



# Plantation Acres Saddle Club

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## TAKE NOTICE!!!

We have a new Entry Form and "Trainers Form" on our website. Exhibitors MUST begin using these forms in January.

Our next show is January 17, 2009 – Be sure you join us and COLLECT THOSE POINTS!

## Making Our Board Better

Currently all of our board members are voted on annually, meaning each year our show has a whole new management team. This has created an environment for last-minute changes whenever the new board takes over, as well as a lack of continuity year after year. In an effort to make showing more enjoyable for everyone we are coming up with a few changes to our board. Below are our recommendations on how we can improve our board; however it must be approved by our members. At the January 2009 show we will be asking all members to vote on these changes. If you have any questions regarding these ideas please call Dawn at (954)655-2195.

1. We would like to change the "Term of Service" for all of our board members from one year, to two years.
2. We would like to begin using a "Staggered Board" which means that each year members would vote for one-half of the board. This way new people can be brought onto the board each year, without the entire board having to be changed. We can only do this if the Term of Service for board members is increased to 2 years.
3. In addition to our four officers; President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer we would like to add two new positions; Hunter Chairman and Performance Chairman. These positions are not officers, but are a general board members that act as a 'liaison' for the officers and the exhibitors. That would make a total of 4 officers and 2 chairmen. We would still have 6 general board members in addition to the 6 positions.

Remember voting will be done throughout the show in January 2009 – All current members are encouraged to vote on these changes.

## Western Tips & Pointers: Judging by the Rules

By: Karen Sholten Maas

I am often asked to give clinics dealing with "What Judges Are Looking For" to help exhibitors and owners take some of the mystery out of show results. While it is easy to refer to rulebooks (and if you haven't, you should!), there are many areas which are open to interpretation. In addition to very specific requirements and infractions, horse show rulebooks specify desirable qualities which are intangibles, not easily measured or quantified.

Horse show judges must apply their body of knowledge against the written rules of the particular show, association, or registry. Judges who work in a single breed or discipline need only be familiar with only one set of rules, which may readily be committed to memory. Judges who judge a large number and variety of breeds and disciplines must be familiar with all of the applicable rules and must be able to apply the particular rules in any situation. Good judging depends upon a correct observance of the fine points and the selection of the best horses for the purpose

described by the conditions of the class. (*AMHA Rule Book*)

A judge who refers to the rulebook in the show arena is not demonstrating a lack of knowledge or insecurity, but is showing a willingness to verify or confirm the specific application for that situation. While class names may be the same from association to association, or breed to breed, the class routine, attire requirements or patterns may vary.

Judging criteria and order of application can vary according to the class description, so that in a junior exhibitor or ladies class manners may be paramount with performance and way of going being secondary, while in an open class performance may be given a higher weight than manners. This can result in a perceived lack of consistency in class results.

"A judge serves three interests; his/her own conscience, exhibitors, and spectators." (*AMHA Official Rule Book*). In general, show rules will specify the purpose or intent of the class, the required appointments, the gait calls and the class procedure, the causes for disqualification, and the desirable qualities to be displayed by competitors. While some of the class descriptions are very concrete, often the desirable qualities are intangibles which are not easily measured, defined, or quantified. That is where the judge's body of knowledge comes into play, and this is often where the mystery lies.

Good judges work very hard to develop and maintain the skills needed to evaluate and adjudicate these intangibles. An exhibitor desiring to understand what judges are looking for would do well to do the same.

By Karen Sholten Maas, of Traverse City, Michigan, USA, is a full-time judge, trainer, instructor, and equine bodywork practitioner. She has been working in the horse industry since 1976, and has judging credentials for a wide variety of national breed organizations. In addition to breed shows, she also judges draft horses, hunters, dressage and 4-H events. Karen is an Approved Test Administrator for the Classical Dressage Riders Association to Level Six. Her diverse experience has led to a client base that includes working with Morgans, Thoroughbreds, Paso Finos, Arabians, Appaloosas, Norwegian Fjord Horses, Warmbloods, and Quarter Horses.

**Do you have information for our newsletter?**

**Send it to:**

**Admin@BlueRibbonStable.com**

## English Tips & Pointers: The Medal Class

**By: Jennifer Cashman**

Everyone sees it on the schedule each month, any many of you already participate – but do you know what it really is? The medal classes are available in several divisions: Short Stirrups, Novice, Low, Junior/Adult and Open. So the course is a little bit harder, and you win a medal not just a ribbon – is that all it is? Not really.

Our medal classes are intended to prepare riders for the “Equitation Medal” classes you will see at “A” rated shows throughout the country. Many of you may have heard of the Medal Finals, Maclay Awards, Marshall & Sterling Medal and other such prestigious National Equitation Medal classes.

Medal classes are part of the equitation division – so the rider is being judged. Exhibitors are expected to show complete control of their mount, correct equitation and horsemanship as well as confidence.

The courses at “A” show medal classes are usually similar to jumper courses with combinations, rollbacks and inside turns. In an effort to prepare our riders to these classes we will usually try to add 1-2 ‘difficult’ maneuvers into our Medal classes. These maneuvers may include halting at a specific point, taking an inside turn, trotting a jump or even jumping a jump backwards. By performing these maneuvers you are showing that you have control of your horse.

When planning your medal class you should look at it differently than you would a hunter or equitation class – you have choices! A medal class is a good time to show off your great rollback turn, your adjustability or your amazing transitions. Find places in your course where you can show off something that you are good at. For example if you are good at rollback turns, find a place in your course where you can show it off, take an inside turn somewhere everyone else is going outside.

Just be sure you do it well with proper equitation – remember this is an equitation class, not a jumper class... Doing it fast will not win the class, but taking a risk – and making it look great – will put you at the top of the list!

### FEATURED RIDER!

Do you want to be a Featured Rider?? Answer all of our questions and e-mail them with a show picture to [Admin@BlueRibbonStable.com](mailto:Admin@BlueRibbonStable.com) and you can be featured in our next newsletter!

**NAME:** Amber Massey

**AGE:** 16

**SCHOOL:** Arch Bishop McCarthy High School

**TRAINER:** Jennifer Cashman at Blue Ribbon Stables

### DIVISION/HORSE/PLACINGS AT LAST SHOW:

Coco Chanel in Novice Hunter – Grand Champion & 1<sup>st</sup> Place in 2’ Medal

Irish Little (who is for sale) in Hunter Pleasure – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>!

Winner of the Hunter Super Challenge!

**FAVORITE HORSE:** Frankly Adorable (Frankie) owned by my trainer

**RIDING GOALS:** To ride in college and eventually make the Olympic Team!

**FAVORITE RIDING MOMENT:** Jumping 4’9” on “Little Pony” and playing Freeze Tag at the barn on “Annie”.

## **HUNTER DIVISION WINNERS! November 15, 2008**

Walk/Trot 10&Under:

GC: Kayleigh Murphy & Marvin The Martian

Walk/Trot 17&Under:

GC: Jenny McAllister & Gundala

RC: Tania Guillen & Marvin The Martian

Crossrails:

GC: Sarah Panico & Lucy Lu

RC: Bree Whipperman & CU Doc's Delivery

Adult Crossrails:

GC: Heidi Betke & Smooth Sailing

RC: Vanessa Castro

Green Hunter:

GC: Hot Night In Tijuana, ridden by Heidi Betke

RC: Take It To The Max, ridden by Elizabeth Anctil

Novice:

GC: Amber Massey & Coco Chanel

RC: Rachel Broccoli & Spun Gold Lady Luck

Pleasure:

GC: Rachel Broccoli & Spun Gold Lady Luck

RC: Amber Massey & Irish Little

Junior/Adult:

GC: Kelsy Byrnes & Apollo

RC: Patty Skelly & Licorice

Open:

GC: Alicia Mulligan & She's Rite Splendid

## **PERFORMANCE DIVISION WINNERS! November 15, 2008**

Halter:

GC: Gabriella Fraebel

RC: Kristine Lundblad

RC: Sheryl Katz

Walk/Trot 10&Under:

GC: Gretche Swanson

Novice:

GC: Jen Axler

RC: Emily Menendez

Youth:

GC: Courtney O'Connor

GC: Bridgett Parente

Non-Stock Type:

GC: Kristine Lundblad

RC: Samantha Gomez

**CONGRATULATIONS WINNERS!**