped in to fill Jennifer Bodtmann’s shoes as the TD. When Jennifer’s Mom unexpectedly went in to the hospital on Saturday we were without a TD. I contacted Alyce late on Saturday night and asked if she would take on the TD job in Jennifer’s place. She kindly accepted and put in a full and eventful day at Pine Hill (6:00 AM to 6:00 PM). Thank you Alyce!

“Best Score” award list for February 2008:

Preliminary Level—Dana Bogatin and Midnight’s Carmel Run—177.20

Training Level—Simon Todd and Precious Moments—35.00

Novice Level—Parham Wallin and Dorsola’s Happy Liam—34.50

Beginner Novice Level—Sharon Shull and Finale—33.20

GAG Level—Vicki Pendlum and Galan—39.10

Volunteer of the Show Award—Shanda Wallin

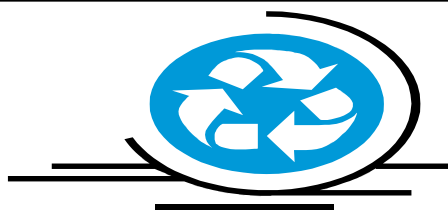
The full results are on http://www.pinehilltexas.com/lct_results.htm

Upcoming Show Schedule-GHCTA Recognized Shows 2008

- June 13-14 Meadow Creek Park Horse Trials
- July 6 Pine Hill Horse Trials
- October 5 Pine Hill Horse Trials

****Please remember to send in your complete entry form in with payment on time.**

****Proof of current negative coggins required for ALL shows.**



With rising gas prices we all need a break.
Anyone willing to do a ride sharing to
Meadow Creek in June? Let me know. . I
will try to coordinate inquiries.

75.terri@gmail.com

Remember Meadow Creek is coming soon!

Classifieds

3-Horse BP Aluminum Trailer For Sale - Great condition, 7 foot tall, 7 foot wide, fully enclosed, with drop down windows, generous walk-in tack room with saddle rack, blanket bars, bridle rack, 35 gallon integrated water tank, all tires repalced last year, adjustable removeable dividers, double doors, integrated brakes, emergency disconnect system. 1998 Circle J brand. Solid steel undercarriage, solid aluminum body. Light enough to be pulled fully loaded by my Chevrolet half ton pick up. This has been a great trailer for us, but we have a new giant horse requiring a 7'6" trailer. \$5500.00- E-mail me at carolynhaddad@sbcglobal.net or call 713-299-0510.

Handsome Multi-purpose English/Western Gelding for sale. "Smiling Man" (Smiley) is 15h2 Chestnut gelding who has done it all. We have trail ridden him a lot and for two years on the Rodeo Trail Ride. I took him foxhunting with the hounds. He has been used for lessons with kids and adults, English and Western. He has competed at Horse Trials at Pine Hill and Meadow Creek (GAG level) by a twelve year old girl and schooled Beginner Novice (2'6") level at both places. He is a solid citizen who is sound and sane. We are selling him because we found a bigger "husband horse". To see a photo, consult Dreamhorse by checking for his name or e-mail me at Carolynhaddad@sbcglobal.net - Phone- 713-299-0510.



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Instead of using artificial [hoof](#) polish, which often leaves cream or runny lines on white hooves, take baby oil and rub the hoof well with it. Wipe off any left over baby oil so nothing stick and voila! a beautiful shiny white hoof.

Corn starch (French chalk can be expensive) to whiten socks.

Get white socks and face markings clean with Pearl Drops™ toothpaste. Use a toothbrush to scrub the socks white. Caution: be gentle when cleaning your horses face. The toothpaste rinses clean and leaves a fantastic white. When the socks are dry wrap your horses legs until show time. Use a hood or slinky to keep his face clean.

There are 3 spots on the board up for re-election, so have members vote for 3 only.

The ballots can be returned to

Lucy Chalcraft

PO Box 576

Fulshear, TX 77441

○ **Nicki Atkinson**

I am a current GHCTA board member, in charge of the website. I have been eventing for years, and currently own two horses. I live in Conroe, TX and work full time as a Geologist for Southwestern Energy.

○ **Ruth Sawin**

Certifications: USEA Certified Instructor level II, British Horse Society Assistant Instructor (BHSAI) Bachelor of Science –Equestrian Studies/Business administration Averett College. North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA) Advanced Instructor

Experience: Teaching continuously since 1980 - Hunt Seat, Balance Seat, Dressage, and Combined Training. Thirteen years managing a large lesson facility and camp. Teaching disabled riders at S.I.R.E. , a local therapeutic riding center, since 1995. Teaching able-bodied riders at Pine Hill since 1995.

○ **Betsy Hansberry**

I'm Betsy Hansberry and I'm interested in serving on the Board of GHCTA for two reasons: 1) I have been a member of the organization for the past 8 years and have shown and volunteered actively during that time and 2) I have recently retired from full time employment and now have more time to devote to GHCTA activities. I have been an active volunteer for the Fort Bend Horse Task for the past five years and am currently the Liaison for the San Jacinto Horsemasters, an adult group affiliated with the US Pony Club. As a member of the Board, I will work hard to help the organization provide value to its members.

○ **Shannon Eberle**

I have served on non-profit boards in the past, I have also worked for non-profits in the field of advancement. My under graduate degree is in Leadership and non-profit management. My Masters' is in Philanthropy & Development for non-profits. With my background and current interest (via my daughter) in eventing I feel that I bring alot to the table and could be of help