

WELCOME TO THE 2014 EVENTING SEASON!

Kaiti Saunders, Area Chair

Greetings from Cincinnati and the USEA Annual Convention! What a great few days here, and so fun to see our Area II Eventers out of the saddle and checking out the dozens of meetings and presentations, as well as the packed trade show and the fun parties and receptions.

If you've not yet made it to USEA's Convention, I recommend going. It's a neat chance to spend a few days immersed in our sport, as well as get to know your co-competitors,

officials, organizers, and volunteers. Besides the always fun awards dinner and the USEA open meeting, presentations this year included Jimmy Wofford leading an open forum on the future of Eventing; Daniel Stewart's sports psychology and

fitness workshop, a discussion led by Max Corcoran on managing the equine athlete; new policies from USEF on Safe Sport and Equine Welfare; and a presentation from the Safety Committee on tools that can be used to help assess the risk of



Crosby wishes all eventers a very happy holiday season!

concussion. In between, volunteers and staff met to discuss plans for the 2014 Young Riders and Adult Riders programs, and the High Performance riders spent a lot of time

working with Coach David O'Connor (rumor has it there was a white-board involved!).

USEA has complete convention coverage on its website (www.useventing.com) – it's worth checking out the videos

SAVE THE DATE!

The Area II Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony will take place on January 25, 2014.

Watch your email and the Area II website for more information <http://www.usea2.net>

and discussions. I hope you're as inspired as I was.

Between the exciting ideas brought home from Convention and the first onslaught of snowy winter weather, I'm already starting to look ahead to next season. And I bet I'm not the only one - I suspect many of us will be dreaming of 2014 Eventing plans instead of sugarplums and candy canes this holiday season. Whether your goal is to successfully finish your first BN or you're hoping to be in the ribbons at Rolex, I and the rest of your Area II Council can't wait to help cheer you on. Don't forget, the first Area II event opens in just six weeks. Happy holidays to all of you!

-Kaiti

YOUNG RIDERS

By Meg Kepferle

The Area II young riders program is already gearing up for a productive 2014! Team coach Sinead Halpin, along with YRAP co-coach Lynn Symansky are teaming up to help the Area II Young Riders get a jump on the 2014 season with a clinic in Middleburg, VA December 28-29. The clinic will give priority to NAJYRC bound riders. Contact Meg Kepferle for more information (megkep@gmail.com).

Area II hopes to send full CCI* and CCI** teams and grooms to Kentucky this summer. If you are possibly interested in going to NAJYRC this year, please contact YR co-coordinators Rich Frankel and Meg Kepferle ASAP, so we

can start discussing qualifications and timeline requirements, as well as fundraising obligations (never too early to start, so please contact us today so we can help you get going!).

We are currently working on the calendar for the 2014 season so that all NAJYRC hopefuls can plan. This calendar will have the selection trials tentative camp dates, and training sessions, as well as clinics throughout Area II.

We are also getting a start on fundraising for 2014. We kicked off our efforts with a great Chili Cookoff in Oldwick, NJ and are currently running a silent auction. Please help get the word out by sharing with your email contacts and on social media. There are

non-horsey items that can appeal to everyone, so share away. The link can be found www.usea2.net/auction.

Additionally, we are excited about another opportunity for young riders. USEA's Mentorship program sends a small number of participants to NAJYRC to get a firsthand look at what goes into this type of international competition. Mentees are given the opportunity to sit with dressage judges as they evaluate rides; accompany officials throughout the competition, and follow the veterinarians as they assess horses. Young Riders 18-21 are eligible to apply, and application information will be available shortly.

ADULT RIDERS

By Donna Bottner and Cindy DePorter

Adult Riders are gearing up for a great 2014! There is exciting news as there will now be an Adult Rider Team Championship at the AEC's! Our area will select teams to go to the championships at the AEC's for 2014 in Texas. The basic criteria that Areas must adhere to are in the sidebar next to this article, however, this is still a work in progress. Our goal is to provide the best possible experience and support for our adult rider teams. We realize not everyone will be able to travel to the

National ARTC's, so never fear; we are working with Area 2 organizers to host some team competitions and a more formal Area ATC at VAHT in 2014.

We feel that 4 National Qualifying Results on the same horse will help assure success on a Championship XC course. Riders will still compete over the same courses as the regular AEC's and must be prepared for the level of competition for safety reasons.

The ATC's will be held at, yet separate from the AEC's. Each

rider will be eligible to place as an individual and as a team member. Special prizes and sponsorships are in the works as well as special adult rider social functions.

We still plan to provide a Team Challenge for folks who will not travel to the AECs but love the ATCs. We extend an open invitation to any other Area ARs to compete in our Area ATC which will be held at Virginia HT in Nov this coming year.

For team competitions (excluding the ATC at VAHT)

there can be 3 or 4 riders per team, teams can have mixed levels of riders and the best three scores count. We'll announce those competitions that agree to hold adult team competitions as soon as possible and will vary the locale in the area to the greatest extent possible. Organizers who would like to host can contact Donna Bottner at drbottner@gmail.com for more info. Area 2 will provide the team ribbons, if desired.

Daniel Stewart Mounted and Unmounted Sports Psychology and Rider Fitness Symposium at Penmerryl Farm, Feb 8-9 2014.

Daniel Stewart is joining us at Penmerryl Farm in Virginia for a two-day symposium. The clinic will be limited to 12 riders and special discounts will be available for paid Area 2 Adult Rider and YRAP members. Can't go to Aiken? Horse not ready for big XC runs? Don't worry and come join us for two days of mounted and unmounted sports Psychology, Rider Fitness, and Qui Gong sessions along with great fellowship with other adult

YRAP PLANS FOR 2014

By Chris Donovan

The spring season for 2014 is looking full of opportunities for YRAP kids. The northern members are being encouraged to consider GMHA Classic 3-Day July 28-31 (Novice and Training).

Holly Payne and Tik Maynard will be hosting a number of clinics for the northern members - which

riders. Bring your horse and stay the weekend in a cozy cabin right at Penmerryl! Details will be posted to the Area 2 website very soon.

In addition to this clinic there will be even more opportunities to hone your skills and join the fun of adult riders in the coming year. The USEA Adult Rider Program is for all adults, age 22 years and older, professional or amateur. It is about including adults across all skill and experience levels, in a supportive program that promotes education, communication, recognition and just plain fun. Adult Rider programs promote good sportsmanship and horsemanship, fun and safety for all levels of riding. Come join the fun and learn about what your Area II Adult Rider program offers you. Contact Sue Heytler to sign up at heytlers@gmail.com or sign up via the USEA Dashboard. It's the best \$25 you'll spend all year. Also, find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/area2ar/>

will be sent through the YRs Mailing List. The first clinic will be December 28-29. Contact Patricia Lutfy if you are interested in either or both days. [570 228 8223](tel:5702288223) YOGAANDHORSES@GMAIL.COM. For the southern members we have added the Area Challenge hosted by Heart of the

National Adult Rider Team Championship Criteria:

Qualifying period includes competitions in past 24 months

1. Horse and rider must qualify as a combination with three clean cross country jumping rounds, (no jumping penalties).

a. Qualifying score void if a dangerous riding penalty was received.

2. Rider must be a current member of their Area's Adult Rider Program by ATC closing date.

3. Non-amateur riders may not have completed competitions, more than one level higher in the last 24 months current.

4. Each area can have eight teams of four riders from their area.

5. Teams must be coordinated through the area Adult Rider Coordinator.

Area 2 Adult Team Championship Criteria:

1. Must be an AR member

2. Must have 4 National Qualifying Result at level in the past 24 months on the same horse.

3. Must compete in at least two team competitions at a recognized event - with National Qualifying Result

4. To be eligible for the competition expense voucher (amount TBD), must be an Area 2 Adult Rider member as of April 1st of the competition year.

Carolina's Classic 3-Day May 30-June 5. This competition includes a fantastic camp/clinic experience. Those interested in attending as part of the Area 2 team should contact Chris Donovan [410-409-2255](tel:410-409-2255),

cdonovan03@gmail.com to learn more about this opportunity.

Lynn Symansky and Skyeler Voss will again be hosting a number of clinics and fundraising opportunities with the support of Morningside Equestrian

Center. For this group the goal is the Waredaca Classic 3-Day (Novice and Training) in late October.

Scenes From Around Area II



Area II Young Rider Tayler Stewart and her horse Fugitive were big winners this year at USEA's Convention in Cincinnati: together, they took home awards for USEA Junior Training Rider of the Year, Training Horse of the Year, and Wise Equestrian Thoroughbred Training Horse of the Year. Mid-season, they found time to enjoy the YRAP WoW camp this summer!
Photo by Tyler Stewart



After a busy year that included completing their first Rolex CCI**** event and being named to the USEF Developing Rider/Under 25 Training List, Area II rider Caitlin Silliman and her own Catch a Star ("Hoku") share a sweet moment at Thanksgiving.
Photo by Lindsay Taylor

What is Optimum Times? News from USEA's Area II – updates on Area events and programs, and stories about our members. Historically a mailed newsletter, Area II switched to an online or email format in 2011. As we start the new year, we're trying out this more traditional looking format to allow us to include photos and longer stories. Let us know what you think, submit stories or pictures for our Scenes feature, or offer comments or suggestions.