

COUNTRY ACRES NEWS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER, 2007



CONGRATULATIONS!!!! OUR YOUNG RIDERS ARE SHOWING OFF THEIR TALENT FOR THE WHOLE COUNTRY TO WATCH. WE ARE VERY PROUD TO HAVE YOU AS A PART OF OUR FARM AND LOOK FORWARD TO WATCHING YOU CONTINUE TO GROW YOUR RIDING TALENTS, HORSEMANSHIP AND GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP.

THANK YOU FROM YOUR COACHES, FRIENDS AND HORSE PARTNERS.

Young Rider News from the Hunter World!

Huge congratulations to Hayley Bolton and Archie, Haley Gintis and Kirby, Alli Duffy and Mickey, Drake Driscoll and Design and Emily Raynor and Portia on qualifying for the USEF Zone 3 Finals. The competition will be held at the Washington International Horse Show Local's weekend in Leesburg, Virginia on September 9 and 10th. *We will all be riding with you from the farm and are very proud of your selection and dedication. A Huge Congratulations to the trainers (Melanie, Lilly and Nancy) that made this possible.*

What is the NAJYRC?

The North American Junior Young Rider Championship is the final competition for the top Junior and Young Riders in Show Jumping, Eventing and Dressage. These riders are from the United States, Canada and Mexico. Competition is tough and riders compete for Team Awards, Individual Awards and the top 15 riders are selected for Freestyle Awards. Hundreds of riders tried out and what an honor to be selected from

this Region. *Huge Congratulations to Sarah Cunningham and Caroline for all your hard work and making the team!!!*

Help us welcome a new staff member

We are very happy to have Julie Garnett from Hague, Virginia join our staff at MacNair's. She comes with years of experience from barn managing to starting young horses, riding and teaching. Her objective is, "I am dedicated to classical and gymnastic training to improve the balance and co-ordination of both horse and rider. My focus is to instill correct basics in the horse and rider so that he/she may succeed in any discipline of the equine industry." Julie is a North Carolina Dressage and Combined Training Association Educational Committee Member, has organized and participated in USDF Instruction certification classes and is currently testing for her Pre-cert for USDF certified Instructors.

Julie comes with a huge list of recommendations and the best reference is from Kris Hamilton. She will be available for teaching students starting September 10. Please call the school barn and speak with Debra to get on the schedule for Julie. 851-1118.

New Two and Four-legged Friends

Congratulations to Jennifer Foster on the purchase of Gabe and to Lee Strief on the purchase of Feival.

Welcome to Megan McDonald and Lefty

Congratulations to Jejsica Mohr on leasing Rye, Carly Hoft on leasing Choo-Choo, and Olivia Bachman on leasing Southern Breeze.

Goodbye

Good Luck to Sarah and Mary Cunningham as you move forward on the next leg of your riding!

From your barn friends and family

Hunter Rider's Corner

Mark your calendar and save the date!!!!

For a clinic with noted hunter/jumper
trainer and clinician

Holly Hugo-Vidal

September 29 and 30, 2007 at Country Acres.

Three groups of 4-5 riders each day. Clinics progress from the first day to the second.
Fee for both days is \$250, (\$150 for one day if space is available).

LIMITED TO 15 RIDERS PER DAY. Audit fee is \$50 per person or \$75 for a child
accompanied by one adult.

This clinic is U\$HJA-approved.

For more information about Holly or the clinic specifications, please contact Melanie at
Country Acres: 851-1171

We are thrilled to offer our hunter/jumper riders the opportunity to clinic with Holly Hugo-Vidal!

Holly Hugo-Vidal grew up in Westchester County, NY, where she had the opportunity to train with the legendary horseman, George H. Morris. Morris has remained a strong influence throughout her professional career, as well as writing the forward for her book *Build Confidence Over Fences*.

Rodney Jenkins, another legendary figure, also played an important role as one of the most naturally gifted hunter and jumper riders of all time. His influence of always putting the well-being of the horse first as well as his tremendous understanding of horses is always with Holly.

Holly's former husband, the late Victor Hugo-Vidal was also a huge influence. Together they ran the successful show barn, Cedar Lodge Farm in Stamford, CT. Victor's great teaching aptitude, coupled with George's dedication and high standards and Rodney's unique ability all contribute to the methods Holly uses today.

Today, Holly runs her own Pacific Blue Show Barn in southern California. She specializes in hunters and equitation and works with juniors and adults, with the main requirement being a love of horses and learning. Holly holds a "R" judges license and judges at horse shows across the country. She has given clinics all over the US and in Panama and New Zealand. She writes for several magazines including *Practical Horseman* and produces a monthly column in the *Equine Journal*.

Horse Show News

Sedgefield "A" Show

The MacNair's clan took off for Greensboro May 13-15 for the 72nd Annual Sedgefield Horse Show. All nine horses came home with ribbons---it was wonderful. For many of our riders and horses it was their first "A" show: Bryan Rosenberg and Character, Reid Smith and Petey, Meredith Sitze and Dash, Forrestt and Galviston with Lilly in the irons. Hayley Bolton was reserve champion in the Older children's hunters and finished 2nd in the Classic. Logan was 3rd in the Show Circuit Medal. Haley Gintis and Emily Raynor showed in the Children's Ponies and got good results. Our banner was covered in ribbons and Lilly and I were proud of everyone

We had a wonderful barn location under the old oak trees at the end of the showgrounds. It was a little like being at camp---we had tons of room to spread out in the shade and picnic. We even had our own porta-potty (this made some of the moms very happy)!!! Many thanks to all the parents and family members and riders for their help in making our stable area look so great (and for the great food!)

Triangle Farms C Show

Congratulations to the following riders for a job well done at the Triangle Farms C Show held at the Hunt Horse

Complex on July 27-29: Jenna Cameron and Snowball, Haley Gintis and Kirby, Devney Hoft and Tyler, Tory Hoft and T.K., Carly Hoft and Choo Choo, Rollins Wallace and Breezy. It was a fun show and all got great ribbons. Most were either Champion or Reserve Champion on one day or the other in the divisions they entered. Thanks for a great weekend.

Roanoke Valley Horse Show

For the first time, MacNair's "A" show riders traveled north to the Roanoke Valley Horse Show in June. Meredith Sitze, Drake Driscoll, Kendall Foster, Jennifer Foster, Devney Hoft, Tory Hoft, Haley Gintis, Hayley Bolton and Alli Duffy represented our farm in everything from Short Stirrup to 3' Hunters and equitation. Everyone had a good time and enjoyed the new venue. We had a good ribbon count---everyone got prizes in a very competitive show. And we had great cookouts at the Hoft's RV! The weather was fabulous, too. Hopefully, this show will be on our regular schedule from now on.

NCHJA Annual Show

This is always a popular A show with MacNair's riders and this year was no exception. Seventeen horse and rider combinations headed over to the Hunt Horse Complex with Melanie and Lilly on the 4th of July for five days of hot competition.

Alli, Hayley and Logan showed in the Older Children's division and did well, as they have all season. Alli made the final four in the Show Circuit Medal for the first time and was totally thrilled with her ride. Torey Fox and Dante got fabulous ribbons in the younger Adult Amateur Hunters and finished 2nd in the Ariat Adult Medal! Elizabeth Wallace won three classes in the Pre-Children's with Devney Hoft and Kate Rogers hot on her heels, although Kate and Stormy parted company on the second day and Kate broke her wrist (happy to report she's back in the saddle now!) Rollins Wallace and Tory Hoft rocked in the Short Stirrup and 11 & under divisions. Kendall Foster and Sputnik and Haley Gintis and Kirby did the Children's

pony and Schooling pony divisions with success. Emily Raynor and Portia joined them in the schooling division. Archie and Hayley were 2nd in the Special Hunter under saddle, which was huge, and Bryan and Character were right behind them in 3rd. And Jennifer Foster returned to the show ring on her new horse Gabe and brought home 4 good ribbons in the Pre-adult division. Lilly rode Forrestt and he got a call back in the lows over fences and finished 8th in the Pre-green under saddle in a lot of good company. Congratulations everyone!

Schooling and Show Days—Coming this fall

Be sure and check the calendar in this newsletter for the upcoming "Schooling and Show Days". We're offering four of these on Saturdays between now and the end of the year. Please take advantage of this great opportunity to practice over the show jumps with all the trimmings and build your and your horse's confidence for the upcoming shows. If you have questions, give Lilly a call.

New: Lesson Schedule for Fall

Instead of mailing out a form for you to fill out and return, this fall we will be posting sign-up sheets on the lesson bulletin board so you can choose your fall time slots. This should make it a lot easier for everyone to see what's available and sign up on the spot instead of waiting to see if the times you requested are available. Check with Melanie, Lilly and Nancy if you have any questions or conflicts.

Lilly's Tips---Hot Weather & Clean Tack

Riders don't forget that in this heat your tack and saddle pads really need to be cleaned often. All that sweat that your horse has accumulated while riding and standing around gets on and in your tack. The sweat will eat away at leather and stitching; also if you think about it, that dirty grimy tack that you keep putting back on your horse is not very comfortable for the horse. Would you put the same pair of riding pants back on that you wore the day before and didn't get to wash? I don't think that many of you would really do that, so when you're putting that crusty grimy bridle back on for the sixth time with out having wiped it down or cleaned it; think about those dirty riding pants.

And a note from Melanie: Some of you may not know that many horses are allergic to laundry products. Always use "free" detergent with no fragrance or other additives. Avoid fabric softeners and Clorox 2. Oxy-Clean works really well for those filthy pads and wraps. If you absolutely have to use bleach don't use much and run the items through a second rinse. Your horse will thank you.

From the Dressage Side

Theory/riding clinics with Kris Hamilton:

Kris Hamilton will be cutting back to part time starting in September. She has returned to her beautiful farm in Raeford and she has agreed to come back for a theory/clinic session 1 day per month. This will be an opportunity for those of you that are currently working with Kris to continue forward. To be eligible for her theory/clinics you must be enrolled in a weekly lesson program.

Please call Debra to schedule lessons with Julie and then participate in this wonderful educational program that Kris will put together. The theory session will be during the evening hours in the lounge at Country Acres and the riding clinic will be the following day. Dates will be announced by September 10.

Trainers meet at NRJYRC

George Williams and Lendon Gray on behalf of the USDF asked for the trainers' input on educational programs for the young riders. The main points we all agreed to help with were:

1. Encourage our young riders to participate in young rider development clinics. There have been opening and trainers need to encourage student participation.
2. Have your students apply for the clinics and do not worry about whether you are going to be accepted. The USDF and clinicians are looking more for rider talent than who has the fanciest horse. They are looking for future stars.
3. Encourage your students to watch other riders. This is the greatest complaint seen with the professionals: that their young riders are not watching and learning

It was great to have this group of leaders reach out to get input on how to improve our riders. You can see why the educational programs offered through the USDF are working and the quality of young riders is the future of our sport.

*Experience Aachen, Germany with these informative notes from Laura Pendleton as she traveled to one of the most prestigious shows in the world. She watched, studied and brought home wonderful new exercises and experiences. She is renewed and inspired to share with us all. **Go Vico and Laura!***

Day 1 Notes

After wishing and hoping for many years, I have finally arrived In Aachen, Germany for the CHIO International horse show. Weather cold and very windy, clouds but only an occasional mist. Everything in Aachen celebrates the show. There are horse statues and international flags on the streets and in restaurants and signs advertising everywhere. The best way to describe the show grounds is to compare it to the Raleigh Fair. Large white tents with flags flying on top of each one and huge flags flapping loudly in the wind. Two huge competition arenas with stadium seating. Arena for the carriage competitions and of course the cross country course. 35,500 people attended the opening ceremonies on Wednesday. Vendors of every kind imaginable. Cars, jets (on display), lawn mowers, feeds, makeup, perfumes, jewelry, equestrian clothing and dresses, cocktail clothes, leather and furs, TV, video and audio systems, beer stands, food and much more.

I persevered until security wasn't looking and got into the main schooling area sitting with the coaches, owners and grooms. I could have reached out and touched any of the following: Monica Theadurescu, Jan Brink, Anky Van Grusven on Painted Black and Salinero, Isabel Werth on 2, Hubertus Schmidt, all 4 of the American riders, many young riders ((wow),some rough riding but mainly the best of the best. I watched for 5 hours. One thought: if I were a horse, I would want my rider to be Hubertus Shcmidt. General observations: soft hands, slow warmup, quiet legs, strong middles, lots of encouraging pats and encouraging words from the riders, shoulders BACK, many many shuttle flexions. It was quiet in the warmups, all the riders had ear pieces and you could not hear any of the coaches.

If you think we have it tough on busy days in our arena - try 11 Grand Prix horses schooling in a regular

20 x 60 arena. Or better yet, 9 four in hand schooling cones in the mud in an arena about the size of 3 of our covered. I feared there would be a wreck at any minute. When you see a team of 4 in hand do the cones and dressage, you will have higher respect for that sport. And then there was the jumping. I mean HUGE fences and with many thousands on hand to cheer your favorite country. The cheering from the jumping stadium was LOUD. There were marching bands, balloons that got away in the wind, bags and paper being blown through the arenas. Most of the horses were very well behaved and under control. There were others who were terrified.

Day 2 Note:

Today brought sunny skies and warmer weather - beautiful. There were 28 riders in the Grand Prix Special. Germany won with Isabel Werth coming in #1. This show has been a battle between Isabael and Anky. Anky claims that her pregnancy has resulted in Salinero being a bit rusty. Just have to say that even the best of the best have problems in the show ring, however, no one went off course. There was a huge video camera that was covered in a gray protective case that upset quite a few horses. One horse had a true melt down. He got many scores of 0 and scored a 52% (remember, we are talking the top riders and horses in the world). Courtney King had a lovely ride but Idocus decided that it was not time to do the changes of 2s. She finally talked him into it, but they were already past X. She scored a 68+ and came in 11th. Anky came in and purposely stopped in front of the beastly camera and did a walk piro there before proceeding to go around for her entrance. An Austrian rider on Elvis (super horse) didn't hear the bell and did not enter the ring within 45 seconds. The crowd let her know. She went to the judge and they allowed her in, but there was a penalty. Steffen Peters had problems when his horse chose not to piaffe in front of the judge - no way!

Anky and her husband / trainer were schooling yesterday and I observed. She rode for a very long time. He made her do centerline at least 15 times and halt at X. Must have repeated the passage canter transition 40 times (he still kicked out in the test). Repeated piaffe passage transition for about 25 minutes. He would have her halt, have a chat, and do it again and again. I saw her give a very frustrated sigh as she rode away from his view.

When the horses make mistakes in the warmup, the riders get after them quick and hard and then go right back to work. Many pats of "good job" in the competition arena.

Day 3

The music was superb and the riding inspiring. There were mistakes even by the top placings. Anky had rhythm problems in the extended trot and had submission issues in the canter. Isabel had mistakes in the tempis and took several seconds to get her horse to respond to a request for the change in a canter zigzag, but she still won with 82. Anky was next with 81. Isabel had a new routine and the music had an opera singer throughout. It did give chill bumps.



The Clover Corner

MacNair's 4H Club members have concluded a fantastic 2007 4H show circuit with great results. Congratulations to County/District Show Team members Grace Stallings, Kate Rogers, Reid Smith, Scot Thompson, Meredith Sitze, Hayden Rizer, Sally Henry, Lauren Guidotti, Courtney Ketzler, Marion Price, Jessica

Mohr and Katie Newton from Country Acres. Joining them from the School Barn were: Caity Caggia, Olivia Chason, Jaime Fordham, Emma Elsea, Mary Copeland Cain, Laura Barkley, Lauren Clements, Lindsey Greenfield, Alice Burnett, Lila Miller, Olivia Bachman, Ellen Mason, Kara Wilcox, Lauren Piurkoski and Lizzy Kane. As always, our team rocked, bringing home many ribbons, but more importantly, demonstrating great horse- and sportsmanship!

Nancy, Betsy and Melanie couldn't have been more proud.

Following County/District, Sally Henry, Olivia Chason, Courtney Ketzler, Laura Barkley, Grace Stallings, Meredith Sitze, Jessica Mohr, Katie Newton, Caity Caggia, Jaime Fordham, Mary Copeland Cain, Alice Burnett,

Kara Wilcox and Lauren Piurkoski carried the farm's colors to the State Show and brought home more ribbons. Congratulations to Sally Henry for being Junior Horse Champion and Meredith Sitze for winning reserve champion in the Short Stirrup division.

Moving on to Southern Regionals: Jaime Fordham and Scooteriffic went to Memphis and were champion in the Training Level Dressage.

4H Member Reminders:

4H meetings will resume Thursday, August 30 with the officer's meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the lounge. **NOTE THE NEW MEETING TIME!!!** The following Thursday, September 6 will be the regular full membership meeting.

Don't forget the FIELD TRIP to the Washington International Horse Show on Saturday October 13. This will be a great trip, with the opportunity to watch the final round of the Washington International Equitation Medal Final and The President's Cup International Nation's Cup competition. We will discuss this trip in detail at the September 6 meeting.

Country Acres Fall 2007 Calendar of Events

August 4-5	NCDCTA L Judges Program
August 12	NCDCTA Show
August 15-19	Lexington AA Show
August 25-26	C show – Raleigh
September 1	Schooling/Show Night
September 8	EHA Show – Jasmine Meadows
September 8-9	NCDCTA L Judges Program
September 8-10	Zone 3 Finals, Virginia
September 15	Schooling/Show Night
September 16	NCDCTA Show
September 21-23	EHA Show – Williamston
September 19-23	Greensboro A Show
September 29-30	Holly Hugo Vidal Clinic
October 4-7	State Fair AA Show
October 13	Schooling/Show Night
October 13-14	4H Trip to Washington International

October 14	NCDCTA Show
October 19-21	EHA Show – Williamston
October 27	Schooling/Show Night
October 28	Halloween Gymkhana
November 2-4	Triangle C Show – Raleigh
November 8-11	Duke Children’s Benefit AA Show
November 14-18	UNC Benefit A Show
November 18	NCDCTA Show
December 2-3	Trainer Symposium in Florida
December 8-9	NCDCTA L Judges Program
December 9	Schooling Show to be held at MCA
December 22	Schooling/Show Nights
December 27-30	Holiday Classic A Show – Raleigh

The First Day of Summer And/Or Summer’s First Day

By Patti Sheriff

It was very early morning on the first day of summer when Beau and Wild Card’s beautiful baby girl was born. The plan had been for Beau to deliver her foal at the clinic, but she chose to have the baby at home with only the other mares and her pasture friends for witnesses. Caroline awoke in the early hours of a rosy-fingered dawn to the sound of horses calling from the field to announce that something was happening – as she rushed outside all the mares were lined up at the fence hollering at her to hurry, but Beau had gone ahead on her own. She was standing looking tired and maternal, with a just-born, perfect little filly lying in a heap by her side. She was still wet, with one ear flopped down and the other flopped over. Her fuzzy mane and tail were black, and she had a perfect white circle in the middle of her forehead. As Caroline was examining the bay baby girl and congratulating

Beau on her fine work, she confided that this might actually be the last baby for her – Beau helped Caroline understand that she knew, and this was the reason for the Circle of Life mark on the foal’s forehead. They named the baby Wild Summer.....Summer for short.

That same morning, while Caroline was excitedly sharing the good news all around the farm, my husband, Steve, arrived to watch Lily and me in our huntseat lesson. He is very supportive of my love for horses but even so, his visits to the barn are quite special and I’m always especially happy to see him there. Naturally, I thought it would make Steve’s visit even more special if we went down to admire the foal at the brood mare barn after my lesson, and then maybe even had a nice lunch “out” after that.....

We arrived at Beau’s barn and walked quietly around to the stall where we were told mother and baby were bedded. There she was! Precious Wild Summer was lying on her side by the

gate, swaddled in deep fresh shavings with Beau proudly standing watch over her. Summer began to rise up to greet us, but her wobbly knees gave out and she slid back down, resting a little closer to the bars of the gate. She tried again...and again...and again.... And each time she fell back, her little legs slid farther through the gate until she was stuck, lying nearly on her back with all four spindly legs completely through the bars of the gate all the way to her chest. Then, she was still. Beau continued to watch quietly from a corner of the stall, helpless and confused. It had happened in a matter of seconds.

Steve and I were horrified. Visions of past farm tragedies flew through my mind. Steve expected me to rush in and do something right away, but what would that be?? Plus, I was reluctant to enter the stall unless a life was in danger, and at that point I wasn't sure. Comfortable and confident in my own barn, at the brood mare barn I was only a casual visitor and I knew better than to enter any stall without permission, especially a brood mare's. The instinct to protect her foal from a predator could mean serious trouble for a human. I was close to panic but at least thought to use my cell phone to call for help: Terry promised me that someone who knew what to do would be right there.....Thank God! Steve kept asking me if I was really sure I shouldn't go into the stall and try to help, but while I was considering that, the situation began to change by the second.

This is where the story gets really interesting. While Summer lay trapped, and Beau stood watching, we saw that the other mares were coming closer to

check out the scene. Maybe they sensed Beau's concern or heard the fear in our voices as Steve and I whispered by the fence. One mare, Princess, came all the way to the edge of Summer's gate, lowered her head to sniff and examine the feet sticking out, and then she began to paw the ground. At first we thought she was going to hurt Summer and/or anger her mother and make the bad situation worse. But that wasn't it at all. Her soft brown eyes were filled with tenderness and we realized she was trying to tell Summer how to get away from that gate. Little Summer tried but couldn't do it. The human rescuers just weren't getting there fast enough, and we knew time was running out. Soon it would be a true emergency.

But then the most astonishing thing happened. Princess began to nudge Summer's little feet and legs with her nose. Each time she nudged a foot, Summer pulled it back a bit – then a nudge to a different foot, and then each of the others followed by a repeat of the entire process. Princess continued the nudging and waiting, nudging and waiting, until Summer had withdrawn her feet all by herself and had squirmed around in the shavings until she was away from the gate. She rested for a few minutes and we held our breaths along with Princess, Beau and the other mares. It looked like she might have injured herself; but finally, she wiggled and squirmed and thrashed her way to her feet and wobbled over to Beau, who was still waiting patiently in the corner. As Beau sniffed and licked her baby and positioned herself so Summer could nurse, the human rescuers arrived – Michele, Desirea and Debra. We heard the car doors slamming and the

pounding of their feet as they raced toward the barn. It had only been a few minutes since my frantic call to Terry, but it seemed like an eternity.....

They found a peaceful scene – mare tenderly nursing her hours-old foal, other mares nibbling bits of hay in the paddock. Princess had rejoined her group and barely glanced up at us as we tried to explain everything that had happened. We wondered if anyone would believe our story, but everyone agreed that Princess was indeed the heroine. She said it was simply all in a

Mom's day of work..... and then she turned back to her hay.

(If you have a story you'd like to share we'd love to print it here. Memories like this make our lives with our horses so special. Call Melanie with your special story.)