



# BLENNHEIM EQUISPORTS

2019

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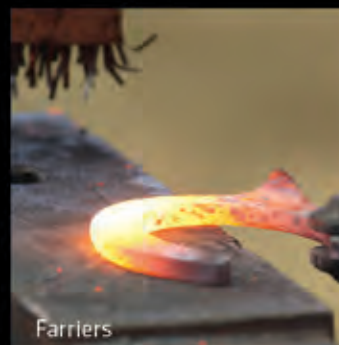
Equipment



Auto



Equine liability



Farriers

— Proud partner of **Blenheim EquiSports** and sponsor of the **Markel Insurance 1.45M Jumper** series and final —

*Congratulations to Shawn Casady riding Durango VDL*

*Owned by Highpoint Farm LLC*

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Brandon Seger	213-219-7837
Chris Norden	877-341-8560

*Director of Sport Horse Disciplines*

🌐 [sporthorseinsurance.com](http://sporthorseinsurance.com)    📘 [/MarkelHorse](https://www.facebook.com/MarkelHorse)

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## MEDIA PARTNERS

Our publication and  
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## SPONSORS

Thank you to those who help  
make this all possible





# SHOWPARK.COM

#YourPlaceToJump Online



## COMPETITOR FORMS

Access online forms



## SCHEDULES

2019 calendar & weekly schedules



## SIGN-UPS

Sign up for tomorrow's classes



## ORDERS OF GO

View next day's orders of go

## PLAN YOUR #PATHWAYTOSUCCESS

View the 2019 Pathways to Success:

[SHOWPARK.COM/COMPETITIONS-SERIES](http://SHOWPARK.COM/COMPETITIONS-SERIES)

Discover Our 3 World-Class Destinations:

[SHOWPARK.COM/LOCATIONS](http://SHOWPARK.COM/LOCATIONS)



# WELCOME

As each show season approaches, we look forward to the return of trainers, owners, competitors, sponsors, Founders Club members, and our loyal staff, who have all been a part of the Blenheim EquiSports history for the past two decades. We are also thrilled to welcome new friends to our outdoor venues in San Juan Capistrano and Del Mar, California as well as at our season finale in Las Vegas, Nevada.

During the off-season, we have been busy preparing the grass fields and sand rings for your arrival, as well as reviewing and enhancing all of our programs. By offering hunter, jumper, and equitation rider pathways throughout the spring, summer, and fall, our goal is to help you achieve your competitive goals in a world-class setting.

We continue to support our young horses – the future of our sport – with the Young Jumper and Young Hunter programs. Offering free entries and discounted stalls, these programs are once again generously sponsored by Fairbanks Valley Farm and Brookway Stables.

For hunters who have graduated from that level, we offer several qualifying classes and championships to continue on your path. From the Hunter Spectacular to the CPHA and USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Championships to the NAL Finals and more, there is something for everyone at every level at Blenheim EquiSports.

For jumpers advancing along the path, new this year we present the Blenheim EquiSports Developing Jumper Series and Finals. We also welcome the return of the Markel Insurance Jumper Series and Final. This season we are offering five FEI events - two during the spring season, two in the summer season, and the return of The Las Vegas National in late fall.

Thank you for choosing Blenheim EquiSports as your Place to Jump in 2019. We hope to exceed your expectations and make your experience with us memorable. Should you have any suggestions or needs, please approach our Management Team and we will be happy to assist you in any way possible.

Cheers to 2019 and the pursuit of your #PathwayToSuccess with us!

Many thanks,  
*The Blenheim EquiSports Team*



# WEST COAST



## BLenheim EQUISPORTS

### 19 WEEKS OF SHOWS — 3 WORLD-CLASS DESTINATIONS

#### JUMPER SERIES

Young Jumper Series & Final - *FREE entries, discounted stalls*

BES Developmental Jumper Series & Final - *NEW in 2019!*

Markel Insurance 1.45m Series & Final - *13 qualifiers*

U25 1.45m Series & Championship - *part of the Young Rider pathway*

Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Las Vegas - *part of the North American League*

#### JUMPER EVENTS, CHAMPIONSHIPS & FINALS

5 FEI Events - *Bronze, Silver and Gold Tours, from 1.35m - 1.50m*

1.50m Grand Prix classes

Zone 10 NAJYRC Selection Trials

NAL West Coast Finals - *3 divisions*

Show Jumping Hall Of Fame Jr/AO Jumper Finals West - *moves outdoors to SJC!*

AON/USHJA National Championships\* - *returns to Vegas!*

#### EQUITATION EVENTS & MEDAL FINALS

Whitethorne American Tradition of Excellence Equitation Challenge

CPHA Medal Finals

CPHA Foundation Finals

ASPCA Maclay Regionals

USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Final, West

USHJA Jumping Seat Medal Final, West

West Coast Equestrians (WCE) Medal Finals

Foxfield Medal Final

*\*pending USEF approval*

# SHOWCATION

## THE PLACE TO JUMP

### HUNTER EVENTS & SERIES

Brookway Stables Young Hunter Series & Championships - *FREE entries, discounted stalls*  
3 USHJA WCHR Weeks  
SmartPak Grand Hunter & High Score Awards  
5 USHJA National Hunter Derbies  
3 USHJA International Hunter Derbies  
3 USHJA Pony Hunter Derbies  
USHJA WCHR Hunter Spectacular  
West Coast Amateur Owner Hunter Challenge - *NEW in 2019!*  
West Coast Pony Hunter Challenge

### HUNTER CHAMPIONSHIPS & FINALS

USHJA Pony Hunter Derby West Coast Championships - *NEW in 2019!*  
CPHA Green Hunter 3' & 3'3" Incentive Finals - *plus qualifiers*  
USHJA Green Hunter Incentive SW Regional Championships - *plus qualifiers*  
NAL West Coast Finals - *2 divisions*  
Sallie B. Wheeler Hunter Breeding Championships  
AON/USHJA National Championships\* - *returns to Vegas!*

### CLASSICS FOR ALL

1.10m – 1.40m Open Jumper Classics  
Jr/AO Jumper Classics  
Young Jumper Classics  
'A' & 'C'-rated Hunter Classics

### BLLENHEIM EQUISPORTS

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO • DEL MAR • LAS VEGAS

THEPLACETOJUMP.COM







## THE OAKS

Wishing all of our riders and horses  
a successful show season.

Joie Gatlin  Morley Abey  
SHOW JUMPING



## AREA GUIDE:

# San Juan Capistrano

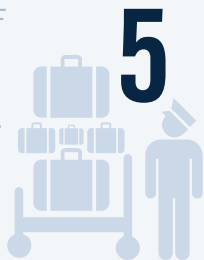
**RMV RIDING PARK FACT:** *Over a dozen Olympic medalists have competed in Olympic Trials and International competitions here on these grounds.*



# 16

THE # OF 4\*+ RATED GOLF COURSES & CLUBS WITHIN 30 MINUTES OF THE Rancho Mission Viejo Riding Park

THE NUMBER OF 5\* HOTELS WITHIN A 30 MIN. DRIVE OF THE RIDING PARK



# 5

# 5

*The number of nearby parks & nature reserves filled with hiking trails and beautiful vistas:*

RONALD W CASPERS WILDERNESS PARK

WHITING RANCH REGIONAL PARK

CRYSTAL COVE STATE PARK

ALISO & WOOD CANYONS WILDERNESS PARK

THOMAS F RILEY WILDERNESS PARK



# 28

THE NUMBER OF 5\* RATED MASSAGE & BODYWORK SPAS WITHIN 20 MINS OF THE RANCHO MISSION VIEJO RIDING PARK

# 19



THE NUMBER OF 5\* RATED SALONS WITHIN TEN MILES OF THE RIDING PARK



# 4

number of

**FARMER'S MARKETS** WITHIN MINUTES OF SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO'S HISTORIC TOWN CENTER

## HISTORY

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO IS FILLED WITH HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND SITES, SOME OF WHICH ARE WORLD-RENOWN:

*Mission San Juan Capistrano, Mission Basilica San Juan Capistrano, Manuel Garcia Adobe, The Blas Aguilar Adobe, San Juan Capistrano Jail Cell, Los Rios District*

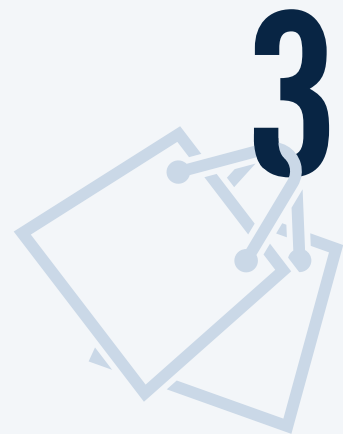


The number of vineyards and winerys within 30 minutes of the riding park.



**TOP-RATED RESTAURANTS & COFFEE HOUSES**

*Tim Is Making Great Coffee  
The Tea House on Los Rios  
Maison Cafe & Market  
The Fuel Shack  
Ciao Pasta  
Pascal*



# 3

*The number of shopping malls within 30 minutes of the riding park.*

# The First Name in Equine Air Travel



## Every Seat is FIRST CLASS!

- Walk-On Ramp Loading
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- Padded Stalls
- Expert Handling





## AREA GUIDE:

# Del Mar

**10** THE # OF MINUTES  
IT TAKES TO DRIVE  
TO NEARBY BEACHES:

15<sup>th</sup> Street Beach  
Del Mar City Beach  
Solana Beach



**7**

The number  
of 5\* rated  
SPAS in  
Del Mar

**3**

THE NUMBER OF  
5\* HOTELS  
WITHIN A 20 MINUTE  
DRIVE OF THE  
HORSE PARK



**6**

THE NUMBER OF GORGEOUS  
NATURAL PARKS & BEACHES  
FILLED WITH HIKING TRAILS  
& BREATHTAKING SCENERY



## TOP-RATED RESTAURANTS

*La Taqueria Veggie SD*

*Market Restaurant + Bar*

*Beeside Balcony*

*Bongiorno's New York Pizzeria*

**12**



THE NUMBER OF 4\*+  
RATED GOLF COURSES  
AND COUNTRY CLUBS  
WITHIN 20 MINUTES  
OF THE HORSE PARK

**8**

THE NUMBER OF  
MINUTES TO DRIVE  
TO DEL MAR  
RACE TRACK



## FASHION



Find luxury retailers &  
high-end shopping just  
40 minutes away in  
downtown San Diego.

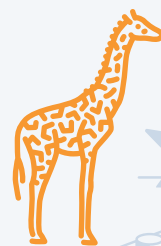


**7**

THE NUMBER OF VENUES  
OFFERING HOT AIR BALLOON  
RIDES WITHIN A 20 MINUTE  
DRIVE OF THE HORSE PARK



*Del Mar is one the few places in  
the world where a balloon can fly  
at sunrise and sunset.*



**WITHIN 30  
MINUTES**

LEGOLAND  
SEAWORLD  
THE SAN DIEGO ZOO



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Alex Granato

Photo by: Amelia Knott and Photography

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**Equ**



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*Stay connected this social season:*

#PathwayToSuccess  
 #ThePlaceToJump  
 #WestCoastShowcation  
 #BES2019





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Friendly Staff

---

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Horse and Rider

---

First Aid Supplies

---

Great Gift  
Selection

## HOURS:

SAT/SUN 10AM – 4PM

MON-FRI 10AM – 6PM

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# BLENHEIM EQUISPORTS

## #THEPLACETOJUMP

FOR DEVELOPING HORSES & RIDERS

*and so much more...*

**NEW IN 2019! WEST COAST  
YOUNG JUMPER SERIES & FINALS,  
PRESENTED BY FAIRBANKS VALLEY FARM**

**2019 SHOW SEASON: 18 Qualifying Events**

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EQUISPORTS**

Discounted stabling & complimentary show fees  
on age restricted classes for ALL young jumpers,  
plus one additional non-prize money jumper class

**@ LANGER  
EQUESTRIAN**

ALL Young Jumpers receive a \$200 show  
credit, plus no nomination fees

**\$45,000 Blenheim EquiSports  
West Coast Young Jumper Finals**

Showpark All Seasons Summer Classic, Aug. 28 – Sept. 1, in Del Mar

Program details: [showpark.com/young-jumper-series](http://showpark.com/young-jumper-series)

**BLENHEIM EQUISPORTS**

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FEELYN FARMS' FLASHDANCE  
(For Edition - Virginia II, by Quinar)  
2016 Six Year Old YJC class winner  
© Carol Brooks Parker





VOLTAIRE  
design



Oliver Townend & Samuel Thomas

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[VoltaireDesign.com](http://VoltaireDesign.com)







📷 | anniebananie616

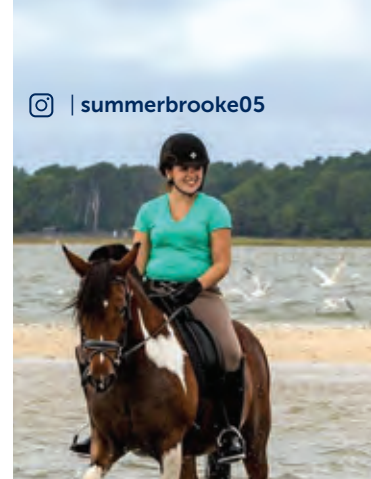


📷 | Lauren S.

"I love this horse more than anything in the world #WhyIColiCare"



📷 | Melissa B.



📷 | summerbrooke05

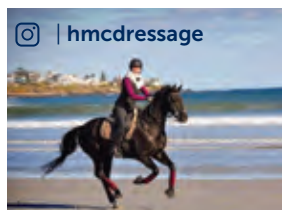
# Thousands of horse owners like you found their reason to say **#WhyIColiCare**



📷 | angmasucci



📷 | panthercastleranch



📷 | hmcdressage

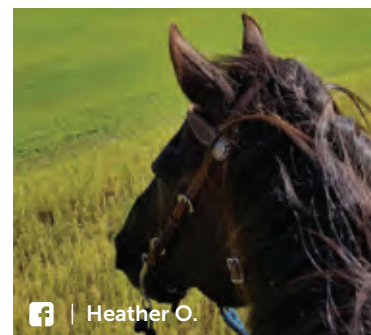


📷 | Lauren W.

"It puts me at ease knowing I'm doing all I can for a healthy horse! #WhyIColiCare"



📷 | Nora R.



📷 | Heather O.



📷 | jillaypearson

## WHAT WILL YOUR REASON BE?

Search #WhyIColiCare on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to read why other horse owners have chosen to enroll their horses in ColiCare, SmartPak's free \$7,500 colic surgery reimbursement program. **Visit [SmartPak.com/ColiCare](https://SmartPak.com/ColiCare) to get started today, then share your story!**



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FROM SMARTPAK



# Do you have what it takes to be a World Championship Hunter Rider?



# WCHR

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HUNTER RIDER

PHOTOS: THE BOOK LLC, SHAWN MCMILLEN, JAMES STUART, JERRY MOHME, JAMES LESLIE PARKER, JAY GOSS

## Congratulations to the 2018 WCHR Southwest Regional Winners!

**Professional - Jenny Karazissis**

**Developing Professional - Karli Postel**

**Adult Amateur - Cathy Morris-Schmitt**

**Amateur Owner 3'6"- Laura Wasserman**

**Amateur Owner 3'3"- Chelsea Samuels**

**Handy Hunter - Jenny Karazissis**

**Junior 3'6" - Stella Wasserman**

**Junior 3'3"- Gabrielle Sokolow**

**Pony - Shiloh Roseboom**

**Children's - Zoe Wolf**

**Professional Owner - Dulcie Lou Morris**

**Developing Pro Owner - Laura Wasserman**

### JOIN TODAY... and be part of the fun in 2019!

*Become a member by Midnight Eastern time of the last day of this competition and receive points toward Regional and National awards, and qualifying for the WCHR Finals Challenge classes held during the Capital Challenge Horse Show.*

**For more information contact**

**Danae Fryman at [dfryman@ushja.org](mailto:dfryman@ushja.org) or (859) 225-6734, or visit [www.ushja.org/wchr](http://www.ushja.org/wchr).**



# WCHR

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HUNTER RIDER

## Welcome to the 2019 World Championship Hunter Rider Series!

Thank you to the exhibitors and managers who make this program so successful.  
All of the competitions listed below have been selected as 2019 WCHR Member Events  
and are eligible for inclusion in Regional and National point standings.

*Be part of the fun in 2019!*

### CENTRAL MOUNTAIN

**Scottsdale Spring Classic**  
March 21-24, 2019 • Scottsdale, AZ  
**Colorado Spring Classic**  
May 16-19, 2019 • Parker, CO  
**Summer In The Rockies III**  
June 19-23, 2019 • Parker, CO  
**Summer In The Rockies VII**  
July 17-21, 2019 • Parker, CO  
**Santa Fe Summer Series**  
- Santa Fe Fiesta  
July 31-August 4, 2019 • Santa Fe, NM  
**Colorado Fall Classic**  
September 12-15, 2019 • Parker, CO

### MID ATLANTIC

**Lexington Spring Premiere**  
April 24-28, 2019 • Lexington, VA  
**Keswick Hunt Club**  
May 14-19, 2019 • Keswick, VA  
**Upperville Colt & Horse Show**  
June 3-9, 2019 • Upperville, VA  
**Loudoun Benefit**  
June 12-16, 2019 • Upperville, VA  
**Deep Run**  
June 19-23, 2019 • Manakin Sabot, VA  
**Brandywine Valley Summer Series I**  
June 26-30, 2019 • Devon, PA  
**Lexington National Horse Show**  
August 7-11, 2019 • Lexington, VA  
**Middleburg Classic**  
September 18-22, 2019 • Leesburg, VA  
**MIDWEST**  
**World Equestrian Center Winter Classic #3**  
January 9-13, 2019 • Wilmington, OH  
**Kentucky Spring**  
May 7-12, 2019 • Lexington, KY

**Country Heir II**  
June 12-16, 2019 • Lexington, KY  
**Chagrin Hunter Jumper Classic**  
July 9-14, 2019 • Chagrin Falls, OH  
**Great Lakes Equestrian Festival II**  
July 10-14, 2019 • Williamsburg, MI  
**Kentucky Summer Classic**  
July 24-28, 2019 • Lexington, KY  
**Equifest II**  
July 30-August 4, 2019 • Wayne, IL  
**Blue Grass Festival**  
August 13-18, 2019 • Lexington, KY

### NORTHEAST

**Old Salem Farm May II**  
May 14-19, 2019 • North Salem, NY  
**The Skidmore College Saratoga Classic I**  
June 12-16, 2019 • Saratoga Springs, NY  
**Fairfield Co. Hunt Club June**  
June 18-22, 2019 • Westport, CT  
**Lake Placid**  
June 25-30, 2019 • Lake Placid, NY  
**Manchester Classic**  
July 17-21, 2019 • East Dorset, VT  
**The Princeton Summer Classic**  
July 23-27, 2019 • Princeton, NJ  
**Hampton Classic**  
August 25-September 1, 2019 • Bridge Hampton, NY  
**NORTHWEST**  
**Spring Nat'L Hunter**  
April 9-14, 2019 • Monroe, WA  
**Pacific Northwest H/J**  
May 15-19, 2019 • Monroe, WA  
**Thunderbird Show Park Canadian Premiere**  
May 22-26, 2019 • Langley, BC

**Early Summer H/J Classic #2**  
June 19-23, 2019 • Wilsonville, OR  
**Oregon High Desert Classic 2**  
July 24-28, 2019 • Bend, OR  
**Summer Fort Classic**  
August 14-18, 2019 • Langley, BC  
**Northwest Spectacular**  
August 28-September 1, 2019 • Wilsonville, OR  
**Northwest Autumn Classic**  
September 11-15, 2019 • Monroe, WA

### SOUTH CENTRAL

**Great Southwest Winter Series II**  
February 6-10, 2019 • Katy, TX  
**Great Southwest Winter Series III**  
February 13-17, 2019 • Katy, TX  
**Pin Oak Charity**  
March 27-31, 2019 • Katy, TX  
**Pin Oak Charity Horse Show III**  
April 3-7, 2019 • Katy, TX  
**Texas Shoot-Out**  
April 24-28, 2019 • Tyler, TX  
**Lone Star Round Up**  
May 1-5, 2019 • Katy, TX  
**Show Jumping Classic**  
May 15-19, 2019 • Tyler, TX  
**Southwest Classic**  
May 22-26, 2019 • Fort Worth, TX  
**SOUTHEAST**  
**Wef 6 Equestrian Sport Productions, LLC**  
February 12-17, 2019 • Wellington, FL  
**Gulf Coast Midwinter IV**  
February 27-March 3, 2019 • Gulfport, MS  
**Ocala Winter Finals**  
March 5-10, 2019 • Ocala, FL  
**Aiken Spring Classic Masters**  
April 17-21, 2019 • Aiken, SC

**Aiken Charity Horse Show I**  
May 1-5, 2019 • Aiken, SC  
**Equus Events Tryon Spring 3**  
May 15-19, 2019 • Mill Spring, NC  
**Blowing Rock Charity I**  
July 23-28, 2019 • Blowing Rock, NC

### SOUTHWEST

**Desert Circuit VIII**  
March 12-17, 2019 • Thermal, CA  
**Blenheim Spring Classic IV**  
April 10-14, 2019 • San Juan Capistrano, CA  
**Temecula Valley National I**  
April 17-21, 2019 • Temecula, CA  
**Del Mar National Horse Show**  
April 30-May 5, 2019 • Del Mar, CA  
**Showpark Ranch & Coast Classic**  
May 7-12, 2019 • Del Mar, CA  
**Blenheim June Classic I**  
June 5-9, 2019 • San Juan Capistrano, CA  
**Giant Steps Charity Horse Shows**  
July 31-August 4, 2019 • Petaluma, CA  
**Menlo Charity Horse Show**  
August 6-11, 2019 • Atherton, CA

### NATIONAL

**Devon**  
May 23-June 2, 2019 • Devon, PA  
**Capital Challenge Horse Show**  
Sept. 30-October 6, 2019 • Upper Marlboro, MD

*For more information  
contact Danae Fryman  
at [dfryman@ushja.org](mailto:dfryman@ushja.org)  
or (859) 225-6734.*



# BROOKWAY STABLES



*Proud to support the  
development of young hunters.*

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**KARLI POSTEL // JENNY ROSS // CARLOS SORIANO**

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# BLLENHEIM EQUISPORTS

## 2019 USHJA/WCHR MEMBER EVENT SPECIAL AWARDS

Blenheim Spring Classic IV, Showpark Ranch & Coast Classic,  
and Blenheim June Classic I



**SMARTPAK™**

### SMARTPAK HIGH SCORE HUNTER AWARDS

A \$50 SmartPak Gift Certificate will be awarded to the Horse who has received the Highest Score in the following Divisions:

- Conformation Hunter – Green & High
- Performance Hunter – 3'3", 3'6", & High
- Green Hunter – 3', 3'3", 3'6", 3'9"
- 3'3" Junior Hunter
- 3'6" Junior Hunter
- 3'3" Amateur Owner Hunter
- 3'6" Amateur Owner Hunter
- Children's Hunter
- Adult Amateur Hunter
- Pony Hunter
- Children's Pony Hunter
- Overall Award – Highest Score from all sections

### SMARTPAK GRAND CHAMPION HUNTER AWARDS

A \$50 SmartPak Gift Certificate will be awarded to the Horse who has accumulated the most points in the following Divisions:

- Conformation Hunter – Green & High  
(model points not to count)
- Performance Hunter – 3'3", 3'6", & High
- Green Hunter – 3', 3'3", 3'6", 3'9"
- 3'3" Junior Hunter
- 3'6" Junior Hunter
- Children's Hunter
- 3'3" Amateur Owner Hunter
- 3'6" Amateur Owner Hunter
- Adult Amateur Hunter
- Pony Hunter
- Children's Pony Hunter
- Overall Award – Highest Total points  
from all sections

*TIES – High Score ties to be broken by using the Handy Hunter Score; if Handy Hunter Round does not apply then awards to remain tied; Grand Champion ties to be broken by the total number of over fences points, if points are equal then awards to remain tied; Model Points not to count.*





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ROECK-GRIP PRO



# Park Place Foundation

Formed to promote and embrace a healthy lifestyle for our children and teens as they embark into their journey toward adulthood, Park Place Foundation strives to change how we perceive and treat addiction and mental illness through education and increased awareness of peers who have fallen victim to this disease – a disease that is riddled by shame, isolation, loneliness and a sense of failure.

We believe that by joining together for this cause we can bring forth a message of hope and healing. To find out more about the Foundation or to make a donation, please visit [parkplacefoundation.com](http://parkplacefoundation.com).



Celebrating the  
*Strength and Beauty*  
of equestrians since 1996

Heather Caristo Williams & Evening Star, HITS 2014



# ROMFH

Proud Sponsor of Weekly & Circuit Awards  
for Children's Hunter Classics, Adult Jumper  
& Adult Hunter Classics

Romfh.com



# BLenheim EQUISPORTS

## 2019 CIRCUIT AWARDS

### JUMPERS

**Kastel Denmark 1.45m Junior/Amateur/Amateur Owner Jumper Classic**

Kastel Denmark Jacket Gift Certificate

**Valencia Sport Saddlery 1.35m JR/Amateur/Amateur Owner Jumper Classic**

\$250 Valencia Sport Saddlery Gift Certificate

**Antares Sellier 1.25m JR/Amateur/Amateur Owner Jumper Classic**

Antares Sellier "Spoooner Saddle"

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# THE AON/USHJA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS *Hits the Jackpot*

Held in Las Vegas, the debut event receives rave reviews as riders from all levels compete for national titles.

Story and event photos  
by Tricia Booker

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from USHJA

If a smile has the power to light up a room, then those attending the AON/USHJA National Championships in Las Vegas, Nevada, gave "Sin City" a run for its money.

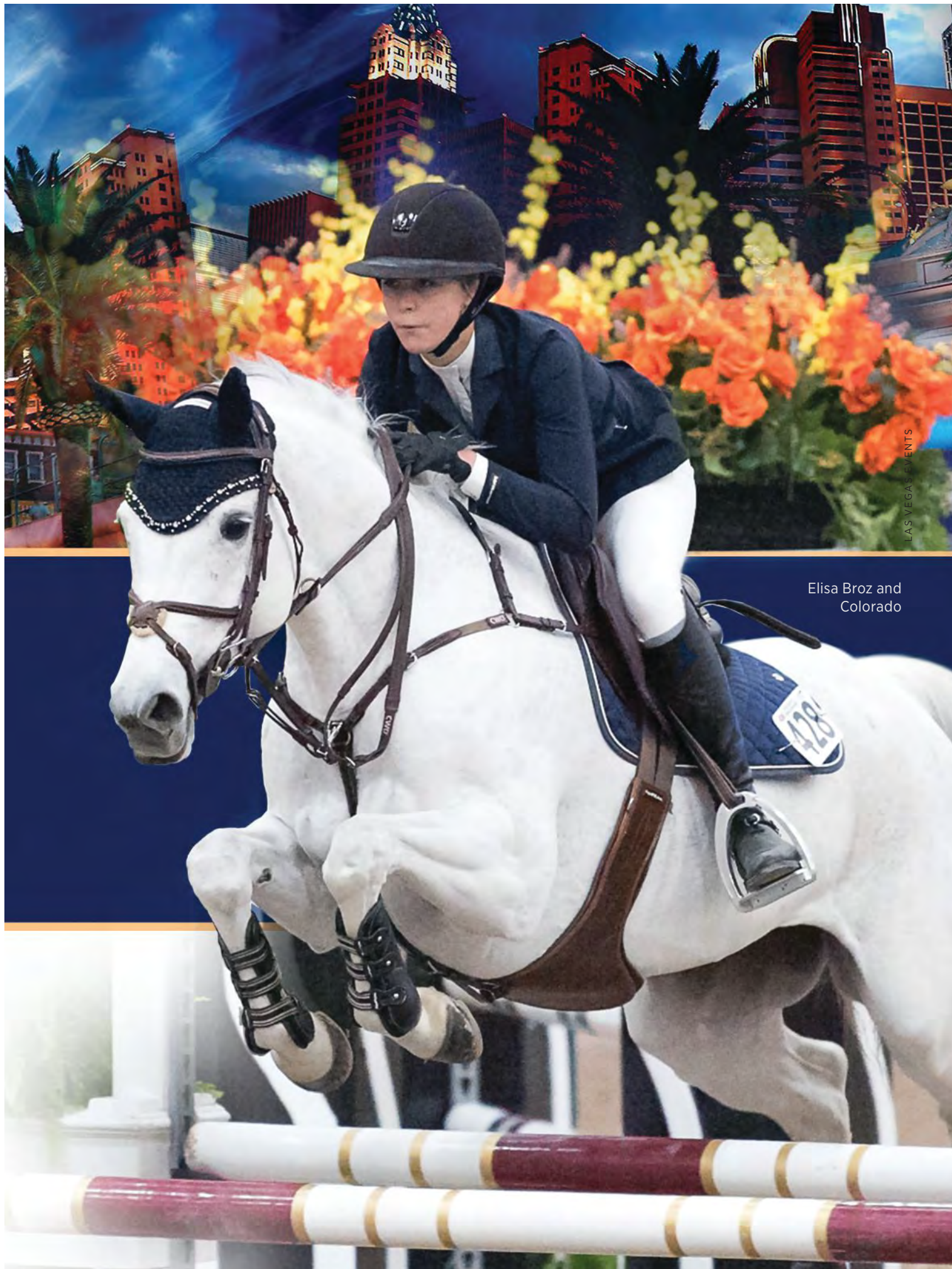
"I absolutely love this show, and it's my new favorite!" said a beaming 13-year-old Makena Reeves. She summed up what many people felt during the six-day competition, held November 13-18 in conjunction with the Las Vegas National CSI4\*-W at

the South Point Hotel, Casino and Spa.

There, titles were earned across Hunter, Jumper and Equitation sections, with 26 medals, 1,450 ribbons, 34 horse coolers, 70 sponsor awards and seven perpetual trophies awarded. The championships included riders from nearly every USHJA Zone, competing from the Open Jumpers to the 2' Affiliate level.

"I'm excited, because I loved seeing the smiling faces on the new people," said Pat-





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Lindsey Schiefelbein, left, made her presence known in Las Vegas with Verdict, winning the 3'6" Amateur-Owner Hunter championship, the Amateur-Owner Hunter Classic and the Amateur-Owner Hunter Grand championship. Adeline Cordin-Blitstein was thrilled to travel from Illinois to claim the Adult Amateur Jumper championship aboard Vince.

rick Boyle, competition manager. "It's so cool, and all of the prizes and gift bags were amazing. There's so much stuff, and it's so special, and that to me is what a National Championships should be—all-inclusive, and everyone should be rewarded."

### **CASINO SWEEPS**

"I think it's been very lucky having Casino show under the casino," said Kate Abajian with an understated smile. "I was the Leading Equitation Rider and High-Point Rider this week, and I'm happy that it was such a good show for me, especially considering it was my last show in the Equitation as a junior rider. It was a perfect way to end it."

She guided Don Stewart's Tip Jar, appropriately nicknamed Casino, to a clean sweep in the Equitation, 15-17, section. "I'm super thrilled. He's an amazing horse," said Abajian. "I like his personality, and he's such a hard worker. I love how easygoing he is, and he doesn't care about what's in the ring or what he jumps, as long as I tell him where to go. He's such a good guy and so much fun to ride."

Abajian, 17, of San Juan Capistrano, California, is now moving on to focus on the Jumpers and Hunters as she begins a professional career. She's well prepared, as she earned the team silver medal in the USHJA Zones 9/10 Jumper Team Championships in the 1.30m section with Curtis 57 a week earlier in California.

"I want to thank my trainers, John Bragg and Lee Flick, for all that they've

done," she said. "I came to Las Vegas last year, so this is my second year. I think it's a lot of fun to show here, and I like how the horse show is part of the hotel. You get to come and go as you please and can come see your horse all hours of the day, which is really nice."

**I think it's been very lucky having Casino show under the casino.—**

**Kate Abajian**

### **JUST HAVING FUN**

Makena Reeves wrapped up her weekend earning the Children's Hunter Grand Championship and the High-Point Children's Hunter Rider titles. Reeves was also crowned champion of the Children's Hunter, 14 and under, section on her own Quincy.

Reeves, 13, has been partnered with her 14-year-old dark brown Hanoverian gelding, who boasts a distinctive white spot, for almost a year. They began showing 3-foot over the summer and also train with Bragg and Flick out of Bridgeport Farms, LLC.

"The first day, we were first in the Welcome and didn't do so well in the Handy; we're still working on that, and it was just our second time doing a Handy,"

said Reeves. "My high score was in the Welcome, where I got an 87. I was just thinking about having fun and not about winning, so I went around, and it felt amazing. It just felt like we were flying. It was the best round I've ever had. I've never scored an 87."

Flick credited Reeves for her natural feel and ability. "Makena is really stepping up quickly," he said. "I think she's very gifted, and it's coming very naturally to her. She started out in the Low Children's before she came to us over the summer. So I think big things are in store for her."

### **BROZ IS BRILLIANT**

Elisa Broz may have needed another trailer to carry all of her winnings home to Belmont Training Stable in Watsonville, California. After earning the USEF/USHJA Children's Jumper co-championship (with Amelie Bittar, aboard Why Not B) and winning the \$10,000 USHJA Children's Jumper Grand Prix aboard Colorado, Broz captured the USHJA Equitation, 14 and under, championship, the Equitation, 14 and under, Leading Rider perpetual trophy and the Children's Hunter Classic with Beforeanythingelse.

"This is all so amazing and such a big deal," said the 13-year-old. "It's my first year doing jumpers and my first time here, and I love my horses, my trainer [Cassie Belmont] and my parents!"

Fresh from a successful outing at the USHJA Zones 9/10 Jumper Team Championships the previous week in California,







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Laura Wasserman and Lisa Wu enjoyed a moment of camaraderie during the Amateur-Owner Hunter Classic awards presentation, left, and John Franzreb called the classes to order with talent and charm.



## WORDS FROM OUR WINNERS



### JENNY KARAZISSIS Champion with Puissance R in the 3'9" USHJA Green Hunters

*"I thought the courses [by Thomas Hern] were beautiful, and Pat Boyle did such a great job dressing up the arena for the National Championships show," Karazissis said. "I'm so proud of my horse, Puissance R, for just giving me her all. I'm thrilled with how she performed."*

*"It's very gratifying and so nice for owner Lisa Hankin; she adores her horse, and it means so much to her. It's nice to have an owner who really feels the importance. She was in tears afterward, and I feel like I did my job, and the horse pulled through like she always does."*

### SARAH INVICTA WILLIAMS-ECHOLS

#### Winner of the \$10,000 USEF/USHJA 1.30 Open Jumper Grand Prix

*"I think it's really exciting to have this caliber of horse show on the West Coast," said Williams-Echols, who traveled 11 hours from Santa Fe, New Mexico. "The intent to make it a national show is great, and I hope that next year when we all come back again, it's a really diverse group like other national shows are on the East Coast. It would be lovely to have a really strong West Coast championship where East Coast people would come here, and I think that would be wonderful for the sport."*

### ANGEL KAROLYI

#### Champion with April Moon in the USEF/USHJA 1.20m Open Jumpers and with Brightly in the USEF/USHJA 1.30m Jumpers and Leading Open Jumper Rider

*"It's always nice to be Leading Rider at a championship," said Angel Karolyi. "This is my first time here out in Vegas, and I've really enjoyed it. I think the championship is a great concept, and the idea of qualifying gives it more importance."*

Broz began her stellar show in Las Vegas with tricolor honors aboard Colorado. She credited the 15.3-hand Dutch Warmblood for their successes.

"I owe it all to her. She's very fast, and she takes very good care of me," said Broz. "When I first started doing jumpers last year, I really didn't know anything. She took me from .85m to 1.10m, and has a really good heart, and she can turn like nobody's business. My strategy in the jump-off [of the Grand Prix] was to let her do her job. She's a jumping bean."

## BIG STATEMENTS

There was nothing small about the statement Jamie Taylor made aboard her two Iwasaki & Reilly entries, Small Statement and Small Occasion. Taylor and Small Statement earned the 3'3" USHJA Green Hunter championship. Then Taylor took the 3'6" USHJA Green Hunter championship with Small Occasion, in addition to winning the 3'6" Green Hunter Classic and Grand Green Hunter Champion titles. The 34-year-old professional also claimed the High-Score Rider Award for her 92 aboard Small Statement.

"It's been an incredible horse show," said Taylor. "I always love the horse show here, but this National Championship has made it so cool. The job that Pat Boyle and his team have done has been amazing. It's been a really neat format, running it a little bit differently. It's just made what was already a fun experience even better."

"AON and the USHJA have added



another whole level to this competition. It's really going to be fun as it grows, and I think it was great this year."

Augusta Iwasaki continued Makoto Farm's winning momentum, with top honors in the Junior Hunters and Equitation. Iwasaki returned to the arena with Small Occasion to claim the 3'6" USHJA Large Junior Hunter championship title, also guiding Jbls-M LLC's Caruso to the 3'6" USHJA Small Junior Hunter and Grand Junior Hunter Championship titles. Iwasaki also earned the High-Point Junior Hunter Rider Award on Small Occasion.

Iwasaki returned to the spotlight later in the week when she won the coveted West Coast Equestrian Junior/Amateur Medal Finals, a featured event of the Las Vegas National Horse Show.

### A GRAND TIME

In the USHJA Adult Amateur Hunter, 51 and over, section, Nicole Lean rode Bianca Jenkins' Grande Noir to the championship title and the co-High Score Award, as well as the Grand Adult Hunter Championship.

It was a fairytale show for Lean, 56, who

returned to the show ring in 2018 after a 25-year absence, capturing armloads of ribbons and trophies with her stunning black gelding. Lean then cheered on her youngest daughter, Danielle Lean, on Saturday night as she made her debut in an FEI World Cup Show Jumping qualifier aboard Dexceminka.

"That class was her first 1.60m, and she was bound and determined to do it," said the proud mom. "It was all about the experience, and the horse proved himself and he was great. Her smile coming out of the ring was priceless."



Jamie Taylor, top left, collected armfuls of awards with, from left, Small Occasion and Small Statement in the Green Hunter sections. Kate Abajian received the inaugural Showplace Productions Overall Top Equitation Rider Perpetual Trophy from Patrick Boyle. And Grande Noir enjoyed the sweet taste of victory with Nicole Lean, pictured right.



## USHJA AFFILIATE HUNTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

The AON/USHJA National Championships included the first-of-its-kind Affiliate National Championship. The USHJA Affiliate Hunters included horse-and-rider combinations that qualified through their USHJA Affiliate Member Organizations and competed at the 2' and 2'6" fence heights.

The champion of the USHJA Affiliate Hunter 2' section and representing the Greater San Diego Hunter Jumper Association was Emilie Melnychuk, aboard her own Aragon. Reserve champion was Kimberly Stubblefield, representing the Los Angeles Hunter Jumper Association with her own Pendleton.



Amy Gau traveled from Oregon to earn the USHJA 2'6" Affiliate Hunter Championship with David Hopkins' Taj Capri.

The champion of the USHJA Affiliate Hunter 2'6" section was Amy Gau, riding David Hopkins' Taj Capri, and representing the Oregon Hunter Jumper Association.

Noah Nelson, representing the Greater San Diego Hunter Jumper Association, earned the reserve championship title aboard his own Holy Smokes.

Nicole Lean's smiles were also infectious (she's featured on page 30). She and her "dream horse" finished their first show season with a national championship under the watchful eyes of trainers Devon Gibson and Gabriella Pattinson of Sea Horse Riding Club in Rolling Hills Estates, California.

"When I was 16 years old, I went back east to try horses with my trainer, and I tried out a black horse with white socks. I wanted him so badly," she recalled. "We clicked, and it was perfect, but it was more money than my parents wanted to spend. So I feel, now that I'm older, I have my dream horse. My black horse with the white socks—and he's amazing."

Nicole's path to the championship wasn't without hard work. She returned to the saddle facing new challenges as an older amateur, so the end result was even more rewarding. "It's absolutely amazing. I went out there and was a little nervous coming in here. I made a mistake and chipped and got a 68 score the first day," she said. "I then came back for the second round and nailed it. All I wanted was to come back and finish out the year on a high note, and he did, with an 86 score. And I was crying!"

### VINCE PACKS

Adeline Cordin-Blitstein was easy to spot in the stands before her class as she

sported the bright green and gold of the Green Bay Packers, from her boot socks to her hat. Then, she entered the ring and earned her own gold in the USEF/USHJA 1.10/1.15m Adult Amateur Jumper Championship.

Although the Packers lost to the Seattle Seahawks that weekend, Cordin-Blitstein, 32, of Burr Ridge, Illinois, celebrated nonetheless with her horse of seven years, Vince.

"He's 11, and he's been everywhere with me; he's my pet," she said. "I got him as a 4-year-old, and we've been doing the Adult Jumpers for four years."

"This is the first year I told myself I wanted to make it to indoors, and this was the icing on the cake right now, to come out to this big show," she said. "When I saw this show on the USHJA website, I told my trainer Janet Sassmannshausen I wanted to go. Then, when I was able to qualify and get in, there was no saying 'no' to this. It still blows my mind—I'm from Illinois, and I came all this way. I'm just on Cloud 9."

Cordin-Blitstein didn't travel to Las Vegas expecting to earn a national championship. "I thought the first day it was so cool to be second. I went second in the class, and I held the lead all the way to the last person, and I was so happy to ride for ribbons," she said of the show's formal presentations. "And then, the next day, I end up second again—and I'm like, 'This is so

cool! I get to ride for ribbons again!"

Although there are many activities from which to choose at South Point, Cordin-Blitstein found herself happily in the Sports Book on game night to watch it on wall-to-wall TVs.

"I'm a huge sports freak. I'm from Chicago, but I'm a Green Bay fan. I named my horse after [famous Green Bay coach] Vince Lombardi. When my dad was little, he was a Bears fan. But when he went to a Bears/Packers game and was standing on the sidelines trying to get autographs, none of the Bears players would sign anything for him. So Ray Nitschke [a famous Packers linebacker] said, 'I'll sign this, and you may want to rethink the team you're rooting for.' So ever since then, we've been Packers fans."

Cordin-Blitstein is already making plans to return to Las Vegas for the great competition and the fun venue, and will tell all her friends. "I hope more people from my barn and from Illinois will come here and see how great it is," she said. "We're having a blast. Yesterday we went ziplining, something I never thought I would do. How cool is that? I went to a haunted museum, too. There's just so much to do here. It's a fun place!"

*Please see the January 2019 issue of In Stride on pages 26-27 for a list of all the champions. For full results, please visit: [ushja.org/NationalChampionships](http://ushja.org/NationalChampionships).*





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# 2019 Emerging Pro Grant Winners

photos by McCool

**F**or the third consecutive year, Blenheim EquiSports is proud to present the recipients of the Emerging Professional Grant. Once again an impressive group of young riders applied, making the committee's decision a difficult one.

After review and deliberation, Blenheim EquiSports decided to award five grants this year. The overall winner by unanimous vote is the young professional, Gabriela Pattinson, pictured aboard Quadrigus. She will receive \$5,000 of Blenheim EquiSports horse show credit to help achieve her goals.

Having her first riding lesson on a grand prix horse at age six may have steered Pattinson on the path she continues on today. That first ride and her foundation came from working with Jenny Meyer, George Meyer, and Gail Ross. Her hard work at the barn earned her rides on numerous sale horses, giving her experience from pony hunters to medal finals.

When she aged out of the juniors, the young talent considered taking a break from the horseworld. Then she got a job offer from one of her idols, Devon Gibson, that changed her mind.

"I am coming on my third year of working for her and it was been an incredible journey. From the start, Devon made it very clear that she believed in me, my riding, and my work ethic, and if I was willing to put in the work on my end, she would help me accomplish any and all of my goals," Pattinson explains.

"Within a year of working for her, I had competed and placed in the USET Finals, jumped my first 1.40m, jumped my first Grand Prix, won my first U25, and competed in countless National and International Hunter Derbies. I could not have asked for a better jump start on my goals at such a young age."

Blenheim EquiSports offers the steps along the athlete pathway that will help Pattinson achieve her goal to represent her country internationally, including the U25 Classics and Championship, the Markel Insurance 1.45m Jumper Series



and Finals, plus FEI Tours. She also loves the "elegance and precision of the hunters," and hopes to compete in the Blenheim EquiSports Young Hunter Final and the CPHA West Coast Green Hunter Incentive Championships, plus the USHJA International Derby Finals in Lexington, KY, and the Emerging Pro Challenge at Capital Challenge.

Although hard at work in the horse world, Pattinson did not walk away from getting a higher education. She is enrolled in a full-time online program and plans to graduate with a business degree by the end of this year.

Runner-up and recipient of \$3,000 of Blenheim EquiSports horse show credit is Hallie Bittenweiser, who works for Mandy Porter and ACP Enterprises. After an East Coast upbringing, Bittenweiser had the opportunity to come West. Bittenweiser is relishing her opportunity. "I truly believe this is the best place for me

to be at this stage in my career. Mandy has every characteristic of a true horse woman. Her reputation speaks for itself, but I can attest that she is the most hard working, professional, caring, and dedicated person that I have ever worked for. She has immense integrity, which I believe is hard to find in this business, and her riding skills are something I strive to emulate. I am grateful to have landed this job, and I do not take a day of it for granted."

She continues, "Some of my most valuable lessons thus far have been the help to bring along my own young horse. I would have to say that winning the six-year-old finals this past fall at Blenheim is definitely my most recent highlight. It was the culmination of a great season and really helped me see that I am on the right path to achieve my goals of competing at the highest level of the sport."

With such a strong group of Emerging Professional applicants, the committee decided to award three honorable mentions with grants of \$500 of horse show credit to: Sophie Simpson, who has Blue Ridge Farms with partner Sean Leckie, Jessica Frend-Meyers, who owns JFM Showjumping & Training in Mesa, Arizona, and Kimberly Budnik, assistant trainer at Ridgewood Farm.

We thank and congratulate all of the Emerging Professionals for their commitment on and off the horses, and for making the effort to apply for this grant. We look forward to seeing everyone in the show ring and wish you all the best! ■





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# BLADES OF GLORY

## The Green & Springy Grass Fields of Blenheim EquiSports

*by Meghan Covert & Jackie McFarland*

One of the first things to catch your eye when arriving at the Rancho Viejo Riding Park at San Juan Capistrano are the gorgeous grass fields glistening in the sun. The beauty of the park gives visitors the chance to enjoy the outdoors, while watching amazing animals jump big obstacles. Horse show competitors relish the opportunity to ride on these fields, drawn by the allure of the emerald green space.

Of the hundreds of horse shows produced annually, only a handful offer the chance to experience the glory of galloping on grass. The fields at the Rancho Mission Viejo Riding Park at San Juan Capistrano may appear to be a typical expanse of grass to most, but unlike a soccer field or a golf course, these show jumping fields must be able to withstand the effects of hundreds of performance horses, weighing upwards of 1,200 pounds, wearing metal shoes with studs, who are running and jumping on it for multiple days in a row for three seasons each year. In order to keep the horses and their riders safe and sound, Blenheim EquiSports has a deeply rooted strategic plan to keep the grass in good standing.



## THE GREEN THUMBS OF BLENHEIM FACILITY MANAGEMENT

Walter “Walt” Navas and Ignacio “Nacho” Fernandez, the duo who manage the grass, are the green thumbs that are constantly watching and working on the prized fields. All the details of grass growth and management are in the hands of these two men who work tirelessly to make this blanket of green the best it can be.

Navas, who started this pursuit in 2000, is responsible for the “master plan” of the facility. Fernandez handles more of the hands-on work. Both are aware of everything that is happening with the grass, know what needs to be done, and together, they create the formulas that keep the fields healthy and safe for horses and riders.

Along with being Vice President of Marketing, Melissa Brandes plays a role in Blenheim Facility Management. She notes how Navas and Fernandez work. “Walt and Nacho confer everyday and make a plan. So when they water it, they don’t make decisions about the field as a whole. They evaluate the field in pieces. There’s such a science to everything they do - the weather, the use, what

the grass is doing, how its appearing, how its holding up to the horses riding on it. and they make a watering and treatment plan accordingly.”

## AERATION IS ESSENTIAL

One aspect that sets these fields apart is its composition, a hybrid of Santa Ana and Bermuda grass. This combination provides great lateral growth and is hearty enough to tolerate the all-day-long pounding of the equine traffic. After growing this ideal mix, the most important factor in determining the quality of the field for show jumping sport is aeration.

What is aeration? The process by which air is circulated through the grass, via punching it with a machine or hand-tool. With the formula that Navas and Fernandez have developed over the years, the grass stays healthy, creating a cushion for the horses to land on.

“Aeration is what oxygenates the field. But it’s far from simple to do it right. You have to have that perfect formula where you’re giving it enough breathability to stay healthy, induce new growth, and give it that springy feeling,” Brandes says.

Navas indicates that green grass is only as good as what is underneath. “The truth of the matter is the turf of the field isn’t really what makes the field good. What makes the field good is having these holes about two and a half inches apart. What happens is once the horses land, they loosen the top layer, but you don’t lose the holes underneath. Then when you put water down, the water goes to the bottom and the roots are chasing the water so it makes the roots really strong because they’re constantly chasing that water underneath the surface.”

## PREPARATION AND PROTECTION

Due to the horse shows running from Spring into Fall, the growing process begins in late November and continues through January. Because grass is usually dormant during this period, Navas has developed several strategies, like topdressing and feeding special nutrients, to encourage the grass to grow through the winter. The off-season care, management and maintenance that Navas and Fernandez give the fields determine the quality of the field for the rest of the show season.





“We aerate it at least eight inches deep. We use a lot of nutrients, a lot of gypsum, sand, and a lot of fertilizer. And we really only get one chance because we can’t go back and redo it. That process determines the growth,” Navas explains.

“And to keep the horses from slipping. The percolation of the water, compaction, there are so many factors. That window sets the tempo for the shows we have here. It’s pretty critical what happens at that time.”

Once the horse shows commence, an important transition occurs from months of preparation to months of protection. Horses are heavy on grass. When the field does get torn up, there’s no such thing as an easy fix. The green thumbs of Blenheim begin to focus on treatment

plans and ensure that rest of the team, including the technical coordinator, course designers, and ring crews, are informed. They want to be certain that divots are filled and jumps are rotated throughout the field, in order to maintain the integrity of the grass and prevent any damage.

#### FROM A STRAWBERRY FIELD TO AN INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE PLATFORM

Back when this facility was in its infancy, these had been strawberry fields. Through the years, Navas and Fernandez have created a world-class performance platform.

In a recent interview, Robert Ridland, President of Blenheim EquiSports, points out the positives. “All of our

shows, all of the jumpers, are on grass. It is something we’ve always believed in. And I would say the sport is really going in that direction. More and more of the grass fields, both in Europe and on the East Coast, are coming back. Because it is simply better for the horses. Here, our facility, that is its strong suit.”

Brandes has learned a lot more about grass than she ever imagined, knows it is one of the attractions for competitors.

“People are fascinated by the amount of meticulousness and care,” she says. “Just to understand the importance of resting it and that it is a living, breathing thing beyond a blade of grass, that it goes so much deeper, they gain a new level of appreciation for having these fields to ride and show on.” ■





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# Year in Review

*Throughout 2018, photographers were on the ground to commemorate special moments throughout the Spring, Summer and Fall seasons. Share some of the memories in these galleries!*





# 2018 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



Keri Potter



Sarah Abdi and Resa Miller



Carleton Brooks



Kyle King



Sophia Sanders



Gabrielle Sokolow





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Natalie Rae Medlock



Josh Mullins and Brandon Seger





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## The Leo Conroy Maclay Grant



Established to commemorate Leo Conroy's loyalty and dedication to the National Horse Show and the ASPCA Maclay Finals – both held a special place in Leo's heart, having been a rider and equitation trainer for most of his life.

The Leo Conroy Maclay Grant will be awarded to up to five (5) Maclay riders and three (3) Hamel Foundation NHS 3'3" Equitation riders who demonstrate a financial need in order to participate in their divisions at the National Horse Show.

The Leo Conroy Maclay Grant is open to riders who qualify to compete in the ASPCA Maclay Finals through their Regional competitions, and those who qualify to compete in the Hamel Foundation NHS 3'3" Equitation Championships.

- Selected riders will receive entry fees and stabling at the ASPCA Maclay Finals OR the Hamel Foundation NHS 3'3" Equitation Championships at the NHS, and an additional stipend to cover show related expenses (\$2000 value).
- Riders may apply online from Sept. 15 - October 4, 2019 at [www.NHS.org](http://www.NHS.org).



*Congratulations 2018 Winners!*

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# TRAINER'S FAVORITES

## #1 *Which places would you say are a must-visit?*

"In Del Mar we love Dog Beach where the dogs can run loose, and the Del Mar Racetrack is always fun. I wish we had more time to explore!" – **Traci Brooks, Balmoral**

"I always like to go to San Onofre State Beach, just south of San Clemente. It's a nice, quiet place to hang out at the end of the day." – **Shawn Casady, rider for Highpoint Farm**

"Outside the grounds at Showpark, I like Knorr Candle Shop on Villa de la Valle and the fresh vegetable stand in Rancho." – **Susie Hutchison, Susan Hutchison Stables**

"We like going to Sol Agave Mexican Restaurant, Tannins, and Totoya Sushi & Tapas. They are all close to the show and the food is great!" – **Jeni Brown, Shadowbrook Stables**

"Bad to the Bone because it's delicious and the people are so friendly." – **Sophie Simpson, Blue Ridge Farms**

"The Del Mar Racetrack and Downtown San Diego." – **Neil Jones, Neil Jones Equestrian**

## #2 *What's your favorite hidden gem around SJC and Del Mar?*

"The Market and Red Tractons in Del Mar and The Pony Room at the Rancho Valencia Resort in RSF." – **Neil Jones**

"American Horse Products is a nice tack and feed store to get supplies at a reasonable price. Mary's Tack, too, in Del Mar!" – **Jeni Brown**

"I'm a design nerd and there is a store at Crystal Cove (near SJC) called Juxtaposition Home that I love." – **Traci Brooks**

"In SJC it would have to be Ramos House and in Del Mar, definitely the Brigantine." – **Sophie Simpson**

"The Bagel Shack in SJC!" – **Shawn Casady**

## FAVORITE THING TO DO ON YOUR DAY OFF?

# #3

"Rest ... haha! On Mondays, I like to go down to the beaches and have brunch – non-horse related – and meet with friends (mostly horse people), maybe go down to Newport Beach." – **Neil Jones**

"I love yoga on Mondays. We also enjoy going to movies when we can." – **Traci Brooks**

"Either go surfing or hiking in the mountains – depending on the weather." – **Shawn Casady**

"We don't really take days off, but when we do, we like to skydive." – **Sophie Simpson**



## LISTENING TO?

# #4

"Love the *Plaidcast Podcast*, and Sirius radio for lots of variety." – **Jeni Brown**

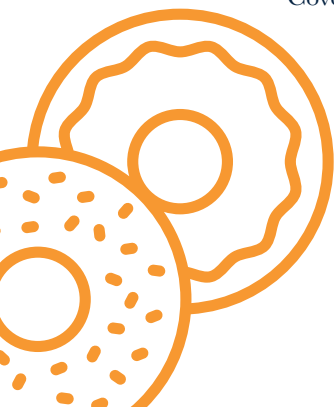
"Joe Rogan podcasts." – **Sophie Simpson**

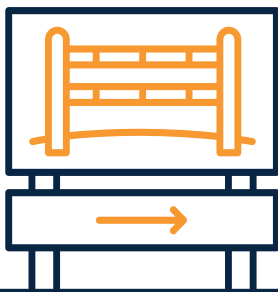
"*Gladiator: Aaron Hernandez and Football Inc.* podcasts." – **Neil Jones**

"Just finished the podcast *Slow Burn*. Also love Tim Ferriss's podcast; he does really interesting interviews. Currently I'm listening to the audiobook *Shoe Dog*, about Phil Knight, the founder of Nike." – **Traci Brooks**

"Old Lives, Grateful Dead, and the podcast *Wild Ideas Worth Living* about outdoor (extreme) athletes, people who accomplish a big project, interviews, videographers and the outdoors." – **Shawn Casady**

"Country Western music." – **Susie Hutchison**





## #5 *Best memories from the 2018 Blenheim show season?*

"The Las Vegas National – when Carly Anthony won the \$10,000 FEI 1.35m South Point Jumper Stake, presented by Morning Star Sporthorses." – **Neil Jones**

"Winning the USEF Talent Search Finals."  
– **Sophie Simpson**

"We love the CPHA Jr/Am and the CPHA Foundation Medal Finals in August, they are both great events and we really look forward to participating in them." – **Jeni Brown**

"Winning first and second on Durango VDL and Campitello 5 at Blenheim June Classic I." – **Shawn Casady**

"Watching all of our riders improve and enjoying the process." – **Traci Brooks**



## #6 *What are you most excited for in 2019?*

"**The Blenheim Series to start!** It's good to be in Cali! Better for me; I don't have to be at the show everyday." – **Neil Jones**

"I hope to be back in the Grand Prix ring in 2019 and love developing young horses. I am looking forward to seeing the new shopping area in Del Mar Heights."  
– **Susie Hutchison**

"Continuing to develop our business Blue Ridge Farms and be at all the Blenheim shows!" – **Sophie Simpson**

"We have really good horses and riders at all levels, and an amazing team. I am excited to watch all of them do their thing!" – **Traci Brooks**

"Excited to see what it has to offer, every year is a new year – just looking forward." – **Shawn Casady**

"Sharing our love and passion for the horses and our sport with our customers." – **Jeni Brown**

## FAVORITE THING ABOUT HORSES?

# #7

"The soft spot on their nose." – **Sophie Simpson**

"They're a great leveller; one day you are on top and next day you are on your backside!" – **Neil Jones**

"Just how much they give to us, and how little they ask for back, it makes them very special. We're very lucky to have them in our lives." – **Shawn Casady**

"They give us their all and their best effort every day. They always come out ready to work, try, and improve. If we can just be a good partner for them, the possibilities are amazing!" – **Jeni Brown**

"Everything, really. If I had to pick just one, it would be how hard they try for us and how much they trust us." – **Traci Brooks**

## *What is your favorite Two Hearts moment from 2018?*

# #8

"Watching the United States in Tryon: the excitement of it coming down to the last rider McLain Ward on Clint. A very exciting moment in the sport!" – **Shawn Casady**

"Watching our new imports from last year be successful and competitive partners for their owners." – **Jeni Brown**

"Winning the Futurity class on my top horse 'A Picasso De Vie.'" – **Sophie Simpson**







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# A Talent Search Tale

## AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THE SHOW JUMPING ATHLETE PATHWAY

by Alyssa Bansbach & Caitlin Azevedo  
photos by Captured Moment  
and Caitlin Azevedo/EqSol



Sophie Simpson competing  
in the Final Four Phase



Sophie with her parents, Nicki and Will

Since the Show Jumping Talent Search Program began in the 1950s, it has played a key role in the pathway for promising riders to represent the United States in Show Jumping Competition. Familiar names like Beezie Madden, Richard Spooner, Lauren Hough, McLain Ward, and Meredith Michaels (Beerbaum) are just a handful of the previous Talent Search Champions to go on to international Show Jumping fame. In the case of Lauren Hough, her Talent Search Final win preceded her Olympic debut by only six years. Many credit the Talent Search Finals for helping prepare them for the challenges of international competition. To predict which riders are on the path to joining the next generation of Show Jumping stars, one might look at the list of top placing riders over the last decade. Sophie Simpson would be on that list of 'Ones to Watch.'

Last year, Simpson clenched victory in the prestigious Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals West. Her riding prowess was apparent during each phase of the competition. Simpson masterfully piloted her young, six-year old mount, Henri HX, through the tests of the flat phase, challenges of the gymnastics phase (including the now infamous S-line), and technical jumping phase to earn a spot in the final four. Demonstrating exceptional catch riding skills, and the ability to adjust to each type of horse, she produced smooth rounds on each of the final four mounts. This consistency put her ahead of the other three talented riders – Justin Krawitt (2<sup>nd</sup>), Kaitlyn Lovingfoss (3<sup>rd</sup>), and Jake Wasson (4<sup>th</sup>). Simpson's win cements her spot among an elite crowd of previous winners, many of whom went on to major international success in Show Jumping.

As a young professional, the USEF Talent Search Medal was the only equitation class Simpson was eligible to compete in. So, when she was given the opportunity to bring Henri HX

*continued on next page*



along in Spring of 2018, competing in the Talent Search Finals became their goal. Winning this title was a dream of Simpson's junior career, which she didn't quite achieve. She had only competed in Talent Search Finals once as a junior, placing 2<sup>nd</sup> at the East Coast finals in 2016.

"It was my last junior year and I was close but it wasn't my time to win it. At the time, I thought my dream of winning the Talent Search was over until I got the privilege to ride Henri HX."

Henri HX, owned by Sloan Lindemann-Barnett at the time, peaked at the finals after strategic planning and preparation during the show season leading up to the September event. In fact, the process of preparing a young horse for this challenging class is what Simpson

remembers most fondly. A sentiment that reflects true horsemanship.

Looking forward, Simpson hopes to join many fellow USEF Talent Search champions on the international stage. To represent the US at the highest level of the sport, including Nations Cup teams, WEG, World Cup™ Finals, and the Olympics, is Simpson's future goal. USEF Talent Search Finals was part of the journey towards her ultimate dream.

She believes, "The Talent Search Finals are a good stepping stone for future goals because every part of the final teaches you discipline. From the flatwork to the last day of jumping the water. All these parts translate to the Grand Prix ring and the International stage of our sport."

For young riders chasing the dream of competing in Platinum Performance/

USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals this year, Simpson offers this advice: "It's not a posing contest, it is a final that you have to ride and show your talent as a rider not just a poser. Also, don't give up if one of your scores isn't as high as you would like, it's not over until it's over and a lot can happen over the three rounds. So stay strong and keep fighting for those good rounds!"

While her junior and equitation years are behind her, Simpson carries the knowledge and experience she gained to her career. She and her partner (and future husband!) Sean Leckie started their own business, Blue Ridge Farms, in California. With their collective strengths and experience, they make a great team. On the path to the international show jumping stage, we look forward to seeing Simpson's name in lights on leaderboards as she travels to the top. ■



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The Emerson Burr Grant will also be offered on a National Level during USEF Pony Finals presented by Collecting Gaits Farm. So start sharpening your horsemanship knowledge! Check with the horse show office to see how you can participate!





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# USHJA COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS



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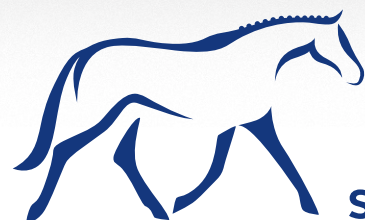
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The Virginia Horse Center  
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2018 East Coast Best Young Horse Champion and Overall Grand Champion Rotiyas,  
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Photo credit: Shawn Simonson of SAS Photography

**WEST COAST**  
**August 28, 2019**  
Showpark All Season  
Summer Tournament

Del Mar Horse Park  
Del Mar, CA

2018 West Coast Champion Incandescence, owned by Sommer D. Smith.  
Photo credit: Captured Moment Photography



Visit [www.ushja.org/sallieb](http://www.ushja.org/sallieb) for more information

Del Mar Horsepark Showpark Summer  
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# CPHA Foundation Equitation Championships

*The foundation is pleased to announce we have awarded  
five educational scholarships for the 2018-2019 school  
year and have given aid to help our professionals in need.  
Please join us in our efforts to reach out to the CPHA Pro-  
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*For further information on the CPHA Foundation as well as donation  
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# More Ways to Win With **LEGIS** League

## An Awards Program for Hunter, Jumper and Equitation Riders

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Jr/AO Hunter (3'3"/3'6")  
Adult Amateur Hunter 3'0"  
Children's Hunter 3'0"  
Low Adult Hunter 2'6"  
Low Children's Hunter 2'6"  
Pony Hunter (Sm/Md/Lg)  
Demi Hunter Child/Adult 2'3"  
Children's Pony Hunter (2'0"/2'6")

### **Equitation Sections**

Child/Adult Equitation 3'-3'3"  
Low Child/Adult Equitation 2'6"-2'9"  
Demi Child/Adult Equitation 2'3"

### **Horsemanship Sections**

Mini Child/Adult Horsemanship 2'0"  
Intro Rider (Cross Rails) Horsemanship  
Walk Trot Horsemanship

### **Jumper Sections**

.70m Child/Adult Jumper  
.80m Child/Adult Jumper  
.90m Child/Adult Jumper  
Low Children's/Adult Jumper 1.0-1.05m  
Children's Jumper 1.10m  
Adult Amateur Jumper 1.10m

### **Medal Classes**

LEGIS Children's Medal 3'0"  
LEGIS Amateur Medal 3'0"  
LEGIS Jumper Medal 1.0m (3'3")  
Mousie Williams 12 & Under Medal 2'9"  
LEGIS Cornerstone Medal 2'6"  
LEGIS Mini Medal 2'0"

LEGIS League Finals will be  
held in several locations.

This is a LEGIS League Horse Show. Please register for LEGIS League in the horse show office or online at [legisleague.com](http://legisleague.com) to earn points to participate in the LEGIS League finals in the fall of 2018.

Please visit our website for finals dates and locations.

For a list of shows and more information, contact the LEGIS League at:  
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# CPHA JR/AM MEDAL FINALS

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*CPHA Foundation is offering a limited number of VIP seats and tables during the Medal finals, held at Blenheim, SJC*

*August 14-18, 2019*

*Tables Seat 8-\$1300.00*

*Individual Seats-\$170.00 (\$90.00 per day)*

*Snacks and Refreshments Daily*

*Lunch on Friday and Dinner Saturday Night during the  
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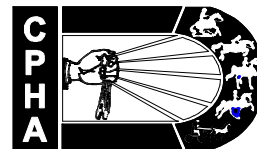
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# The Whitethorne Equitation Challenge

## TWO EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR 2019

photos by McCool and Alex Zulia/BES

**W**hitethorne, LLC and Georgy Maskrey-Segesman recently announced their sponsorship of a second exceptional equitation event for 2019.

For the third consecutive year, the “American Tradition of Excellence Equitation Challenge” will be featured during the Blenheim June Classic III at Rancho Mission Viejo Riding Park in San Juan Capistrano from June 17 – 19, 2019.

Georgy created this class initially in 2017 to bring a new perspective and opportunity to the equitation ring.

The class features a one-of-a-kind, three phase format which provides invaluable experience for all involved plus the winning rider earns a new Butet saddle and their trainer takes home a \$10,000 bonus.



The unique format includes each competitor receiving valuable feedback via a judges comment card, as well as riders and trainers also get the opportunity to attend an informative and social forum at The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel.

Additionally, Whitethorne LLC has created new class called the “\$25,000 Whitethorne Equitation Challenge” for

this year, which will be featured at the Del Mar International World Cup™ Week, October 16 – 20, 2019 at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, under the management of West Palm Events.

The class is open to junior, amateur, and professional riders who are current PCHA members. Trainers must be current CPHA members. Fences will be no higher than 3’3, and the first phase will be a qualifying round held in the large outdoor hunter ring over an equitation-style course. The top 15 riders from the first phase will return for the second phase, which will be a gymnastics phase in the indoor arena. The top 6 riders after the second phase will return for a work-off on their own horses, followed by another work-off round in which riders will trade horses. The first place rider after all phases will take home the lion’s share of the prize money, \$20,000 (junior and amateur prize money awarded to trainer per USEF rules).

“I’m excited to be a part of both of these classes which are different in both spirit and purpose. It is the mission of Whitethorne to give back to the sport that has been my lifelong passion. By infusing excitement into the equitation we hope to broaden the depth of competition on the West Coast“, said Georgy Maskrey-Segesman of Whitethorne LLC.



2018 American Tradition of Excellence Equitation Challenge winner Nina Vogel (left), and 2017 winner Stella Buckingham

Learn more at: [showpark.com/whitethorne-equitation-challenge/](http://showpark.com/whitethorne-equitation-challenge/)





# *North American League*



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two of the nation's most prestigious horse shows**

West Coast Finals at  
**International Jumping Festival**

San Juan Capistrano, CA  
September 18-22, 2019

and

National Finals at  
**Pennsylvania National Horse Show**

Harrisburg, PA  
October 10-19, 2019



**Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Presented by HorseFlight**  
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**Children's Jumper Presented by EquiFit**  
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**Join the NAL before competing in NAL classes at any horse show to  
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