

THE HORSE'S MOUTH

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MISHO's First Grant Applicant Shares Clinic Experience

When Pam Davies first told me to slow down on Cali, the ex-western pleasure horse I ride at Briarstone Riding Academy, I thought she was crazy. I had spent a lot of time trying to get Cali to be bigger and faster so her advice sounded counter intuitive. But when I slowed my post a little, Cali came softly into my hands and stepped freely and bigger.

This became the main principle of the clinic: slow down and balance.

Because slowing down and balancing worked so well going straight on the rail, we began turning up the quarter line and leg yielding over. Since we were in a tight indoor we found that turning out of the corner

like a half of a circle worked better to keep her balanced. Once we rolled out of the corner and Cali was balanced I learned to tap her over with my inside leg and if she didn't listen, a little spur. If I made sure to keep her slow, balanced and straight she would cross right over while moving out to the rail.

We also practiced circles. She emphasized the importance of opening the outside rein to allow a place for the horse to move. She even suggested turning my thumb on out on my outside rein to help open a door or give Cali an obvious place to go.

As a hunter, this dressage training has come in handy. As I ride through a course my trainer, Jena Guldner,

always reminds me that the most important part is the flat work and that the fences simply come in between. I think about using the same slowing down techniques that I used for dressage to balance Cali when we're coming into a jumping line or making a nice corner. I use the same bumping with leg yields to turn for a diagonal fence and keep Cali straight. As usual, dressage proved to be extremely useful despite not being my predominant discipline. Thank you MI-SHO for allowing me to take part in this fabulously useful learning experience.

-Shannon Wood

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ MISHO member shares clinic experience
- ◆ Thoroughbreds Helping Thoroughbreds
- ◆ Local Riders Excels at Rolex
- ◆ MISHO Rule Change
- ◆ Rule Change for Dressage



The Thoughtful Rider: Forward Thinking

Horses should not only be able to gather themselves but also extend themselves. For all of these exercises we need forward thinking and the rationale for the current tempo. There is range of motion within the horse. No fancy exercises, only more active and the giving of the hands and the horse will grow. It is the basis of the foundation of training which is to allow the horse's basic steps in the 3 gaits to come out as if without the rider. The rider

should not hinder but instead allow. The result will be a more up-tempo achieving better articulation of the horse's joints. The thinking should be forward but not at the expense of lightness in the rider's hands. Within the ride, whether uphill or more towards long and low, it should develop without tension or heaviness. We should understand the horse's basic and natural steps and allow the horse to relax into them. My

approach: comfort for the horse within what nature provided. Your horse shall become more beautiful and prouder if the rider allows for movement without restraint.

-Hector Carmona, Jr., FEI Dressage Trainer

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Thoroughbreds Helping Thoroughbreds



The Thoroughbred racing industry requires a constant stream of young horses. What happens to these beautiful, athletic animals after their racing careers are over? The answer is that right now there is a glut of these horses needing homes.

Thoroughbreds Helping Thoroughbreds (THT) is a group that was formed to help make the Thoroughbred, and primarily the Off The Track Thoroughbreds (OTTBs), more frequently considered and chosen by people looking for a horse to purchase. John and Holly Steinmeyer, both charter members of Mid-Illinois Sport Horse Organization (MISHO), began THT in 2012. Two Thoroughbred Only horse shows were held and each class winner was awarded a hand painted trophy plate and fifty dollars in cash. Nice ribbons were given out through sixth place as well. Also in 2012 high point TB and reserve high point TB awards were presented at eight local hunter/jumper and dressage shows including the annual MISHO horse show. The Steinmeyers breed, raise, train, and race Thoroughbreds and feel it is their obligation to the horses to ensure they find second careers and good homes when their racing days are over. Two of their racetrack graduates competed locally in 2012 and each won an end of the year

championship for MISHO. Gata Pirate, ridden by Tori Netzer, won the Crossrails Championship and Pasadena Bound, ridden by Lauren Bardill, won the Intro Dressage Championship.

Since the Thoroughbred (TB) is bred to be an athlete, it is a natural step for them to become successful in the show ring. The general public's primary contact with Thoroughbreds is often at the racetrack, therefore these horses are frequently perceived as high strung and nervous. Racehorses are fed and conditioned to their peak on race day in order to perform feats of extreme speed and/or stamina. John Steinmeyer, a veterinarian, likens this to filling a young child full of candy and sugary drinks while sitting around watching television all day and then being shocked that the child is hyperactive. Once removed from the electric atmosphere of the racetrack and allowed to just "be a horse" there is a transformation that occurs in OTTBs. Add some turn-out time and a lower energy diet and many of these horses are nearly unrecognizable when compared to their racetrack dispositions.

THT's hope is for prospective horse buyers to seek out a Thoroughbred when they are in the market for a horse. Here is their plan:

1. Have special horse shows or high point awards at open shows for Thoroughbreds only as demonstrated by either a lip

- tattoo or Jockey Club papers.
2. The prizes awarded will be much nicer than typically awarded at local horse shows- cash, trophies, and huge ribbons.
3. The classes will not necessarily be difficult although the prizes are top notch!

Therefore, when these shows/ high point awards catch on, the owner of a Thoroughbred show horse will be able to compete, even at lower levels, for very nice prizes. Hopefully this will make the Thoroughbred significantly more desirable to buyers looking for a show horse.

Dumping "used Thoroughbreds" on "out of the way farms" is just putting a band-aid on the problem. Providing special venues for these horses to compete and their owners to win exceptional prizes should help to make the Thoroughbred the favored choice. THT believes this will help ensure that these horses easily find good, loving, and caring homes after their racing careers have ended.

Sponsors are needed to fund these high point awards and also to pay for the awards at the all TB horse show to be held October 20, 2013. Please visit the THT Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/ThoroughbredsHelpingThoroughbreds or contact Holly Steinmeyer at steinmyr@hughes.net or (217) 710-1422 if you have questions or are interested in being a sponsor or getting involved in THT.

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Protective Headgear Rule Change for Dressage

The United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) wishes to remind all dressage competitors of the rule change to DR120. This change goes into effect on April 1, 2013 and necessitates the usage of protective headgear by anyone mounted on the grounds at all USEF dressage competitions.

DR120 has been amended to require protective headgear as follows:

“From the time horses are officially admitted to the competition grounds by competition

management, anyone mounted on a horse at any time on the competition grounds including non-competing riders, riders on non-competing horses, and those competing in all classes and tests, including Para-Equestrian tests must wear protective headgear as defined by this rule and otherwise in compliance with GR801. Any rider violating this rule at any time must immediately be prohibited from further riding until such headgear is properly in place. Protective headgear is defined as a riding helmet which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Socie-

ty for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag. The harness must be secured and properly fitted.”

-USEF Dressage Department

Robert Dover Approved for U.S. Dressage Chef d'Equipe/Technical Advisor Position

The United States Federation's Executive Committee has approved the recommendation of Robert Dover as the next Chef d'Equipe/Technical Advisor for the U.S. Dressage Team pending the successful negotiation of a contract with John Long, USEF CEO and James

Wolf, USEF Executive Director of Sport Programs.

-USEF Dressage Department



Milliken & Wofford Weigh in on Format Changes in Eventing

The new FEI qualifications and rider categorization introduced this year have caused quite an uproar in recent months and have resulted in a number of riders having to run their horses more than they would normally like to do. We asked Individual bronze medalist from the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Kerry Milliken, and Jim Wofford, winner of multiple Olympic and World Championship medals including back-to-back team silver medals in 1968 and 1972,

and individual silver at the alternate Olympics in Fontainebleau in 1980, whether the changes in the format of the sport, along with the rules and regulations now in place, are leading us to ask too much of our horses.

This will be the first of an educational series focusing on the welfare, care and maintenance of our event horses.



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Changes to the EOY Awards

Based on the participation of our members, the board has elected to change the Green Hunter division to a Baby Green division. Because our members are competing in these 2' Baby Green classes, we wanted to recognize the training you are doing with these horses in their first or second year of jumping. All points will be retroactive and will count from the beginning of this show year.

Starting in July Medal Equitation Classes will now count toward Equitation EOY awards. If the medal classes are

open to all riders, points earned will count toward the rider's chosen division of the same height (short stirrup, beginner, limit, and advanced). Riders must be eligible for the equitation division. Classes that limit participation by age, type of horse or organizational membership will not count toward EOY awards. **MI-SHO will not back date these classes.**

MISHO is also adding an EOY award for Hunter Derby! Again all points will be retroactive for the show season.

Remember, that you must compete in a class over fences in order for hunter under saddle classes to count for EOY awards.

We are half way through our show season and the points are available on the MISHO web page. If anyone has any questions about their points please contact Lynn Coehoorn at lecoehoorn@hometel.com.

Mistakes do happen, help me get them resolved quickly! Thanks

MISHO Annual Show

SHOW UPDATE: The MI-SHO annual horse show will be held Sep 28th at Off Spring Farms. Mark your calendars. We will be having charity fun classes. All entry fees from these reduced cost classes will be donated to charity.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: We will need lots of help at the horse show and this is a great opportunity to earn your volunteer hours to qualify for the grant program. Contact Lori Zackrie to see what help we need or to volunteer.

Rolex Adventures: Part 2 - Local Rider Excels at Rolex

I've attended many, many Rolex Three Day Event competitions in Lexington, but this year's was one of the most interesting and exciting. Southern Illinois' very own Meghan O'Donoghue, from her parents' Boskydell Stables just south of Carbondale, and formerly a member of Boskydell Pony Club, competed in her first "four star" and was the highest placing first timer, finishing in 12th place.

Meghan purchased her off track thoroughbred, "Pirate," a few years ago near Collinsville. I remember them competing at Queeny Park when they were at the Preliminary level. And at the



risk of dating myself, I even remember Meghan as a child, riding her gorgeous spotted pony, Rainbow, at Pony Club events. Last fall Meghan was awarded a \$10,000 Essex Grant from the United States Eventing Association, which she used to continue her extensive training. She and Pirate have worked their way up through the levels of eventing and are on track for more exciting things.

Southern Illinois was well repre-



sented with Meghan's family and barn groupies. I saw lots of "Team Meghan" T-shirts on little pony clubbers and their parents alike. I think the Rolex attendees always support first timers but it seemed that Meghan had the loudest cheering section of all.

If you've never attended Rolex, or had the pleasure of visiting Lexington's many equestrian sites, you may want to start planning your trip for next April 24-27. Several MI-SHO members went this year, some camping at the horse park's lovely and convenient campground, some opting for a hotel. In addition to watching Rolex, visitors can roam the acres of the historical Kentucky Horse Park or visit the museum and Hall of Champions which houses famous retired horses from various disciplines.

The Rolex competition consists of two days of dressage, Thursday and Friday. Saturday is cross country day, everyone's favorite. Sunday begins with the jog-outs, checking each horse for soundness, prior to the final phase of the competition, stadium jumping.

In addition to the Rolex competition, your ticket entitles you to shop the fabulous trade fair, in which you will find equestrian items you didn't even realize you needed! Once outside of the Kentucky Horse Park you may want to take a bluegrass driving tour and visit a famous horse farm, or enjoy breakfast at Keeneland's famous track kitchen.

For information, check out Rolex's website, rk3de.com, or talk to some of the MI-SHO members who regularly attend Rolex for advice on where to stay (book your rooms early!), eat and what sites to take in while in Lexington.

-Jane Netzer, MISHO Member

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The Happy Horse

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Successful trainers often refer to the importance of the horse's happiness. Riders must remember that the horse's emotions are not influenced by an occasional carrot or by the rider's exuberance after a good ride in the ring.

It is important not to treat a horse as a human friend who will understand periods of separation, silence and excuses our frailties. The horse's happiness depends on the daily routine and the environment. Most important is the balance of demand and reward in the training period. We must be patient, repetition must be measured and reward must be frequent with every sign of progress.

Treated with balanced requests during training sessions and relaxed rides around the property or in the country, the horse will be happy. It will show signs of joy that make a "good ride" brilliant.

-Rudolf Vlatten



Calendar of Events

July

13-14: Cornerstone Farm Charity Horse Show @ Cornerstone Farms

20: Phancy Pharm Hunter/Jumper Show @ Phancy Pharm

20: Dublin Farms Hunter/Jumper Show @ Dublin Farms

27-28: Jana Wagner Dressage Clinic @ Classic Acres

August

3: Brier Bank Dressage Show @ Brier Bank Farm

10: Phancy Pharm Hunter/Jumper Show @ Phancy Pharm

10-11: Stephen Bradley Clinic @ Come Again Farm, Sheridan, IN

18: Cedar Lane Mini Event @ Cedar Lane, MO

September

1: Queeny Park Mini Event @ Queeny Park

7-8: Cornerstone Farm Charity Horse Show @ Cornerstone Farm

14: Devinwood Farms Schooling Show @ Devinwood Farms

14-15: Dunnabeck Horse Trials in Carbondale, IL

14-15: Southern Illinois Dressage Classic @ DuQuoin State Fairgrounds

21-22: Ridgefield Hunter/Jumper Show @ Ridgefield Arena

28: MISHO Annual Horse Show @ OffSpring Farm

29: Phancy Pharm Hunter/Jumper Show @ Phancy Pharm