

## Oregon Hunter/Jumper Association News: December 2009

### OHJA Upcoming Events

- Dec. 1** Beginning of the 2010 OHJA show season; time to renew your membership!  
**Jan. 9** 2009 Awards Banquet: The Nines (Hotel), Portland, OR  
**Jan. 10** Annual membership meeting: The Nines (Hotel), Portland, OR

### Upcoming Clinics

**Feb. 12-14** Joan Curtin Clinic, Cornerstone Equestrian, Portland, OR  
Linda Worley (503) 351-3253; [www.cornerstonehj.com](http://www.cornerstonehj.com)

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

### USHJA Trainer Symposiums

Several Oregon area trainers have recently attended USHJA trainer symposiums. During each three-day symposium, participants engage in practical training sessions and discussions with leading industry professionals in each of three disciplines: Hunter, Jumper and Equitation. Clinic instructors work with demonstration riders and symposium participants, explaining different techniques, exercises and tips used for various levels of riders and horses. USHJA recently implemented the training symposiums to help support members' continuing education. For more information on the symposiums, visit <http://www.ushja.org/content/programs/symposium.aspx>.

### 2009 Annual Banquet and Silent Auction

Invitations will soon be mailed for the annual awards banquet, which will be hosted by Stone Hedge Farm on January 9 at The Nines (Hotel), which is located at the top of the former Meier & Frank building in downtown Portland. 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! Details about the banquet, including room rates and parking accommodations, will be posted on our website.

The silent auction is one of OHJA's major fundraising events, providing support for year end awards, the annual banquet, scholarships, JEF financial aid and other OHJA activities. It's time to donate barn baskets and other items for the auction. Suggestions for donations include wine, clothing, catered meals, theme parties, trips, free rent on a vacation home, sporting and other event tickets (Blazers, symphony, ballet, theatre, etc.), gift baskets, memberships, services (horseshoeing, vet exams, photography, etc.), horse show entry fees and equine equipment. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated! If you have questions about donations, please contact Jen Cox at (503) 516-0275.

The success of the banquet and auction depends significantly on the efforts of member volunteers. To volunteer to help Stone Hedge Farm with this year's banquet, please contact Jen Cox. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated!

## **Annual OHJA Board Meeting**

The annual general membership meeting will be held Sunday, January 10. 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.

## **Board of Directors**

A ballot for the election of new OHJA board members will be mailed this month to each current member of the organization. Please complete and return your ballot early to ensure that it is postmarked by the deadline shown on the ballot.

## **OHJA Points Accumulation/Membership**

Please check the OHJA website to verify the accuracy of your 2009 show season points. Any discrepancy in points accumulated in the regional or local systems 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.

In each of the three systems, a division must meet specific requirements to allow the division winners to receive year end awards. Please refer to the current OHJA Rules (Rule V--Year End Division Awards, Sections A, B, C; pgs. 17-19) on the website to verify that the requirements for distribution of 2009 year end awards have been met in your division. If you have a question about the requirements, please contact Melanie.

December 1 marks the beginning of the new year for accumulation of points for the 2010 year end awards. It is important to activate your membership *before* attending your first show of the new year to ensure that your points will count toward the awards. A copy of the membership application may be downloaded from the OHJA website. Contact Melanie if you have questions regarding your membership.

## **Scholarship Applications**

Applications for academic scholarships offered by OHJA to our college-bound junior members must be postmarked by December 1. Scholarship awards will be based upon information provided in the application and upon an individual interview to be held during Christmas vacation by the Scholarship Committee. Information regarding scholarships is posted on the "Programs" page of the OHJA website. Contact Lorna Lowrie if you have questions regarding the scholarship program.

## **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 2009 financial aid must be

postmarked by December 15. Please contact Lorna Lowrie 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 2009 awards banquet. For more information, contact Lorna Lowrie.

### **Education Corner**

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

*Question:* According to USEF equitation rules, what is the correct position of a rider's hands?

*Answer:* The rider's hands should be positioned "over and in front of horse's withers, knuckles thirty degrees inside the vertical, hands slightly apart and making a straight line from horse's mouth to rider's elbow." Hands should be light and supple to convey the impression of complete control.

Reference: *USEF 2010 Rule Book*, Equitation Division subchapter EQ2, Subject—Position (pg. EQ7) and a recent Joan Curtin clinic!