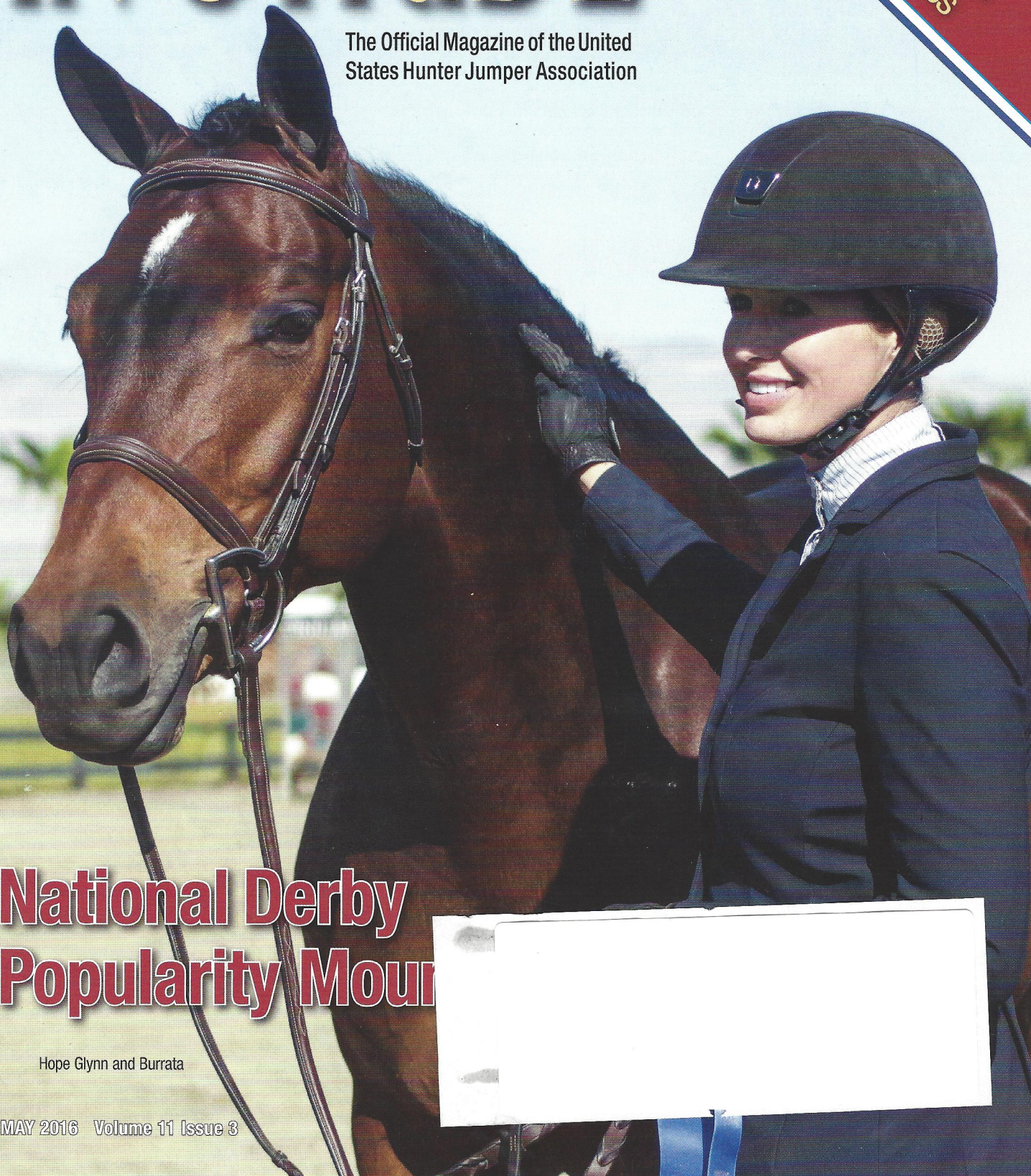




# IN STRIDE

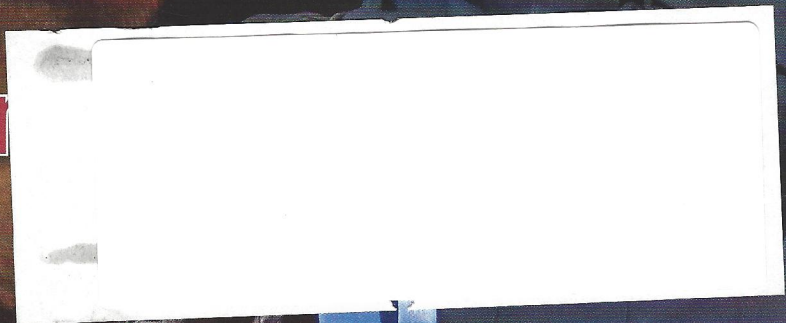
*Behind the Scenes at  
the Judges' Clinics*

The Official Magazine of the United  
States Hunter Jumper Association



## National Derby Popularity Mour

Hope Glynn and Burrata



## The Horsemanship Habit

Join the USHJA Stable Challenge this summer and expand your knowledge.

It's been said that it takes 21 days to establish a new habit. Well, imagine what you and your barn could learn in 30 days if you focused on horsemanship and participated in the USHJA Stable Challenge?

The Stable Challenge is a team competition where a trainer and at least three students (of any age) take the Horsemanship Quiz Challenge practice quizzes to earn points in the hopes of becoming the highest-scoring team in their Zone. The challenge is offered for 30 days, from June 15 to July 15, as a promotion for the Horsemanship Quiz Challenge, presented by *The Plaid Horse*.

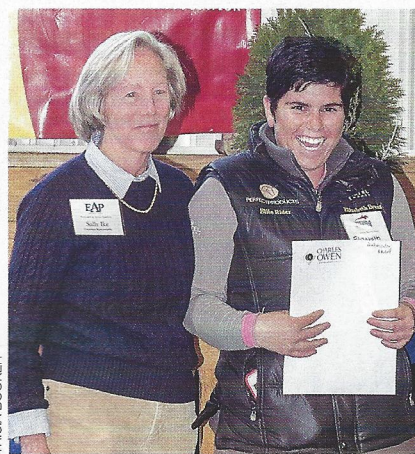
"It's so much fun! For the kids that can't afford to go to the Horsemanship Quiz Challenge Nationals, this gives them a chance to brush up on the HQC guide and to band together as a barn," said Elizabeth Evans, the three-time winning trainer from Zone 10. "We all sit around the table and take our quizzes and everybody cheers each other on, and the horsemanship just kind of takes over and we really enjoy sharing that together, so it's always really fun. The adults get really jazzed because they can't do the HQC, so it's a great way to get the adults to read the study guide."

Anne Thornbury, a Zone 5 winning trainer and Emerging Athletes Program Stable Manager, saw the teamwork firsthand with her students, as well. "The kids all worked together, set up study sessions and they got all fired up about it," she said. "They were quite motivated, and they are smart kids. The kids really did this as a team thing; they like to work together."

While the team aspect of the Stable Challenge is a huge component, it all comes back to horsemanship. Thornbury stressed the importance of programs such as the Stable Challenge in keeping horsemanship

training at the forefront of the sport.

"It's hard to find the time between horse shows, jobs and school to teach them," she said. "But it's so important! It's become such a horse show factory that the rest can go by the wayside, which is unfortunate. With these programs, there's a carrot at the end of



TRICIA BOOKER

Elizabeth Evans, right, with Sally Ike, believes, "Horsemanship is the way to make a connection with your horse."

the stick, and it spurs them on to learn more than they would otherwise. I think being a good horseman isn't necessarily knowing everything, but knowing where to look for things. And I think programs like this make them really go through and research to find the answers. The students worked together on this, too, and inevitably you're going to learn a lot that way."

Evans, a Horsemanship Quiz Challenge veteran, also emphasized the importance of continuing education.

"Horsemanship is the way to make a connection with your horse," she noted. "It's the way to walk up and have your horse be delighted to see you because he knows you, you know him and you do everything

together. It's important to teach everyone that's coming up because they're going to be the next generation."

The USHJA offers several educational programs, with the Horsemanship Quiz Challenge being the most interactive. The USHJA Stable Challenge was developed in 2013 as a 30-day promotional event to encourage participation in the HQC. The Stable Challenge has grown each year since its inception, with more than 1,200 quizzes taken and 320 trainers represented during the 2015 competition.

In 2015, the USHJA added an additional incentive by providing bonus points to participants under the age of 21 when they register for the official Horsemanship Quiz Challenge. Participants who take the Level One and Level Two HQC quizzes receive 10 bonus points for each level they complete. Those points are then added to their individual scores for the Stable Challenge.

The winners of this year's Stable Challenge will receive a prize package that includes a Charles Owen helmet, Professional's Choice Pro Performance Show Jumping Boots and a Shapley's Gift Bucket, along with other gifts provided by USHJA sponsors.

At least three students per trainer must register and complete the online HQC practice quiz for their barn to be eligible to compete in the Stable Challenge. The three top scores for each team are averaged to provide an overall score, and the highest-scoring trainer per Zone wins.

Trainers, coaches and riding instructors whose barns want to participate must be current USHJA members and be declared Professionals with the United States Equestrian Federation. To participate, simply go to [www.ushja.org/HQC](http://www.ushja.org/HQC) and then take the HQC Practice Quiz from June 15 to July 15.