

SNOW CAN'T STOP OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Kaiti Saunders, Area Chair

Early March in Area II is a lesson in contrasts: there's still an awful lot of ice and snow locally, yet the eventing season here is about to start. For riders not lucky enough to go south for the winter, that means a ton of time on the roads or in the indoor trying to fit up horses without

freezing our toes! And for organizers, lots of hours spent gazing at weather forecasts and wondering if the cold and damp will ease off in time to make the first event's footing passable and to recover

any jumps that have been damaged by the winter.

For all of you, take hope! My own woolly beast has just now started to shed his mammoth coat, making me hopeful that a return to warmer days is near. Or

at least, a firm commitment to spending more time with the shedding blade.

As part of getting ready for this year's competition season, I've been thinking a lot about what makes eventing tick. The lifeblood, the heart, of eventing really are its volunteers. No event

could run without them: bit-checker, scribes, warm-up stewards; starter; timers; jump judges; course decorators; parking; advertising; stadium jump crew – the list goes



*Sawyer volunteers for
 "Less ice, more turnout!"*

on and on.

The sport's governance itself could not function without volunteers. Your Area II Council is entirely made-up of volunteers: folks who spend hours to help coordinate the calendar; figure

STAY INFORMED!

Keep up to date with Area II information, events, and news by bookmarking our website:

<http://www.usea2.net/>

And don't forget about USEA's award winning website with all of your competition information, results, and news, at:

<http://useventing.com/>

out, track, and administer funding; organize our Young Riders, YRAP, and Adult Riders programs; run our awards' program; and serve on the USEA's Board of Governors.

In fact, for every program that Area II runs, there are hundreds of volunteer hours spent making sure that we are working to best serve you: our members. The goal is to put together programming and events that helps you get more out of your sport. Our volunteers put together clinics and training sessions. They organize team events as varied as our YRAP cross-border challenge and Adult team challenges up to the pinnacle of many young riders' careers: the NAJYRC championships.

We've got a great group made up of folks who have a wide variety of experience in the sport: amateurs, professionals, organizers, officials. All we need now is you! Area II would love to have the benefit of your skills and expertise. Can you plan a great party? Come help put together a really great celebration at USEA's Annual Meeting in DC this

year. Are you organized and a great fundraiser and want to work with the next generation of team riders? We'd love to have you involved with Young Riders. Got a great idea for a clinic or a team event for Adult Riders? Come on board! In fact, no matter what your skill set is, we'd love to have you get involved. Contact me or any of the Area II

Council and we will get you set up. We also encourage you to check the Area II website (<http://www.usea2.net/>) for all of the news and updates as the season gets started.

All our best wishes for the coming season and here's to an early spring!!

-Kaiti

YOUNG RIDERS

The NAJYRC season has kicked off with the first selection trials this weekend at Pine Top on February 19-22. Thirteen Area 2 YRs were there hoping to make an impression on the selectors. Additional selection trials are listed in the chart below.

If you are interested in being a candidate as a rider or a groom at the NAJYRC it is important you get your fundraising deposits to Rich Frankel by April 1. We chose \$500 as an attainable goal by April 1, 2015. If, at that point, we need additional funds,

then we would ask all prospective riders to raise additional money to cover our budget before June 1, 2015. However you raise the money is up to you, but we do want to make sure if you're using USEA or Area II's name that we are abiding by the necessary non-profit restrictions. Please contact us if you have new ideas or clear your idea through DC McBroom. Her email address

is spurcharm@gmail.com. She'll forward any approved fundraisers to Meg and Rich.

Rich will keep a running tab of everyone's fundraising amounts so there is no confusion. Please mail all funds to Rich or contact him at rcfrankel@msn.com.

Thank you for your continued support of the Area 2 Young Rider Program. Meg and Rich couldn't do it without you!!!

YRAP PARTNERS WITH WAREDACA THREE DAY

The Waredaca Classic Three-Day Event is excited to announce its partnership with the Area II Young Rider Advancement Program. With the relatively recent addition of a Novice Three-Day division, more young riders have been able to take advantage of the event's hybrid

2015 NAJYRC SELECTION TRIALS

Feb 19-22	Pine Top Advanced CIC**,CIC*
March 5-8	Red Hills International Horse Trials (FL)
March 19-22	Carolina International CIC& Horse Trial
March 28-29	Morven Park (VA)
April 2-5	The Fork CIC&HT (NC)
April 11-12	Plantation Field (PA)
April 17-19	Fair Hill International HT (MD)
April 25-26	Loudoun Horse Trials (VA)
May 2-3	MCTA HT (MD) VET EVAL
May 6-10	Jersey Fresh CCI3* & CCI2* (NJ) VET EVAL
May 16-17	Fair Hill Int'l HT (MD)
May 21-24	Virginia HT and CCI* & CIC** VET EVAL
May 30-31	Waredaca HT (MD)
June 3-7	Bromont International (Canada) CIC*,CCI** & CCI***

education-competition set up. The event will run Thursday, October 22 through Saturday, October 24, marking a shift from its usual Wednesday through

Saturday arrangement. The move is intended to make the show more accessible to both competitors and spectators. Check out the newly-launched

Waredaca Classic Three-Day Facebook page for regular updates and announcements as the plans evolve for an even bigger and better event this fall!

KICK OFF YOUR 2015 WITH YRAP CLINICS AND FUN!

By Chris Donovan

YRAP has many activities planned for this year.

Morningside Training Center

Clinics: The first of the series of clinics with our sponsor Morningside Training Center was held in January 3-4. the second clinic is schedule for March 14-15. The clinic will be a prep clinic for Area II events kicking off, so the first day as a dressage school and Fix-A-Test, and the second day as coursework. To qualify for the Morningside Grant that covers the entry fee to the Waredaca 3-Day members must attend at least 2 of the clinics and provide some volunteer

hours. Please see the details on the usea2.net website.

We continue to be a clearing-house for clinics being held by ICP instructors within Area 2. If you are aware of a clinic that would be good for our Area 2 Young Riders, please send Chris Donovan the details.

PRO Scholarship for Training

Level YRs: There are three chances for riders to qualify for this scholarship on the east coast. 3/19-20 Carolina International, 6/20-21 Surefire, and 7/30-8/2 Millbrook. Every year this scholarship has been offered an Area 2 YR who has been in

active in YRAP has been a winner. Many of these riders have gone on to the NAJYRC, proving the value of both programs. If you are competing at the Training Level, you may want to consider also joining PRO for its mentorship program and chasing this scholarship.

Eligibility Criteria: The Triple Crown JYR PRO Scholarship Program is open to all Junior/Young rider members of PRO through their 21st year. Riders must become members and declare via email letter to PRO that they wish to participate in the program no later then the entry closing date of each designated event. All participating riders must also include in their email a schedule of designated competitions that they intend to compete at, and it is the responsibility of the rider to inform PRO of any schedule changes. All riders must participate in at least one designated competition. Riders who choose to participate in more than one designated competition will have scores averaged for the leader board.

New in 2015: Curriculum modules will be introduced



Check out that bling! Area II Awards winners took home gorgeous coolers, ribbons, and prizes at the January Area II Annual Meeting! Big thanks to Nick Olijslager and Helen Hayn for running the Awards program and to Julie Augustine and Christine Arthur for putting together a great meeting!

focusing on horse care. A short quiz will follow each of the curriculum modules and all scholarship participants must complete and submit quizzes in order to be eligible for the scholarship and award prizes. More information will be sent out. It is anticipated that there will be 2-3 short curriculum modules and quizzes. Selected designated events will have PRO JYR get-togethers with a featured speaker. All Junior Members at the event will be expected to attend as part of their participation in the program. Topics will include horse nutrition, grooming and horse care, veterinary and farrier care, and tack and equipment.

All juniors who would like to participate in the Triple Crown JYR PRO Scholarship Program are

asked to discuss this scholarship opportunity with their current trainer(s) to ensure that their trainer is fully aware and supportive of the educational goals of this program. It is expected that if a scholarship week is awarded that the winner will participate. PRO and our host professionals will make every effort to accommodate schedules or issues of horse lameness or injury that may come up from time to time, but it is the responsibility of the scholarship winner to notify PRO and the host professional in a timely manner so that alternate arrangements can be made. In addition the winner is required to keep a diary of their scholarship week with photos and video, which must be submitted to PRO for publication. Juniors are also required to participate in all

media requests by PRO and sponsors of the program.

2015 Scholarship Award: One week of training at the facilities of an upper level rider. The award includes the boarding of both horse and rider at no cost to the scholarship awardees. Riders are responsible for their own transportation to and from each location including horse transportation. The scholarship week must be arranged well in advance with each PRO professional at a mutually agreed upon time.

The top two point earning riders from the eastern half of the country and the western half of the country will each earn a one week scholarship award with an upper level rider.

UPCOMING YRAP EVENTS

Competition Dates

2/28-3/1	Sporting Days II in Area 3 (Cross Border)	YRAP Team Competition
3/28-29	Morven Park Spring (Virginia)	YRAP Ribbons
5/2-3	MCTA Horse Trials (Maryland)	YRAP Team Competition
5/21-24	Virginia Horse CIC2*, CCI1* & Horse Trials (Virginia)	YRAP Team Competition
6/13-14	Seneca Valley PC (Maryland)	YRAP Ribbons
6/27-28	Horse Park of New Jersey H.T. (New Jersey)	YRAP Team Competition
7/14-19	NAJYRC in Kentucky CCI1* and CCI ** Teams	Area 2 Young Riders!!
7/22-26	Pony Club Eastern Championships at VHC BN-Preliminary	Area 2 Young Riders!!
7/30-8/2	Millbrook HT in Area 1 (Cross Border)	YRAP Team Competition
9/4-6	5 Points HT (North Carolina)	YRAP Team Competition
9/20-21	Marlborough H.T.	YRAP Ribbons
9/26-27	Flora Lea Fall Horse Trials (New Jersey)	YRAP Ribbons
10/23-26	Waredaca H.T. and Classic Training 3 Day Event	YRAP Team Competition
10/31-11/2	The Virginia CCI1*, CIC2* and H.T.	YRAP Champ Awards
11/7-8	Full Moon Farm	YRAP Team Competition

Scenes From Around Area II



Nancy Seybold's 8 year old Novice horse Eli has to be part of any picture of this cute snowy trail ride! Joining them are Dana Hollister, riding Nancy's retired 20 year old eventer Piko and Inna Dzekunova on her BN eventer, 7 year old OTTB Beorn. What better way to enjoy the snow than to hack through Waredaca's xc fields? Photo by Nancy Seybold

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.