

Oregon Hunter/Jumper Association News: December 2008

OHJA Upcoming Events

Dec. 1 Beginning of the 2009 OHJA show season; time to renew your membership!

Jan. 10 2008 Awards Banquet: Embassy Suites Hotel, Tigard, OR

Jan. 11 Annual membership meeting: Embassy Suites Hotel, Tigard, OR

Upcoming Clinics

Dec. 5-7 George Morris Clinic, Whip 'N' Spur Farm, Wilsonville, OR

Contact: Rich or Shelley Fellers (503) 691-2303, (503) 704-1238, (503) 781-0413

Dec. 13-14 Lindy Townley Clinic, Rain Creek Farm, Oregon City, OR

Mollie Butler (503) 887-9297; Calvindog1@hotmail.com

Jan. 3-4 John Turner Clinic, Cornerstone Equestrian, Portland, OR

Linda Worley (503) 351-3253; www.cornerstonehj.com

Feb. 13-15 Joan Curtain Clinic, Cornerstone Equestrian, Portland, OR

Linda Worley (503) 351-3253; www.cornerstonehj.com

If you have an upcoming clinic you would like to have printed in the next newsletter, please email Patty Shannon.

2008 Annual Banquet and Silent Auction

Invitations will soon be mailed for the annual awards banquet, which will be held January 10 at the Embassy Suites in Tigard. Please RSVP at your earliest convenience to help planners prepare adequate seating, food and drinks for the celebration. A block of rooms will be held for OHJA members who would like to make reservations for overnight accommodations. It's not too early to make your reservation!

The banquet silent auction is one of OHJA's major fundraisers, providing funding for year end awards, the annual banquet, scholarships, JEF financial aid and other OHJA activities.

Suggestions for donations include (but are not limited to!) barn baskets, wine, clothing, catered meals, theme parties, trips, free rent on a vacation home, sporting and other event tickets (Blazers, symphony, ballet, theatre, etc.), memberships, services (horseshoeing, vet exams, photography, etc.), horse show entry fees and equine equipment.

We wish to give a huge thank you to Lorna Lowrie for offering to serve as this year's banquet coordinator and to Lynne Dennis for volunteering to coordinate the silent auction. The banquet and auction are huge productions that depend significantly on member volunteers. To volunteer to help with this year's banquet, please contact Lorna at (503) 317-4956 or email her at lowries@comcast.net. If you have questions about donations or would like to volunteer to help with the auction, please contact Lynne at (503) 422-5010 or email her at silverwindfarms@msn.com. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated!

Annual OHJA Board Meeting

The annual general membership meeting will be held Sunday, January 11. The meeting will provide an opportunity for members to vote on proposed rule changes, meet the new board of directors, receive information on current and upcoming activities and offer suggestions and comments on strengthening our organization. All members are strongly encouraged to attend!

Bylaw/rule change proposals will be mailed to members in December. Please review the proposals in preparation for voting at the annual meeting.

OHJA Points Accumulation/Membership

Please check the OHJA website www.oregonhunterjumper.org to verify the accuracy of your 2008 show season points. Any discrepancy in points accumulated in the local system must be reported to Melanie Pennington by December 15. November 30 was the deadline for reporting any discrepancy in points accumulated in the open system. If you have a question regarding your point accumulation, please contact Melanie.

December 1 marks the beginning of a new year for accumulation of points for the 2009 year end awards. It is important to activate your membership *before* attending your first show of the 2009 show year to ensure that your points will count toward the awards. A copy of the membership application, which reflects the change to our new three tier system, is shown in this newsletter or may be downloaded from the OHJA website. Please contact Melanie if you have questions regarding your membership.

Board of Directors

A ballot for the election of new OHJA board members will be mailed to each current member of the organization. Please complete and mail your ballot early to ensure that it is postmarked by the December 15 deadline.

Scholarship Applications

Applications for academic scholarships offered by OHJA to our college-bound junior members must be postmarked by December 15. Scholarship awards will be based upon information provided in the application and upon an individual interview during Christmas vacation with the scholarship committee. Please contact Mollie Butler for more information about the awards or to request an application.

JEF Financial Aid

JEF was established to give money to riders 21 years and under who compete at medal finals or in other finals classes, such as the Young Rider and USET events. For consideration of monies to be awarded, the applying young rider must make a formal application to the OHJA board and must have participated in current year fundraising activities to raise money for the fund.

Applications for 2008 financial aid must be postmarked by December 15. Please contact Mollie Butler for more information about financial aid or the application process.

Mother and Father of the Year

Nomination letters for Mother and Father of the Year must be received by OHJA no later than December 1. The winning letter will be read at the 2008 awards banquet. For more information, contact Mollie Butler.

Education Corner

Each month's newsletter will include information that might be included on a written test for a future medal finals competition.

Question: What is suppleness with regard to a horse?

Answer: Suppleness is the horse's ability to smoothly shift its balance forward, backward and laterally. A supple horse is pliable and bends easily without tension or resistance. Spiraling in and out on a circle is an exercise to improve suppleness.

Reference: *USPC Manual of Horsemanship: Advanced Horsemanship*, p. 25.