



OPTIMUM TIMES

JULY 2014

NAJYRC!!

By Kaiti Saunders, Area Chair

The 2014 Adequan/FEI North American Junior & Young Rider Championships (NAJYRC, for short) start this week in Lexington Kentucky! With a CCI** (Young Riders) and a CCI* (juniors) competition, the NAJYRC has long been a stepping stone to national equestrian teams for eventers. Held this year at the storied Kentucky Horse Park, young riders gather from across the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and elsewhere to compete in show jumping, dressage, endurance, and eventing.

Our own Area II team has been hard at work and are ready to rock this year's competition! Proactive fundraising as well as diligent training at preparatory events and Training Camp has allowed the team to head to Kentucky with a strong squad, coached by Sinead Halpin, newly named to the U.S. squad for the World Equestrian Games.

Area II is also sending grooms who will be front and center for the excitement of NAJYRC. Grooms are not only introduced to the riders' preparation and

training, they will learn world-class horse management practices from our very own Meg Kepferle and Area II team veterinarian Dr. Susan Johns. If you're thinking of competing at NAJYRC in the next few years, being a groom is a great way to see what the Championships are all about.

Sending a team to the NAJYRC is a huge undertaking, and one that would not be possible without the generosity of sponsors and supporters. Special thanks to Morningside Training Farm for their generous aid in holding training camp at their beautiful facility. Morningside provides invaluable support for our Young Riders and YRAP programs, including helping to create competitive opportunities, camps and coaching, and scholarships for participants.

Particular thanks to our Young Riders Coordinators, Meg Kepferle and Rich Frankel, as well as our YRAP Coordinator Chris Donovan. Coordinator jobs are some of the hardest volunteer positions at USEA, and Meg, Rich, and Chris do an outstanding job!

WATCH NAJYRC LIVE!

Streaming coverage of NAJYRC is available Friday, July 18th-Sunday, July 20th, 2014 at:

<http://www.usefnetwork.com/featured/2014najyrc/>

Complete competition information is at:

<http://youngriders.org>

Below you'll find a number of photos of the team at training camp and as they head to Kentucky. You can track the competition at the above links and on social media. We hope you'll help cheer them on!!

Also in this newsletter, there's an update on exciting new developments at our own Morven Park. Most Area II eventers have competed or ridden on Morven's historic property. I hope you share my excitement over the great new facilities they are building which will support equestrian sport for years to come.

Wherever you and your horses are this month, I and the rest of Area II wish you a great July!

-Kaiti

NAJYRC TRAINING CAMP AND ARRIVAL IN KENTUCKY

All photos courtesy of Karen Fulton

Riders and grooms arrived at Morningside Training Farm for camp in mid-July before heading to Kentucky. This beautiful Virginia facility offered phenomenal footing, manicured rings, and on-site cross-country fences to tune up the team. Riders trained with coach Sinead Halpin and prepared for the competition ahead before traveling to Kentucky.

AREA II YOUNG RIDERS TEAM

CCI*

Grace Fulton (Wild Orange)
Madeline Nosing (Tako)
Allie Nelson (Total Eclipse)
Meg Schaeffer (Grey Area)
Sydney Solomon (Lillian Pink)
Michaela Yowaiski (Darla Doll)
Alternate: Grace Fulton (Leo the Lionhearted)

CCI**

Maddie Parisan (Hope to Star) as an individual

Grooms

Meg Kepferle
Corrine Frankel
Caroline Muller
Jamie Miess
Emma Stolzenhaler
Skyler Decker



Area II Young Riders use Morningside's gorgeous facility to put the final polish on before heading to NAJYRC

MORVEN PARK EXPANDS EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES

Historic Morven Park plans to break ground this fall on new equestrian facilities. Included in their plans are four new competition arenas with updated footing and facilities, as well as a viewing pavilion for spectators and hospitality. Additional improvements will include a Grand Prix field, all new barns, and a new indoor stadium.

Today, Morven Park's Equestrian Center hosts about 30 events each year, including Morven Park's Spring and Fall Horse Trials (which draw eventers ranging from beginner to Olympic-level), dressage shows,

driving competitions, Pony Club rallies and camps, hunter shows, and educational clinics. Morven has also hosted the Area II Championships, and in the past has held a CCI* competition.

Morven Park is operated by the Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation. The non-profit organization was established to preserve and promote the historic site in memory of its final owner, Westmoreland Davis, who served as Virginia governor from 1918 to 1922.

The existing equestrian facilities were originally built in the late 1960s. Morven Park Development Director Suzanne Musgrave notes that updating the park's offering will allow Morven to offer "an exceptional competition venue with ample warm-up space, airy barns, and safe and efficient traffic flow for horses, spectators and vehicles."

A schematic of the planned new rings, which will be located below the existing indoor arena to the left of the current entry road is below.



Scenes From Around Area II

Area II Young Riders and Grooms enjoy Training Camp for this year's Adequan/FEI NAJYRC Championships



What is Optimum Times? Regular news from USEA's Area II, including updates on Area events and programs, happenings in the Area, and stories about our members. Let us know what you think, submit articles or pictures for our Scenes From Area II feature, or offer comments or suggestions.