



Around the Start Box

What Eventers Need to Know for 2013

Calendar Changes

Although the official 2013 U.S. Eventing Association competition calendar became available in December of 2012, there are already several changes that affect Maryland competitors starting this month.

The Redland Hunt Pony Club Horse Trials, held April 20-21 at Brooke Grove Farm in Olney, has added a starter division (classified as a USEA Recognized Test) to its traditional Beginner Novice through Training level event. The new class will have a maximum jumping height of 2' for both show jumping and cross-country and will be held on Sunday. The division is meant to help introduce new horses and riders to the sport of eventing.

The May 4-5 MCTA Inc. Horse Trials at Shawan Downs in Cockeysville has added Beginner Novice to the existing schedule. The event will now run all USEA-recognized levels from Beginner Novice through Advanced. The Difficult Run Pony Club Horse Trials that was normally held on the same weekend in Virginia has been moved to June, which is why Beginner Novice was added to MCTA's event.

After taking a one-year hiatus in 2012, the Olney Farm Horse Trials (Joppa) is back on the calendar for July 21. The one-day event will hold Beginner Novice through Training levels.

In 2012, Loch Moy Farm (Adamstown) added a September USEA event. Although the date was originally approved for the 2013 calendar and scheduled for September 7-8, the Area II Council recently revoked the date due to the perceived impact on other events in Area II, thus Loch Moy has to cancel the event. The farm will run its other three USEA events as



In preparation for its first USEA-recognized event, Full Moon Farm (Finksburg) has been making changes to the cross-country course including improving the bank complex.

scheduled (two in July and one in October) as well as several starter events and derbies throughout the year.

The newest addition to the Maryland eventing calendar is the Full Moon Farm Horse Trials on November 16-17 in Finksburg. Full Moon Farm has hosted starter events for several years but this will be its first time as a USEA-recognized event. The horse trials will offer Beginner Novice through Training divisions as well as a starter option. "Our hope for doing a recognized event is to build our base of competitors," FMF owner Karen Fulton stated adding, "Plus, bringing in other eyes to look at our facility will increase our overall quality of events."

Longtime Eventer Joins Century Club

Jean Gore has been a longtime figure in the Maryland eventing scene both as a competitor and volunteer. This past fall, Jean became the 125th member of the USDF Century Club with 30-year-old High Design. The Century Club is for rider and horse teams whose combined age is 100 years or more. Here is Jean's story in her own words.

I am 77 years old and have been active in combined training from 1970 to 2012. During the same time I have been on the Board of the Maryland Combined Training Association (MCTA) in Baltimore. Over the years I have ridden many horses, ten of them competitively, five at the Preliminary level. Currently, I am riding a daughter of my first Preliminary horse at the Novice level. They were all wonderful horses who gave me great experience and lots of fun.

High Design (aka H.D.) was one of my Prelim horses. Of the three disciplines (dressage, show jumping and cross country), she loved the cross-country courses the most. I still ride her four times a week. She is 30 years old now, but still a hot little Thoroughbred. She is bright-eyed, still quick off the leg, and always on a mission! She is my R&R horse.

Her former owner, Jessica Caie, took her from Novice to Advanced. H.D. is 15.1 hands and those fences are huge. At age 12, H.D. competed at the Fair Hill International CCI*** in Maryland and finished well, which is quite an accomplishment.

Now we basically just keep H.D. happy and entertained. She loves to be ridden, but just don't pick up the reins unless you plan on doing something—right now!

New FEI Qualifications

The new USEF/FEI Eventing Qualification Requirements might be causing your head to spin, especially since



Jean Gore is the newest member of the Century Club from Maryland.

the FEI has made changes to the rule several times since it was first approved at the November 2012 General Assembly and went into effect on January 1, 2013! First of all, it should be noted that these requirements are applied only to competitors at the CIC and CCI levels. The rules list several requirements for both riders and horses to move up through the FEI levels and have caused quite a stir internationally.

Within the new rules, the FEI created a rider scale system, which categorizes riders into four "athlete categories" based on the rider's competence at each level. For example, under the rules as they were initially written, a "C" athlete must have completed 20 minimum eligibility requirements in the last eight years at the two-star level. Once riders earn the "C" status, they no longer have to ride a horse through its qualifiers to enter a two-star. Now, the FEI did make a few concessions to help U.S. riders for the 2013 season, dropping the qualifying results from 20 to 15. This changed again in March when the Event Riders Association succeeded in getting FEI to make several amendments, including keeping 15 qualifiers as the base number to achieve a rating level. These qualifiers are called Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MERs). The FEI will maintain a list of categorized riders, which normally will be updated once a year. However, due to all the recent changes, the FEI released an updated list on March 20.

MERs do not expire, thus if you have already achieved the necessary MERs to compete at a specific level for 2013, those will remain valid beyond this year. Unqualified riders as of January 1, 2013 must achieve all the necessary MERs for the specific level in order to com-

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