

## APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY EVENTING

Kaiti Saunders, Area Chair

Looking at the daffodils peeking out of my back yard and lining the horses' pastures, I think spring has finally arrived in Area II. Rain has replaced snow, the horses have begun to shed out the last of their winter coats, and I feel like everything in my house has quickly acquired a patina of horse hair.

However, after our prolonged and icy winter, I think we are all glad to be moving toward the days where all our ponies need for turnout is a fly sheet and a coat of mud!

Earlier this month, we saw the first events in Area II start off the season well. Area II Young Riders' coach Sinead Halpin has had a great start to her spring with a win at the Fork and is making final preparations for Rolex as I send

this out. We can't wait to cheer her on, as well as the rest of the Area II riders contesting Rolex this year (including USEA Board Member Allison Springer). Make sure you keep up with all the news from the competition via USEA's website and twitter!

Our Area II Young Riders put

together a fabulous set of programs at the Fork, including yoga with some of our favorite Area II riders and a run through the Fork's gorgeous trails. Other Young Rider events included a



Even a barn dog likes spring flowers.

spirited fundraising campaign as they start ramping up for selection trials and Young Rider camp. These hardworking kids are everywhere, supported by the indomitable Meg Kepferle and Rich Frankel.

### TWEET YOUR EVENTS

Don't miss a single update from the United States Eventing Association. You can keep up with news, interviews, videos, and event results by following USEA's Twitter account at:

<http://twitter.com/USEventing>

And bookmark USEA's website for daily updates and photographs from Rolex, as well as regular and reliable eventing news and information:

<http://www.useventing.com/>

YRAP has also been busy!

Thanks to Chris Donovan's efforts, Area II YRAP were able to work side-by-side with course designer Harry Payne to build the Fork's show jumping course and hear his design theories. This repeat-program is always a huge hit and a special treat for our riders.

Organizers throughout Area II are beginning to put the final touches on their plans for their 2014 events. There have been some exciting changes in our calendar this year! Middleburg will now be running in June instead of September, and Surefire has added a second event in September. In addition, many existing events have done significant work on their courses

and jumps. Huge thank you's to all of our organizers!!

As you do your own preparations for the season, make sure you get a chance to read Sara Gonzalez-Rothi Kronenthal's fun advice in this issue on how best to put some spring back in your step. Sara is a local blogger (check out more at

<http://capitalcowgirl.wordpress.com/>) and amateur eventer and was kind enough to share her thoughts with us. We'd love to hear from you with updates, articles, or pictures from around Area II.

As for us, we're dusting off our cross-country gear, trying to de-woolify the beasts, and plotting

out spring calendars for both the experienced horses and the youngsters. Whether you're just starting your season or doing your last preparations before Rolex, all of us at Area II will be cheering you on.

-Kaiti

## YRAP

By Chris Donovan

YRAP started the season at Carolina Horse Park with awards given to the Area 2 Young Riders in the Training and Below divisions. This was followed by "Behind the Scenes" activities at Morven Park, The Fork, and Plantation. The first YRAP Pilot clinic was held at Morningside in March with Lynn Symansky and Skyeler Voss teaching on day 1 followed by a CT and XC schooling on day 2. More than 30 members have participated in these early season activities. YRAP will continue to offer at least 2 or more activities per month through October.

YRAPs first fundraising activity will occur in June. We will be collecting donations for the Auction Site from April 15th through May 31. If you have something you would like to donate, please contact Chris at [cdonovan03@gmail.com](mailto:cdonovan03@gmail.com). YRAP members will also be assisting with parking at Maryland Horse Trials in July.

### 2014 YRAP EVENTS

4/30-5/4:	Heart of the Carolina Team Challenge 3-Day (Area 3) YRAP Team Competition
5/3-4:	NR Pilot YRAP Clinic in Mt View Farm (Tik Maynard and Holly Payne)
5/22-24:	Virginia Horse Center HT Team Competition
6/20-22:	Surefire Pro "Training Level" Scholarship
6/25-26:	Pre-NJHT YRAP Clinic in NJ/PA (Tik Maynard and Holly Payne)
6/28-29:	HP of NJ "Behind the Scenes"
6/30-7/3:	WOW! Summer camp (Sinead Halpin, Skeyler Voss, and Lynn Symansky)
7/7-11:	Sandy River Equestrian Center VA Summer camp (great for Novice and below riders)
7/14-18:	Pony Club Championships & NAJYRC Championships
7/19-20:	MDHT Fundraiser parking cars
7/25-26:	YRAP Clinic in NJ/PA (Tik Maynard and Holly Payne)
7/31-8/3:	Millbrook YRAP Team Competition (Area 2 verses Area 1)
August:	YRAP Summer Camp @ Morningside
8/9-10:	Fair Hill International H.T. Behind the Scenes
9/13-14:	Seneca Valley Pony Club H.T. Behind the Scenes
9/27-28:	Flora Lea Fall Horse Trials YRAP Ribbons
10/18:	Fair Hill International Three-day Event - FEI Show Jumping Building
10/23-25:	Waredaca Novice & Training 3day with YRAP Team Awards
10/31-11/2:	Area 2 Championships @ Virginia Horse Center YRAP Individual Awards

If you compete at Preliminary or above; I hope you made the 3/1 deadline to be considered for

the USEF Under 18 program to train with David O'Connor this winter. You will need to

remember to attend either VA Horse Center HT on 5/22-25 (which opened on 4/8) and/or Surefire on 6/21-6/22 at the Preliminary level or Above.

## ADULT RIDERS

By Donna Bottner

Now that the season is getting off to a start after the longest, coldest winter in ages; don't forget to look for team competition opportunities. I hope to be at a few horse trials over the course of the season to hand out bottles of water and

### YOUNG RIDERS VET EVALUATIONS AT MCTA

Those horses who on track for the 2014 NAJYRC are required to be evaluated at MCTA on **FRIDAY, MAY 2nd**.

Please make arrangements to with Meg to schedule. Vet evaluations will not take long and will give you an opportunity to ask questions and make a pre-championship plan to keep your horse in the best condition for NAJYRC.

Horses who are traveling to Jersey Fresh the following weekend, or are under other extreme geographic extenuating circumstances are eligible for exclusion **ONLY AFTER** you have spoken to Meg or Sinead regarding this. These horses must be evaluated after Jersey or Virginia CCI.

Additionally, Sinead will be available for lessons/coaching to those who are interested throughout the weekend beginning Friday afternoon. There will a course walk for those interested as well.

Surefire is also the host of the PRO Scholarship for Training Level Young Riders (21 and under). The opening day for Surefire is May 6th. PRO YR membership is

Adult Rider ribbons to as many of you as possible! I'll keep you posted via email.

For any AR2s headed to Rolex, don't miss this fun blog on the Rolex Guide to the Galaxy: <http://www.horsejunkiesunited.com/?p=81380>. Feel free to post your Rolex photos, updates and AR2 meet-ups on our FaceBook page: USEA Area II Adult Riders [www.facebook.com/groups/area2ar/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/area2ar/).

We are working on new programs for paid members of Area 2 Adult Riders that will help

required. For the past 3 years an Area 2 YR as won this award! Let's see that tradition continue!

members attend USEA recognized and insured clinics and other educational opportunities. Stay tuned for more details!

Also, we are trying to work out dates for an Adult Rider summer camp with Carol Kozlowski again this summer. So far, it looks like late July. As always, there will be a huge discount for paid members of adult riders and it will be tailored to you. If you answered the survey from last year's camp at Kelly's Ford, we are making changes based on



*After a great finish to their season last year at the fall Training/Novice 3-Day (shown here before the jog), Area II Adult Riders Suzy and Jim Gehris are well-prepared for the 2014 eventing season.*

rider recommendations. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions, suggestions or concerns regarding this year's camp. Our goal is to make your membership worthwhile!

Long term, keep your schedule open for the Training and Novice 3-Day at Waredaca,

Oct 22-25. We always need a lot of volunteers to pull this off and most will tell you it is the most rewarding experience of the year! Also remember that our Area Adult Team Challenge will be at VAHT this year thanks to the generosity of Brian and Penny Ross. It will be a big year to be at

VAHT, so don't miss out! The National ATC's will be at the AEC's in September. If you are planning/thinking about going, start really planning now. We can help with ride shares and more, so don't count it out just yet.

## PUTTING THE "SPRING" IN YOUR SHOW SEASON

By Sara Gonzalez-Rothi Kronenthal

It was painful to call Area II home this winter. There were days when braving the plummeting temps to fill water buckets and dump feed was a successful arctic expedition. I'll admit it: my riding suffered. I soldiered up. As long as the road conditions allowed my truck safe passage to the barn, I threw a leg over my mare and any other horse I'd been asked to work.

But "work" is a relative term in a polar vortex. And so, too, is "indoor arena." Growing up in balmy Area III, I romanticized my Mid-Atlantic counterparts in winter. "Indoor" conjured toasty images of gloveless twenty-meter circles on a trace-clipped packer. The reality includes chipping mud-ice from hooves in Michelin-man-esque clothing and "riding" at the walk in footing the consistency of flint. Needless to say, I was thrilled when the snowflakes gave way to fur-flakes. Here are some tips to defrost and get show-ready: The shed is upon us! Pull out your curries, shedding blades, and

combs and get to work. Want to know a secret? You will be most effective when your horse's skin is warm. Try a vigorous groom out in the sun after a ride. The same is true for pulling manes. Be kind to your horse and to your patience. Pull a little each day and after a week you'll have a presentable mane. Legs are tricky. Use a fine-toothed flea comb against the direction of the hair for maximum hair and mud removal.

Check your equipment.

Extreme temperature fluctuations can wreak havoc on rubber and leather. Give trailer tires, reins, stirrup leathers, and billets a thorough once-over for cracks. Replacing equipment isn't cheap, but one bad accident can result in irreplaceable loss. Use Google Shop to compare prices and social media to track giveaways and sales.

Have a plan of attack. Just because you ended 2013 with a top 3 finish in Open Novice at the last fall Horse Trials doesn't mean it's time to enter Training Horse. Take a hard look at yourself, your



*Murmur finds the grass at Waredaca the perfect way to fuel up for event season.*

horse's fitness, and the partnership. Better yet, have your trainer or a friend evaluate your progress. Don't view this as a setback, but as another building block in your training pyramid. And then, get to work. Here in Area II, we have recognized events into November. There's time to get to where you want to be.

Finally, have fun. Help your competitors. Smile at the judge. And most importantly, hug your horse. He had a hard winter, too.

## Scenes From Around Area II



Area II adult amateur Barbara Miller and her own Mighty Ambitious take time out for a long hack to kick off their spring.

Photo by Barbara Miller

Recent election doesn't mean you get to reorder priorities unless you have the support of others," Hynes said. It may be a mistake to say that [16] percent of the count came out and said 'X'; that would change our way." [aricia.sullivan@washpost.com](mailto:aricia.sullivan@washpost.com)

college, coming up with a strong typographical design of its he started his Oberlin project, he scoured the Internet for College in Staunton, Va., students are the Fighting Squirrels. AS For previous columns, visit [washingtonpost.com/jonkelly/](http://washingtonpost.com/jonkelly/).

LOAN, JAPAN, South Korea, Joseph Pangrac, Dallas, TX, James Morgan and Ben Longue City, TX, Sarah Keill, Salt Lake City, Utah and Andrew Neil, Connetquot, NY. Good friends, Tim and Jenni Cornish, Judy Chubb, Carolyn Ellis, Ann Heller and Joan Getz Heller, Brian and Carol Historic, Craig and Donna Staines, Rosalee Stover O'Brien, Mary Ann Wilson and countless others. Pam was a kind person who will be missed by all.

A memorial service to celebrate Pam's life will be held on Saturday, April 12 at 11 a.m. at the Derraine Funeral Home, Springfield.

**TIMKO**



**JOSEPH M. TIMKO (Age 77)**  
Passed on Wednesday, April 9, 2014. Retiree Electronics Technician with FAA. Survived son, Joseph Jr. and daughter, Timko, and daughter, Kristina. He is survived by his wife, Timko, his sister Mary Ann Lurie and his grandchildren. Friends may call on Thursday, April 10, 2014 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Loudoun Funeral Chapel, 158 Loudoun Circle, St. Leonards, VA 20175. Funeral Mass will begin at 9 a.m. on Friday, April 11, 2014 at the Apostolic Catholic Church, 8000 Forbion Road, Alexandria, VA 22304. Interment will follow in Loudoun Hills Cemetery, Leesburg, VA. Online condolences may be made to the family at: [www.loudounfuneralchapel.com](http://www.loudounfuneralchapel.com)

**TOON**

**DAVID TOON**  
On Sunday, April 6, 2014 at his residence in Loudon, Virginia. He leaves his loving wife of 42 years, Roberta Coleman Toon, his 2 daughters, Glenda Coleman and Naiti Joshua, seven grandchildren, siblings and host of other relatives and friends. Final home of other relatives and friends, First Church, 8000 Forbion Road, Alexandria, VA 22304. Services on Saturday, April 12, 2014 from 3 p.m. until time of service at 3 p.m.

**VASS**

**VANESSA LAVERNE GORE VASS**  
Departed this earthly life on Wednesday,

Recent election doesn't mean you get to reorder priorities unless you have the support of others," Hynes said. It may be a mistake to say that [16] percent of the count came out and said 'X'; that would change our way." [aricia.sullivan@washpost.com](mailto:aricia.sullivan@washpost.com)

**Equine-imity**  
While the sun dodged clouds and shined sporadically, light to moderate winds were consistent enough on Tuesday to ruffle the mane on this horse standing in a field on Batchellors Forest Road in Olney, Md.

THE DISTRICT

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MICHAEL S. WILLIAMSON/THE WASHINGTON POST

The Washington Post caught Janice Gill's eventer Scarborough Fair enjoying the spring sunshine in this feature photograph in the April 9 edition.

Photo by Michael Williamson

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.