

USHJA

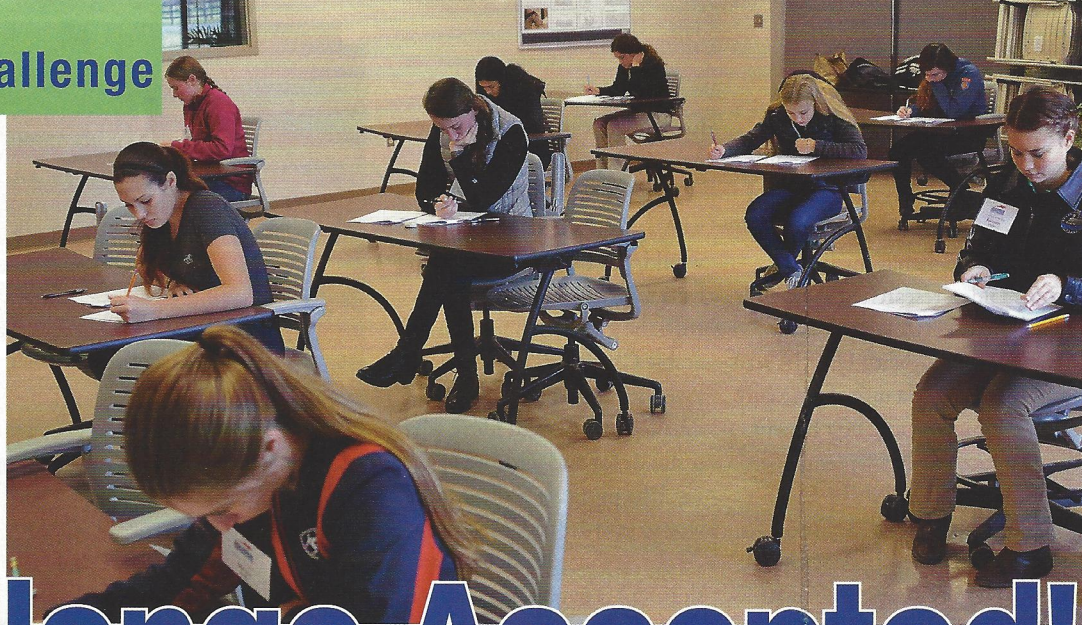
# IN STRIDE

The Official Magazine of the United States Hunter Jumper Association

Storm Watch Strikes at  
Pre-Green Incentive Championship

## Derby Dreams Fulfilled

Kristy Herrera,  
Miss Lucy and  
Jen Alfano



USHJA ARCHIVES

# Challenge Accepted!

Dedicated trainers across the country use the USHJA Horsemanship Quiz Stable Challenge to take teaching horsemanship to a new level.

By Whitney Allen

Teams were formed, study sessions planned and pencils sharpened (OK, it was actually “keyboards at the ready,” but “pencils sharpened” sounds more poetic) in preparation for the fourth USHJA Horsemanship Quiz Stable Challenge, presented by *The Plaid Horse*.

After 30 days of online competition with more than 760 tests taken in 11 USHJA Zones, nine trainers in nine USHJA Zones guided their teams to win more than \$1,000 each in prizes.

From June 15 to July 15, the 30-day HQC Stable Challenge was open to Juniors and Amateurs, bringing barns together to put their horsemanship knowledge to the ultimate test. At least three students per trainer had to complete the online HQC practice quiz for their barn to be eligible to win.

At the end of the 30-day challenge, the three top scores under each trainer were averaged to provide an overall score. The highest-scoring trainer per Zone won a trainer-inspired award package, which included a Charles Owen helmet, Professional's Choice horse boots, a one-year membership to *Equestriancoach.com*, a subscription to *The Plaid Horse* and gifts from Perfect Products, Standlee Hay, Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, Shapley's and Shopushja.com.

Mary Rae Fuller, of Zone 9, used the Stable Challenge to take teaching and learning to a new level at Prairie Fox Farms.

“The USHJA Stable Challenge was first introduced to both me and my assistant trainer, Brittany Tilden, by one of our amateur riders, who had learned of the opportunity while visiting with the editor of *The Plaid Horse*, Piper Klemm, at this year's HITS Thermal Desert Circuit,” said Fuller. “Our clients were very excited that there



WHITNEY ALLEN

Stable Challenge Prize Package

## The USHJA Horsemanship Quiz Challenge

The USHJA Horsemanship Quiz Challenge closed on September 1. Qualifying riders will be invited to compete at the HQC Nationals, which takes place in conjunction with the USHJA Emerging Athletes Program National Training Session in November 2016 (see p. 16). The HQC Nationals consists of a written exam, a horsemastership/identification exam and a final practicum that requires participants to demonstrate their mastery of practical horsemanship knowl-

edge. Team and individual winners receive a \$1,000 grant for training and education from the USHJA Foundation, a Charles Owen helmet and a gold medal.

The Horsemanship Quiz Challenge is supported in part by a generous grant from the United States Equestrian Federation, as well as individual donors through the USHJA Foundation. For more information about the HQC, please visit [www.ushja.org/programs/youth/HQC](http://www.ushja.org/programs/youth/HQC).

was a program that offered an opportunity for both the adult and junior riders to learn more consistent standards regarding horse-care management.”

Tilden researched the details on the USHJA website and spoke directly with USHJA staff to decide that a mix of amateurs and juniors would best benefit from the Stable Challenge.

“Using the *USHJA Horsemanship Challenge Study Guide*, we developed a series of three separate sessions that covered the topics we felt were most critical to our immediate needs, including tack and bit function, horse anatomy and conformation, first aid, general stable management practices, shoeing, bandaging/wrapping and riding theory,” said Fuller. “We invited guest speakers, including our stable manager and primary farrier; provided horses for demonstrations specific to each topic; created interactive games to best engage our participants; and provided each attendee with a copy of the study guide.”

Fuller created a beneficial system of study for her students—which included three evening sessions—and is already putting plans in place for 2017.

“We’ve initiated discussions regarding the topics our clients would like addressed more in depth, including nutrition and saddle fitting,” she said. “The resources the USHJA has committed to the Stable Challenge have directly enhanced Prairie Fox Farm’s objective, which places equal importance on developing riders with effective horsemanship skills while simultaneously ensuring the utmost care for each horse they interact with.”

Four-time winner Elizabeth Evans, of USHJA Zone 10, shared her experience, as well, and has figured out how to keep

her students excited about the program year after year.

“I can’t believe I actually won again!” she said. “I hoped I would, but I wasn’t sure if going for a fourth victory was possible with the growing interest in the Stable Challenge. I absolutely love the Horsemanship Quiz Challenge Program! I love what it stands for and what it’s teaching. The program is the perfect way to instruct today’s young riders about the value of horsemanship, and it covers every aspect, not just riding.”

Evans believes that every rider knows to learn all the ins and outs of the horse, and she credited the Stable Challenge for not only reminding riders about this, but also getting them excited about it.

“I find, more times than not, riders will start the study guide with an attitude almost as if it were homework,” she said. “However, it doesn’t take long for them to get completely wrapped up in the material and come to the barn and start applying it. I’ve always loved the simple fact that everything in the study guide can be applied to your horse and barn.”

“Students come to the barn and see their horses in a whole new light,” she continued, because now they might know where certain teeth are located or how the equine leg is constructed, for example. “I love that the HQC program is teaching the next generation of horsemen to put their horses’ health and happiness above all else. I believe in the same values when it comes to my barn and students. So to find a program that’s so like my philosophies on horsemanship—I couldn’t be happier to promote it and have my students take part.”

The excitement of the Stable Challenge was so widespread this year that it couldn’t be con-



Mary Rae Fuller, shown coaching Brittany Tilden, was Zone 9’s top Challenge trainer.

## The Winning Trainers

Zone	Trainer	Barn
Zone 1	Holly Rebello	Hidden Brook Stables
Zone 2	Jolene Hasseler*	Sweet Release Equestrian
	Brenda Peck*	Galemont Farm
Zone 3	Kate Worsham	Foxcroft School
Zone 4	Madison K. Brown	Garnet Hill Farm
Zone 5	Mary Roskens	Mary Go Round
Zone 6	Amy Bender	Bender Horse Sport
Zone 7	Julie Gass	Cadence Equestrian Center
Zone 9	Mary Rae Fuller	Prairie Fox Farms
Zone 10	Elizabeth Evans	Mischief Farm
Zone 11	Amy Quinlan	Dillingham Ranch

\*Zone 2 produced a tie between two trainers that could not be broken through the standard tie-breaking procedure, and the USHJA awarded prizes to both.

tained in the Lower 48. Hawaii (USHJA Zone 11) trainer Amy Quinlan used the Stable Challenge as an opportunity to quiz her students on their horsemanship knowledge.

“To prepare for the Stable Challenge quizzes, I added a pop quiz to each of our lessons during the month of the Stable Challenge, which covered general questions about stable management, horsemanship and general industry background knowledge,” she said. “The combination of the little pop quizzes I give and the Stable Challenge get the kids and adults thinking about the knowledge required to become a good horse person in addition to learning how to ride.”

“Programs like this are important because it gives the up-and-coming riders an opportunity to connect with other peers involved and working toward the common goal of developing

great horsemanship,” Quinlan noted. “Especially for us, being somewhat removed by being all the way in Hawaii, I feel it gives us the opportunity to be a part of the USHJA, which is great!”

Participants who met the age requirements for the Horsemanship Quiz Challenge and took the Level One and Level Two HQC quizzes received 10 bonus points for each level they completed. Those points were then added to their individual scores.

Most of the winning trainers had an average score of 100 or better (with bonus points), meaning their top students produced perfect scores and, in many cases, took the Level One and Level Two quizzes. Three USHJA Zones had no winning team, either because no teams participated or their scores were below the minimum required for placing. ➤