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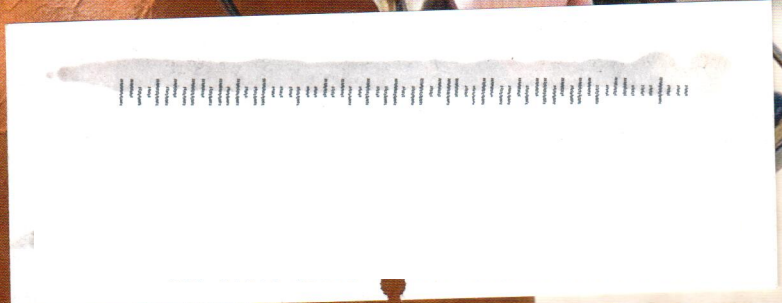
The Official Magazine of the United States
Hunter Jumper Association

The Bigger Picture
Conflict of Interest, Mileage and Competition

A Prosperous Pre-Green Program

**Member
Spotlight:
Lisa Lourie**

**Pin Oak
Turns
70**





Jump Aboard the 30-Day Stable Challenge

Dust off those brain cells, expand your horsemanship knowledge and foster team building at your barn.

By Tricia Booker

Even though school may be out for the summer, don't let your thirst for knowledge evaporate during those long, hot days. Set your sights on the third annual USHJA 30-Day Horsemanship Stable Challenge, taking place June 15-July 15.

Held online through the USHJA website, the 30-Day Stable Challenge is an engaging way for trainers and their students, competition age 20 and younger, to become involved in the Horsemanship Quiz Challenge, presented by *The Plaid Horse* magazine.

Teams of at least three junior and/or amateur students per trainer sign up to take the online Horsemanship Quiz Challenge Practice Quiz. At the end of the 30-day Horsemanship Stable Challenge, the three top scores under each trainer are averaged to provide an overall score. The trainer with the highest score in each USHJA Zone is declared the champion. Trainers must be USHJA members to be eligible for the grand prize. In addition, those who take the Level One and Level Two HQC quizzes will receive 10 bonus points for each level, which will be added to their Stable Challenge score.

Last year's competition was tough, as 250 trainers had students from all 12 Zones participate in the Stable Challenge. A total of 312 members took the Stable Challenge, with nine of the 12 Zones fielding complete teams of three students per trainer.

The Horsemanship Quiz Challenge was created to promote education, advance horsemanship skills and further equine knowledge. Members who take the HQC Level One and Level Two quizzes can qualify for the Horsemanship Quiz Challenge Finals, where they can participate to win an assortment of prizes, including a Charles Owen helmet, a \$1,000 grant for training and education, and an internship with Spy Coast Farm (see p. 38).

The 2014 30-Day Horsemanship Stable Challenge winners included:

- **Zone 1**—Alicia Bessoni, Gina Leavitt, Kelly Merry of Glastonbury Hunt Club
- **Zone 2**—Denise Van Patten of Smoke Tree Farm



COURTESY OF ELIZABETH EVANS

Above: Elizabeth Evans, assistant trainer at Mischief Farm in Moorpark, California, earned the Zone 10 title in the 2014 USHJA Stable Challenge.



COURTESY OF JENN FESSLER

Right: Jenn Fessler, last year's winning trainer from Zone 3, and her loyal dog Luna enjoyed the prize package from the USHJA sponsors.

- **Zone 3**—Jenn Fessler of Steep Forest Farm
- **Zone 4**—Ashley Fant of Marigny Park Stables
- **Zone 5**—Diane McClure of Gateway Farm
- **Zone 7**—Lindsey Lamb of KJM Equestrian
- **Zone 9**—Linda Worley of Cornerstone Hunters and Jumpers
- **Zone 10**—Elizabeth Evans of Mischief Farm
- **Zone 12**—Jaimie Thurman of Forever Young Farm

The trainer-inspired prize package includes awards from USHJA sponsors and supporters. Last year's winners received gifts from Sweet Briar College, Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital and Veterinary Pharmacy, Nutrena, Charles Owen, Inc., Shapley's, Perfect Products, EquestrianCoach and Standlee Hay Company.

"I'm very excited about all of the programs the USHJA offers, and I hope they all continue to gain momentum," said Ashley Fant, the champion of Zone 4. "I also very much appreciate the focus on horsemanship and teaching riders to be well-rounded equestrians."

Jenn Fessler, the champion of Zone 3, noted: "The ladies and kids had a fun time with the quizzes, and it's great for barn morale and unity! It's been fun to discuss the questions and answers with each other after the fact, as everyone seemed to get different questions. Our barn community is primarily adult amateur riders of all levels, and they really enjoyed having some 'tests' that usually are thought of as just for juniors. Thanks so much for facilitating this program."

For more information about the USHJA 30-Day Stable Challenge, the Horsemanship Quiz Challenge and to view the HQC Study Guide (available to all), please visit www.ushja.org and click on "Programs."