



MCTA *Maryland* Eventing Newsletter

Volume 10, April 2008, No. 2

MCTA STARTER HORSE TRIALS JUNE 8, 2008

Closing date is May 25th, with levels offered E - N. Remember, this event allows schooling the day BEFORE. What better way to gain valuable cross-country experience!

Volunteers needed!!

Volunteers are needed for all aspects of running this event, from jump painting/repair/decorating, to set up and clean up. Remember, volunteers receive a free clinic with Sharon White!!

Contact for more information:

Jennifer at 240-925-4558 or
jennifer@allansporthorses.com

Renew Today

Don't miss out on the sweet deals, be sure to RENEW your MCTA membership today! *Membership must be current to be eligible for special rates for clinics and club-specific trophies, awards, and grants. Contact Ami Howard at ahoward152@msn.com*

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 2008 Eventing season is in full spring, and the MCTA again pulled together our USEA recognized competition at the beautiful **Shawan Downs** venue. This huge undertaking would not have been accomplished without the able guidance of Organizer **Maria Wisner**. Maria put together a team of volunteers that were professional and equipped to handle the multitude of tasks that are involved in hosting a national multi-level competition. In key roles were **Melissa Fieldhouse**, assisted by **Cheryl Toms** as Secretary, **Brenda Hertzog** with the Cross Country jump judges, **Donna Ruth** at the Dressage arenas, **Carrie Foster** handling Show Jumping, **Jamie Maher** overseeing Safety, and Course Builder **David Wisner**. The first class timers and scoring team kept the results coming throughout the three day competition. Of course there were many others who gave of their time and talents to make the event run smoothly. Unable to list everyone, know that this, and all other Horse Trials, are not successful without the efforts of many unsung heroes! Thanks to everyone who donated their time this weekend.

Sincerely,

Connie Bison, MCTA President

CANTER MID ATLANTIC'S LOOKDOWNTHEBARREL

The Journey begins

After a sudden, tragic pasture accident ended the life of her once-in-a-lifetime horse *The Ozzy Philosophy*, who was just entering his prime, Lisa Dehart found herself not ready to commit emotionally to another partner, yet still wanted to work with a horse and retain her identity as a rider. She has partnered with Allie Conrad, director for CANTER Mid Atlantic, who has provided her with an off track thoroughbred to work with and train as an event horse.

Lookdownthebarrel, known as "Woody", is one of three "poster ponies" representing CANTER Mid Atlantic. He is just your average off track thoroughbred, that many people may overlook because of his size (15.2). Lisa has been working with Woody since March, and is chronicling her adventure on her very warmly honest and entertaining blog. Anyone who has ever retrained an off track thoroughbred will be familiar with the frustrations. Some lessons come so easily, but some come painfully hard. It always helps to have someone else with whom to compare notes. You can visit Lisa's blog at:

<http://lookdownthebarrel.wordpress.com/> The mission is to help these horses find new homes, by helping people understand the retraining process.

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Lookdownthebarrel cont.

Woody is owned and partially funded by CANTER Mid Atlantic. He is providing Lisa with a horse to play with and love, and she is providing him with training, and preparation for his eventual sale, which will provide funds back to CANTER.

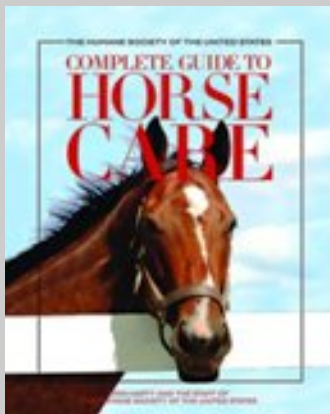
Betsy Denning

About CANTER

CANTER Mid Atlantic has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. CANTER of Mid Atlantic is a free service offered to the Mid Atlantic racing trainers and owners to help them find non-race homes for their retiring racehorses. CANTER Mid Atlantic covers four separate tracks including Charles Town (WV), as well as Laurel, Pimlico and Bowie (MD). Furthermore, there are no fees charged to new owners. Visit CANTER at

<http://canterusa.org/midatlantic/>

MCTA MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



Congratulations to MCTA member **Erin Harty** who just completed her book *The Humane Society of the United States Complete Guide to Horse Care* published by the Humane Society Press, now available at Amazon.com.

ADOPTING AN OFF-TRACK THOROUGHBRED

Adopting a TB

My Experience, Maria Hillegas
Is adoption a route for you? Here are some pros and cons that may help you decide if this is a road you might want to travel. I am speaking from limited experience from what was learned through the adoption of a TB off the track and a friend who also adopted at about the same time, but went through a different agency. The adoption agency that I chose to use was several hours away, but it had come recommended from an email list and a horse transportation agency that hauled for them, so I felt confident that what they displayed on their website and wrote to me through emails and described over numerous phone calls would be accurate on the animal I had in mind to adopt. In our conversations over a several week period, there were three red flags that came up that I should have paid more attention to – one, the horse was a return because he had bucked the previous adopter off and this was believed to be due to lack of experience on the adopter, two, he had a small shadow on his left eye, but they assured me it was not a problem and had been checked out by a vet and the horse had no sight problems and three, when I asked if a size 78 or 80 sheet would fit the horse, they said they weren't sure but thought he would take much smaller sheet – the horse was displayed on the website as a 15.3 H horse and already having a 15.3 H horse in my barn, I thought it was odd that he would wear a “much smaller blanket”.

The horse was also billed on the website as a “high-level performance prospect”. We were looking at him as a horse to possibly use around the barn, trail ride, possibly use for dressage and then onto eventing if the horse was capable, so I was not adopting a pasture statue. What I ended up with was a 15H gelding that had a very odd canter and the shadow on his eye caused depth perception problems – it was a large scar due to an abscess. He was a very sweet horse to work around and I really enjoyed his personality and he was good under saddle most of the time, but when he became upset if a friend rode away or was out of sight, he became a sun-fishing bucking machine. After four months, I ended up sending him back to the adoption agency – I had decided that I was too old to deal with a horse who was going to become that “un-glued” at anytime without warning and he really wasn't going to be able to jump or compete.

...there were three red flags that came up that I should have paid more attention to

Yes, I could have turned around that week and sent him back. It cost around \$400 dollars to ship him one way and I had decided since I had made the initial investment and commitment to haul him in, that I would give him a chance. Since I kept him for over 60 days, I lost my adoption fee that was paid for him. This was a big lesson for me and that you have to go into the TB adoption process for the right reasons, and not think that this is a “cheap” way to gain a horse.

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There is no grudge with the adoption agency I went through, it was my decision to do this and the ultimate goal of the agency is find these worthy animals a home where they will be cared for, for the rest of their lives.

While the agency I went through had several good pros generally overall with their program – the cost of the horses are low and they allow you to sell them after owning them for two years – they do not allow you to ride them prior to “purchasing”, they don’t carry insurance on potential clients, however, I would advise you to go see the horse prior to adopting. They were also “short” on giving out details on each individual horse in discussion and in my case, didn’t have the details correct on the website regarding him. (PS, I forgot to mention that the horse I adopted had been donated because he had a soft pallet problem and became short of breathe if he galloped for any length of time. I found this out after I had tracked down the owner/trainer at the track – this was an important fact on the horse the adoption agency left out.)

Now, a friend went through another TB adoption agency at the same time. She went to visit the horse and was able to ride it. He was as billed on the website exactly as my friend saw him and they were also negotiable at the time on the cost of the horse. The horse has turned out to be everything the agency stated regarding him. The agency was also very forthcoming with his history and also hooked up the donator with the adopter and now they have formed a relationship and can keep each other informed with regards to the horse. The only drawback to this agency is that you can never sell the animal. If you need to move him for any reason, the horse must be returned to the adoption agency.

So in recapping – try to look for an adoption agency that comes with references that you can call and find out personal experiences from prior adopters. If there are any red flags – thoroughly check them out and if you are not satisfied or are still uncomfortable about them, don’t go through with the adoption.

Make sure you visit the farm where the horse is kept and see him first hand and see if you can ride the horse if possible. Make sure the adoption agency will take the horse back if it doesn’t work out. As with any other purchase,

check to be sure the horse has up to date Coggins and vaccinations prior to bringing him home. Ask as many questions regarding the horse as possible, everything from does he cross tie to is he a cribber. Remember, racehorses tend to develop behavioral problems such as cribbing or weaving due to all the time they spend stalled on the track. If you’ve never dealt with Thoroughbreds that have been on the track, you might want to investigate and do as much research as possible. They can be a lot to handle in some ways, but they can be very rewarding also.

Maria Hillegas

IN NEXT MONTH’S ISSUE

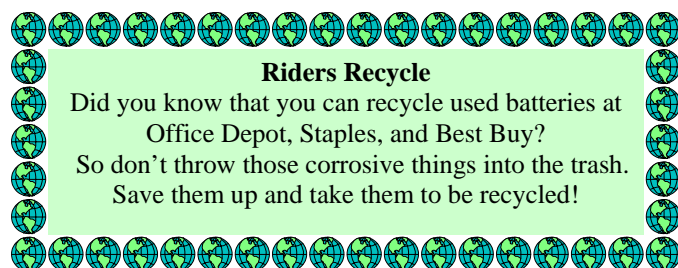
Frangible pins and break away jump cups: what are they and how will they be used?

WHY VOLUNTEER?

As I picked up my friend on Sunday morning at 6:00, AM, and headed out to Shawan Downs, I said “only horse people are this crazy.” She replied, “and people who fish, bike, hunt ...” In other words, people who like to have fun. And fun it was! First of all, the thanks you receive as a volunteer makes you feel pretty special, but it was also an opportunity to learn more about eventing. On Friday evening, we went to the cocktail party for sponsors, competitors, organizers and volunteers, and met lots of interesting people. After some tasty hors d’oeuvres, we were treated to a course walk (via an adventurous tractor pulled straw ride) with course designer, **Tremaine Cooper**. This was highly informative, as he explained the questions and how they could be addressed. Then on Cross Country day, when we actually *worked*, which meant sitting in a chair and watching pretty horses, we also got to observe (while being generously fed all day.) This is where your coaching sessions, private conversations, and knowledge of the course designer’s intentions actually gels. We saw some mistakes and many beautiful rides. My intention is to keep this information in my back pocket for the next time I compete myself, and when take advantage of my free schooling day.

Volunteering at an MCTA event is a win-win deal!

Betsy Denning



Results

The Ocala Winter I H.T. 2008-01-11 - 2008-01-13	Novice, NR	Halls Harbor / Krista Grubb (MD)	2
Rocking Horse Winter I H.T. 1/26/2008	NR	It's The Luck Of The Irish / Blaine Orris (MD)	6
Pine Top Winter I H.T. 2008-02-02 - 2008-02-03	Novice, ONI	Superstition / Teresa Martinoli (MD)	6
Sporting Days in Aiken 2008-02-09 - 2008-02-10	OP	Wil'ya Love Me / Courtney Sendak (MD)	11
	OT	Superstition / Teresa Martinoli (MD)	8
	IP	Redmond II / Julia Wendell (MD)	12
	OP	Karma / Teresa Martinoli (MD)	9
The Ocala Winter II H.T. 2008-02-15 - 2008-02-17	NH	The Big Easy / Steph Butts (MD)	2
	ON	Peabody / Steph Butts (MD)	12
	ON	Sgt. Pepper / Steph Butts (MD)	13
	OT	Arundel / Gretchen Butts (MD)	2
	TH	Havanna's Orphan Annie / Nina Holm (MD)	1
	NR	Halls Harbor / Krista Grubb (MD)	11
Pine Top Winter II H.T. 2008-02-16 - 2008-02-17	OI	Redmond II / Julia Wendell (MD)	12
Rocking Horse Winter III H.T. 2008-02-22 - 2008-02-24	NR	Halls Harbor / Krista Grubb (MD)	15
	NR	Sister Disco / Krista Grubb (MD)	6
	OT	Peabody / Steph Butts (MD)	10
	NR	It's The Luck Of The Irish / Blaine Orris (MD)	14
Paradise Farm H.T. 2008-02-22 - 2008-02-24	JT	Findhorn / Julia Ennis (MD)	12
Pine Top Spring Advanced H.T. 2008-02-29 - 2008-03-02	OI	Redmond II / Julia Wendell (MD)	21
Rocking Horse H.T. 2008-03-07 - 2008-03-09	NH	The Big Easy / Steph Butts (MD)	1
	NH	Sgt. Pepper / Steph Butts (MD)	1
Sporting Days in Aiken 2008-03-11 - 2008-03-12	OT	Noblesse Oblige / Ashley Beheler (MD)	10

MCTA Members and Patrons:

Did we miss you or an event where you rode? Please email me with all your results throughout the year, and we will be pleased to add them to our newsletter. betsydenning@gmail.com

Results

Southern Pines H.T. I 3/15/2008	NR	It's The Luck Of The Irish / Blaine Orris (MD)	6
	NR	Prescott's Ruby / Blaine Orris (MD)	10
	NH	Sunshine Stalker / Alexandra Curtiss (MD)	15
	PT	Findhorn / Julia Ennis (MD)	9
	PT	Noblesse Oblige / Ashley Beheler (MD)	8
	T	Oversold / David Butts (MD)	12
Pine Top Farm H.T. 2008-04-05 - 2008-04-06	NH	Sunshine Stalker / Alexandra Curtiss (MD)	20
Southern Pines H.T. II 2008-03-21 - 2008-03-23	OI	Redmond II / Julia Wendell (MD)	9
	JYOP	Wil'ya Love Me / Courtney Sendak (MD)	5
	JT	Findhorn / Julia Ennis (MD)	4
Morven Park Spring H.T. 2008-03-29 - 2008-03-30	OI	Redmond II / Julia Wendell (MD)	8
	OP	Scimitar II / Samantha Allan (MD)	2
	OP	D'Artagnan XII / Jennifer Clover (MD)	7
	OT	Peabody / Steph Butts (MD)	3
	OT	Leicester Tiger / Steph Butts (MD)	16
	OT	Noblesse Oblige / Ashley Beheler (MD)	14
	OT	Atlantic Roar / Shelagh Davidson (MD)	15

Unrecognized

Olde Hope 4/13/08	PreNovRidrA	Private Benjamin Emily Arches	
	Open Elem	Giles Pamela Bartholomew	3
		FMF Gracefully	
	IntroRiderA	Dun Grace Fulton	1
	IntroHorseA	Eventide Molly Cain	4
	IntroHorseA	FMF Rookie Savannah Fulton	6
	NoviceRider	Ticklish Lauren Petersen	1
	NoviceRider	Bone Head Rebecca Stachlinski	3
	OpenNovice	FMF Manila Bay S.W. Fulton	2
		FMF Ides of	
	OpenNovice	March S.W. Fulton	5
	OpenNovice	Pure Heart Betsy Brawner	6
	OpenNovice	Perfect Move Anita Adams-Cook	4
	PreNovHorse	NIKE Diana Rogler	1
	PreNovRidrB	FMF White Out Alex Otto	2

Have a great story to share? Please send it my way!!

betsydenning@gmail.com