



The HorseCountry Quarterly

A PUBLICATION OF THE TRYON RIDING & HUNT CLUB

Join the TR&HC's Centennial Celebration on April 10 - PAGES 4-5



PHOTO HANSEL MIETH

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 3 | Harmon Field Equestrian Needs
- 8 | Consider Off-track Thoroughbreds
- 9 | 100 Years of Dressage
- 12 | 97th Tryon Horse & Hound Show
- 14 | Dressage for Hunters
- 16 | Managing Pasture Calories



6 | Meet Cam Stockhausen



11 | 2025 CSHHF Inductees



10 | Charity I Show Preview



13 | Wild Mustangs to Compete

TR&HC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Full Year Kicks Off with Anniversary Gala



To kick off this milestone year, mark your calendars for an unforgettable night of celebration! Our 100th Anniversary Gala, to be held April 10 at The Fitzgerald in downtown Tryon, is not just another party but a spectacular tribute to a century of achievements. Picture an evening filled with friends, laughter, and memories. I encourage everyone to come together to celebrate!

April also brings us the annual TR&HC Horse & Hound Show. This year's show promises to entertain both exhibitors and spectators alike with countless activities. Think costume

class, egg and spoon relay races, fox hunter exhibitions, Easter egg hunt, a silent auction, and more!! Bring your friends and family — you won't want to miss a minute of the action!

Beyond our April events, we have curated a year-long lineup of activities and invite both equestrians and community members to be part of our ongoing story. Stay tuned for updates on future events, including some fun meet-and-greet opportunities. Your support is invaluable in helping us continue our mission.

As we commemorate one hundred years together, let's make this anniversary one to remember!

Joanne Gibbs

Joanne Gibbs
President, Tryon Riding & Hunt Club

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As we approach the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club's centennial celebration in April, we continue to honor the legacy of the individuals and moments that make our horse country so special. What began as one man's vision has evolved over 100 years into an internationally recognized equestrian destination — an achievement few clubs can claim.

In this issue, we also turn our attention to the graceful and elegant discipline of dressage, offering a glimpse into its rich 100-year history. And in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, we also examine the ongoing efforts to rebuild and strengthen our equestrian infrastructure, including improvements at Harmon Field and the ongoing development at Green Creek Kennel Course — both vital to ensuring our region remains a premier destination for equine enthusiasts.

I am honored to share these stories of our area's deep equestrian roots and highlight the individuals and groups who continue to write our story today. Join us in celebrating this remarkable legacy and partner with us as we build the future. I look forward to raising a glass with you at the 100th Anniversary Gala on April 10!

Michelle Yelton

Michelle Yelton
Editorial Director



SAVE THE DATE!

2025 TR&HC Dates

April 10: 100 Year Gala Celebration
April 17-19: Tryon Horse & Hound Show
June 3-8: 97th Heritage Charity I Horse Show (Spring 6)
June 6: Charity Horse Shows/CSHF Induction Ceremony
July 1-6: Charity II Horse Show (Summer 4)
November 2: 92nd Any and All Dog Show
December 5: Annual Meeting/Holiday Party

Visit tryonridingandhuntclub.org for more info.



Pony Presents! There's nothing like getting your first pony, so join us in congratulating Peyton Jackson on welcoming Belle into her life!

DID YOU KNOW?

As prey animals, horses react quickly in flight-or-fight situations, and can go from standing still to delivering a powerful kick in just 0.3 seconds: human reaction time is 1.6 seconds.

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The HorseCountry Quarterly

A PUBLICATION OF THE TRYON RIDING & HUNT CLUB

The Horse Country Quarterly is the official publication of the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club, published four times a year. Visit TryonRidingandHuntClub.org and click JOIN to receive *The Quarterly*. Send comments, article ideas and calendar events to leighborreson@gmail.com.

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The Equestrian Needs for Harmon Field's Future

A long and distinguished equestrian history is shared by Tryon Riding and Hunt Club (TR&HC) and Harmon Field. Both were established in the 1920s and have played a significant role in solidifying the area's reputation as an equestrian community. Recently, TR&HC Board President Joanne Gibbs and Vice President Donna Younkin met with Brad Gordon, Harmon Field Superintendent, and Greg Miner, Harmon Field Board of Supervisors, to discuss the current status and plans for Harmon Field's equestrian area. Gibbs also attended a recent meeting of the Harmon Field Board to further open lines of communication.

Gordon joined Harmon Field after working at Tryon International and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience about the operation and needs of equine venues. TR&HC was pleased to learn that profits from equestrian events will be reinvested into the equestrian side of the park to support its operation and maintenance.

Currently, Harmon Field's equestrian facilities face challenges due to an aging infrastructure along with the impact of Hurricane Helene. TR&HC previously donated funds to improve the footing at Harmon Field, but now there is a critical need to replace the fencing around show rings 1-3. The estimated cost is \$30,000. While a single donation would be amazing to cover this entirely, the cost could be shared among several barns, organizations

or riders. For instance, a group of four individuals could each contribute \$2,500, fully covering the cost of one ring. A sign recognizing those donors would be displayed at the show ring as a token of appreciation. Smaller donations are also welcome and appreciated.

Gordon is hoping the new fencing can be in place as soon as possible to allow shows to resume. In conjunction, he hopes to revive a Tryon tradition of hosting a jumping event and community barbecue to celebrate the reopening of the equestrian area.

The list of needed improvements at Harmon Equestrian is extensive, and any contribution would be appreciated and make a meaningful impact. Many projects are well-suitable for a barn, a business, or an organization to sponsor. Below is a partial list:

- New fencing for rings 1-3 – an urgent need!
- Renovation or replacement of the show office
- Repair or replace picnic tables
- Replace split rail fencing at the equestrian entrance
- Electrical work in barn areas
- Gravel for under the picnic sheds to avoid muddy areas
- Fascia boards, gutters, and downspouts for the barns
- A modern sound system that meets current needs, including radios for staff communication, speakers in the barns, and improvements to the sound booth



Progress continues at Harmon Field even as critical needs remain. The first two barns have been leveled, with stall mats reinstated, marking a significant step forward. Next, once contractors complete grading, the Harmon Field staff will begin pressure washing the stalls and reseeding the surrounding areas to enhance the grounds.

Tryon Riding and Hunt Club supports Harmon Field and hopes others in the community will rally in support of this local treasure. For more info, contact Brad Gordon at harmonfield@tryonnc.gov or (828) 859-5784. Donations can be made to the Town of Tryon. Contact (828) 859-6655 for information and options. On the check's memo line, please write "Harmon Field Equestrian." All donors will receive a receipt. *Thank you for your support!*

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Your generous support makes our mission possible. Because of you, we continue to uphold the traditions, events, and values that define our community. We appreciate your commitment to equestrian excellence and the legacy we share.

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Celebrating 100 Years: A Legacy of Impact and Success *by Leigh Borreson*

The stage was set. With beautiful scenery, a mild climate and established trails, Tryon was already a magnet for horse enthusiasts in 1925. But it took a horse lover from Michigan, Carter Brown, to see its potential to become a nationally-known hub for equestrian sport – for both high-level competitions and more leisurely activities like “riding to the hounds.” His vision was to build an organization to cultivate an equestrian lifestyle community in the up-state area. Thus, the Tryon Riding and Hunt Club (TR&HC) was born.

This year, TR&HC proudly celebrates an incredible milestone – 100 years! It takes a great deal of determination, passion and commitment for an organization to thrive for a century – and sustain involvement and appreciation from the community. The club is excited to reflect on its achievements, honor the past and look forward to the future.

Our journey has been filled with moments of triumph and challenges, yet we have persevered by remaining focused on enhancing the traditions of the Tryon area. TR&HC has assumed this influential role through sponsoring and hosting

equestrian competitions, fostering philanthropy, supporting social and educational programs, and organizing cherished community events. Angie Milton, past board president shared, “As the oldest, consecutively operating equestrian club in the area, we are proud that we’ve been able to provide meaningful financial support to the region, donating nearly half a million dollars to local charities and organizations in need over the past 10 years.”

The TR&HC calendar is filled with long-standing traditions that have shaped the club’s legacy:

- The historic Horse and Hound Show, dating back to the 1920s.
- The Charity I Horse Show, now in its 97th year.
- The Carolinas Show Hunter Hall of Fame, honoring successful horses, riders and trainers.
- The Charity II Horse Show, a competitive jewel for over 20 years.
- And the wildly popular Any and All Dog Show, which has celebrated and honored our other four-legged companions for over 90 years!



For 100 years, the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club has shaped and strengthened this community's equestrian legacy.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL

To mark this milestone, TR&HC is introducing several exciting events throughout the year:

The 100th Anniversary Gala – The excitement is already growing as we finalize plans at the elegant new Fitzgerald in downtown Tryon. Join us to commemorate a century of excellence this special accomplishment with great food, drink and dance!

Legacy Open House Series – We will host a series of open house activities in the coming months to describe our legacy, with content showcasing the club’s history, success and making a difference in the community.

An Interactive Fall Community Event – Plans are also underway for an interactive community event this fall that will appeal to all ages and engage families while taking advantage of our beautiful outdoor venues.

The Carter Brown Barbecue – We are returning to our roots by bringing the popular and historic barbecue back to the iconic Harmon Field, where it all began.

A Legacy Built on Passion and Dedication

As we reflect on a century of accomplishments, we cannot forget the dedicated staff – and importantly, volunteers – whose passion, hard work, and unwavering support have made this journey possible. Their collective efforts are the foundation of our success and the driving force behind our continued growth.

Joanne Gibbs, TR&HC president, is thrilled by the prospects ahead. “Looking forward, we are excited about the possibilities the future holds. With a century of accomplishments behind us, we believe we are well-equipped to face the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.”

Don't miss out on this rare opportunity to celebrate 100 years of memories, friendships, and dreams come true. We can take pride in our past and embrace the opportunities in front of us. Here's to another 100 years of success, growth, and making a difference in our community and the equestrian world!

The Tryon Riding & Hunt Club presents a

USED TACK SALE

Join us at the Horse & Hound Show
 Date: Friday, April 18th, 2025
 Time: 10am - 2pm
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 Cost: \$25 per table

Bring any used tack or riding supplies you'd like to sell – purchase a table and keep the proceeds of your sales!

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NEW FACES: CAM STOCKHAUSEN

by Margie Askins



PHOTO ANTHONY TROLLOPE/SHANNON BRINKMAN PHOTO

An Eventer, Fox Hunter & Instructor

Cam Stockhausen, an eventer, fox hunter, and instructor from Landrum, South Carolina, could have followed many spectacular career paths. At 6'3", she played collegiate basketball and passed on an offer from the WNBA. She could have followed her early career path as a broadcast meteorologist; however, she ultimately chose the career path where her heart had always led her—horses.

Her love for horses began early in her life with her first horse, a 52-inch black and white Shetland pony, named Cricket, who had a perfect map of the United States in white under his mane. "My dad joked that if we were ever lost in our many forays around eastern Wisconsin, I could flip up his mane and look up where I was," remembered Stockhausen. At 4H camp, she followed the "learn a skill, share a skill" ethic – earmarking the foundation for her riding career – and began competing with this group. At her first USCTA (now USEA) event, she placed third and thought there must have been a scoring error because there was no way she won. "I still have that ribbon today!" she exclaimed. This was the start of many wins that would follow.

Curiosity was the driving force behind her suc-

cess. In her twenties, Stockhausen began to immerse herself in learning alongside eventing, reading everything she could about equestrian life. "I rode in clinics with everyone who came to the Midwest. Bruce and Buck Davidson, Ralph Hill, Becky Holder, Moray Nicholson, and Lucinda Green. I audited all the sessions above and below my level and took notes. I went home and practiced and read books."

She was introduced to fox hunting and fell in love instantly. "The hound music was intoxicating; the riding was challenging and fun, and I'd found my people," she explained. The years that followed were a whirlwind of foxhunting with various hunt clubs, including a hunt in Ireland. Meanwhile, her eventing skills advanced and she qualified for the American Eventing Championships four times with two horses at the Preliminary Level. Her growing success attracted students and training horses.

Stockhausen credits much of her success training for the past 25 years to continuously learning from others: "I've had so many really good influencers from many horse sports and also specifically within eventing and dressage, so I had a big

toolbox to work with, even early on. I still learn all the time from horse people in my sport."

Her successful training career naturally led to her becoming a certified U.S. Eventing Association instructor. Then in 2022, she sold her Iowa farm and sought a place "south and horsey," which led her to the Tryon area. "Upstate SC and WNC had it all: beauty, horses, kind people," she said.

Her most recent endeavor is to become an eventing official. Inspired by Jimmy Wofford's Practical Horseman column, Stockhausen was motivated by his description of the stages of equestrian life – rider, horseman, competitor, coach, official. She recently was awarded the Broussard Charitable Foundation Trust Going Forward Grant for Eventing Licensed Officials, which will defray some of the costs of training, apprenticing and becoming certified to be an Eventing Technical Delegate (TD) and Eventing Judge. Her goal is to pass the test for TD in 2025 and for Eventing Judge in 2026.

Stockhausen encourages young riders interested in exploring fox hunting or eventing to learn as much as they can by reading books, attending, and eventually, participating in events: "There's much to learn by being present on foot at the place you want to be on horseback."




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Second Careers for Off-track Thoroughbreds

by Misty Yelton

“And they’re off!” These words can be heard almost daily across the country’s more than 300 horse racing tracks. The equine industry contributes over \$122 billion annually to the U.S. economy and horse racing is a large part of that. In 2023, horses in the U.S. raced for purses totaling over \$1.3 billion, with the average purse totaling around \$337,000. Each year, The Jockey Club registers nearly 18,000 Thoroughbred foals, but only a fraction makes it to the track, and even fewer become winners. Many of the remaining horses face uncertain futures, with some ending up in risky situations, including slaughter. Thanks to the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance, many now find second careers as off-track Thoroughbreds (OTTBs).

One of the leading organizations making this possible is New Vocations, the nation’s largest racehorse adoption program. Since 1992, they have rehomed over 9,000 Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds, focusing on rehabilitation, thorough adopter screening, and lifelong support to ensure safe placements. Several graduates have even found success in Rutherford County’s hunter-jumper circuit.

In 2015, Rutherford County, N.C.’s Cameron Sabolovic needed a new horse to transition from youth to the adult amateur division. “Money was tight, and options were few, but my trainer had a green OTTB available in my price range,” said Sabolovic. That horse, Goodtime Boy (“Logan”), came through New Vocations and was hand-picked for her by trainer Freda Jessen, owner of Fern Hollow Farm. “Transitioning from my first horse, an experienced quarter horse who taught me how to show, to a green racehorse who was as unsure as I, was the most challenging part of my experience of owning an OTTB.” But her patience paid off—in 2023, Logan was named the New Vocations All-Thoroughbred Charity Horse Show War Horse Hunter Under Saddle Champion.

Sabolovic encourages new OTTB owners to research their horse’s racing background. “I’ve noticed that horses who raced more and at bigger venues tend to be more level-headed since they’ve seen more. They also seem to be better at traveling and loading on trailers,” she said. However, she also notes that some horses, like Logan, may be more reactive in large show arenas with stadium seating. “As much as I love my boy, we will not be showing in arenas like the International Ring and the stadium at TIEC. He sees the stands and the audience and reverts to being a racehorse instead of an adult amateur hunter horse.”

Jessen’s barn is also to Heather Stanley of Rutherford County, N.C., and her OTTBs, I Gotta Have It (“Alphie”) and Mr. Cellophane (“Arnie”). Stanley has found great success with her OTTBs. “For me, it was such an easy decision to get an OTTB,” said Stanley, who has owned horses for over 50 years. “They have an amazing mind, are natural athletes, and come in every personality and energy



Demi Terry and Folds of Honor, left and Cameron Sabolovic and Good Time Show Boy, above.

made the process clear, forthright, and simple. They spent considerable time making sure he was a good fit for me and his personality profile was really accurate.”

OTTBs are also finding success with younger riders. Rutherford County, N.C. youth competitor Demi Terry purchased her OTTB, Folds of Honor (“Honor”), in 2022 and has since moved from the pee-wee English division to the hunter ring. Most recently, the pair has been competing in the 1.10M jumper division. “I’ve had multiple trainers discourage me from getting Honor and tell me that I would get nowhere on a thoroughbred. But getting to see the progress in Honor and being able to say I trained him (to jump) is the greatest accomplishment.”

level.” Her hard work has paid off—in 2024, she and her OTTBs earned three BRHJA Year-End Division Championships, several Thoroughbred Incentive Program titles, and multiple Hunter Derby and Classic wins.

Stanley urges potential OTTB adopters to let go of negative stereotypes. “Get rid of all the negative connotations you’ve heard; those are simply not representative of the entire breed,” she said. She also recommends adopting through an accredited program like New Vocations. “They

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A Century of Dressage: The Evolution of a Sport

by Margaret Freeman

With Tryon Riding and Hunt Club celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, the Quarterly would like to look back at the past century of the equestrian sport of dressage.

Actually, dressage has existed as a competitive sport for about that same amount of time, with dressage at the Olympic Games dating from 1912 along with the other equestrian disciplines of eventing and jumping. The choice of those sports for the Olympics depended on their importance to training cavalry horses, and until after World War II mostly just cavalry officers were allowed to compete.

Those same officers became instrumental in encouraging public riders and competitions in the 1950s when the U.S. Army could no longer field Olympic teams. U.S. riders turned to military-trained ex-officers from Europe for expertise in all three horse sports. By the 1970s, dressage shows were starting to gain wider interest among U.S. riders, although it wasn’t until the 1990s that U.S. dressage teams had more than a handful of Grand Prix riders to pick from.

Part of the difficulty in attracting interest to dressage in the U.S. was the country’s expanse and thus its lack of unity, unlike countries in Europe. The formation of the U.S. Dressage Federation in 1973 sought to remedy that, providing opportunities for awards, training, and standardized judging across the nation. Its growth mirrored the popularity of dressage as a competitive sport in the past four decades, and its judge training program is

the most stringent in the world.

Along with that came a growing interest in warmbloods for all three disciplines, especially in dressage. Dressage shows allow and encourage participation from all breeds, but warmbloods are usually the most successful. Correspondingly, so are their



Above, Hiram Tuttle aboard Si Murray, one of his 2 mounts at the 1936 Olympics.

PHOTO ARMOR MAGAZINE/THE CAVALRY JOURNAL

Left, Sidley Payne and Migi Serrell at the opening of the American Dressage Institute at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY, in July 1971.

PHOTO:THE ARCHIVE OF IVAN I. BEZUGLOFF JR., DRESSAGE & CT

prices. While Thoroughbreds, Quarter Horses, and other “non-typey” breeds are still popular, warmblood prices – especially for a well-trained horse – are now far from entry-level.

The cost of participating in shows recognized by the U.S. Equestrian Federation has gradually risen as well. It used to be that a one-ring USEF show could be held at a local farm staffed entirely by volunteers. Such a show is now relatively rare

since riders tend to prefer high-tech footing over sand rings and permanent stabling over tents. Many show personnel are now paid due to the complexity of the jobs. Computers (and thus trained, paid scribes and scorers) have now also taken over the work that volunteers did in the past.

Part of the solution to the rising cost of showing is an area’s inventory of non-USEF schooling shows. These are much more casual and low-key and still mostly run by volunteers. FENCE used to hold USEF shows, but now in the general Tryon area, USEF shows are only held at the Tryon International Equestrian Center. Six USEF shows are planned there for 2025, including an international show in the fall. Foothills Riding Club is planning five schooling shows at FENCE in 2025, and there are other schooling shows at farm venues as well.

The “look” of dressage has also changed substantially over the past decade. Dressage used to require dark-colored hats, boots and coats. But the rules and customs have loosened, and now just about every solid color can be seen. In addition, ASTM-approved helmets have replaced top hats at all levels, including internationally. Colored ear coverings and bright saddle pads are also popular. Gone, too, is a requirement for a double bridle at the upper levels. The result is that the look of the once-standard plain attire paired with double bridles now feels retro.

If the past is a prologue, look for more changes in attire and tack and some serious soul-searching among dressage organizations to slow the tide of rising prices and attract more riders of all ages to the sport.

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Charity I Horse Show Preview

Just a few years shy of its centennial, Tryon Riding & Hunt Club's Charity 1 Horse Show is set to celebrate its 97th edition this June 3-8 at Tryon International. With a full week of Premier AA-rated competition and festivities, an average of 600-700 of riders travel to Polk County annually for this legacy event.

Competition Highlights

Annual highlights of the week include the \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby and a CSI 2 or 3* Grand Prix Show Jumping competition that is hosted alongside Tryon International's signature "Saturday Night Lights" event featuring family-friendly entertainment. Previous years have awarded the coveted Trip of the Day, a prize given to the highest-scoring hunter rider each day across all divisions. Riders interested in competing can learn more at Tryon.com/compete.

Carolinas Show Hunter Hall of Fame

Another highlight celebration of the Charity 1 Horse Show is the annual Carolinas Show Hunter Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, traditionally held before the USHJA International Hunter Derby. The Hall of Fame was founded to recognize exceptional horses, riders, trainers, owners, and contributors who have made a significant impact on the hunter-jumper sport in North and South Carolina. Inductees include legendary show hunters, respected professionals, and influential figures who have helped shape the

equestrian community throughout the Carolinas. Both TR&HC members and the general public are invited to attend this prestigious celebration. Visit the club's



The Charity 1 Horse Show includes the Carolinas Show Hunter Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony (above), and riders enjoy their chance at winning the Trip of the Day.

website for event details and tickets as they become available: tryonridingandhuntclub.com.

Focus on Philanthropy

Per its namesake, charity is a core component of the week and TR&HC selects local nonprofits as beneficiaries each year. With a commitment to giving back, these contributions reflect the club's longstanding dedication to philanthropy and community engagement. Past beneficiaries of Charity 1 Horse Show include Steps to Hope, The Sanctuary at Red Bell Run, Polk Central Elementary School, R.E.I.N. Rescue, and Girl Scout Troop 13161.

by Michelle Yelton



About the Heritage Horse Show

The first Charity I Horse Show was held in 1926, and in 2019, the U.S. Equestrian Federation named it a Heritage Horse Show. This designation, according to USEF, "is reserved for competitions that have been established for a long period of time and have made substantial contributions toward the development and promotion of the sport, both within the broader community, by achieving, maintaining and promoting the equestrian ideals of sportsmanship and competition." Other prestigious shows that share the designation include the Devon Horse Show, Blowing Rock Charity Horse Show, Washington International, and Pennsylvania National, among others.

Meet the 2025 Carolinas Show Hunter Hall Of Fame Inductees

by Margie Askins



The Carolinas Show Hunter Hall of Fame proudly welcomes two outstanding horsemen into its ranks: Tony Albertson and Jeffery Welles. In addition, Dr. Rick Mitchell has been selected as the recipient of the Janet Peterson Award. Three horses will also be inducted: Ivory Cross, Parody, and Spindletop Showdown. Each horse and rider has made a lasting impact on the hunter/jumper community through their dedication, expertise, and lifelong contributions to the sport. Below, meet the riders and look for the horse inductees to be featured in the summer edition.

Janet Peterson Award Recipient: Dr. Rick Mitchell

Dr. Rick Mitchell, DVM has had a life-long relationship with horses that began on his family's farm in Greensboro, N.C., where he fox-hunted and showed in the hunters and jumpers. His love for horses led him to pursue a degree from Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1974. In 1989, he successfully started Fairfield Equine Associates in Newton, C.T., and is a senior partner serving the sport horse sector. Dr. Mitchell has served as the veterinarian for the USET Show Jumping and Dressage Team at six Olympic Games and also authored groundbreaking research on equine gastric ulcer disease. He has held impressive leadership roles including past president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, member of the U.S. Equestrian Federation Board of Directors, the Equus Foundation, and the American Horse Council.

According to The American Association of Equine Practitioners, "Dr. Mitchell is a staunch ally for the horse, the profession and his colleagues." This is evident as he currently heads the developmental council for the Foundation of the Horse, which aids equine victims of disasters, and helps

vet students with school debt. Now semi-retired in Flat Rock, N.C., Dr. Mitchell continues to practice in Tryon, N.C., and Wellington, F.L., while advocating for equine welfare through the Foundation for the Horse.

Tony Albertson

Since entering the horse world in 1970 and turning professional in 1979, Tony Albertson has built a reputation as a top trainer of both children and adults in hunters, equitation, and jumpers.

Albertson's esteemed career features an impressive list of training clients, including Katherine Miracle, who he trained from Short Stirrup Hunters to major wins at the EJ Haun Medal Final and the S.C. Governor's Cup Finals. Some of his other successes with clients include his remarkable work at Champion Regular Working Hunters at HITS on State of the Art, who he also qualified and competed at the PNHS, Devon, WIHS, and NHS in the 1st and 2nd Year Green Working Hunters. He also trained Dreamboat, a CSHHF member who was the 1991 Reserve Large Green Pony Hunter Champion at the National Pony Finals and ended the year as AHSA HOTY Reserve Large Green Pony Hunter Champion.

"It's the process of starting a new beginner child or starting a baby horse or pony that keeps me passionate about what I do," Albertson stated. He has been awarded the N.C. Horseman of the year three times. In regard to his most recent honor, he added, "When I heard that I was nominated to the Hall of Fame, I was honored and grateful for the great horsemen and horsewomen previously inducted. Each one of them is truly the best of the best."



Jeffery Welles

Born in Raleigh, N.C., Jeffrey Welles grew up on a family stable riding horses with his six siblings. He excelled early as a natural talent. By the age of 8, he was excelling in A-rated shows and became one of the country's top catch riders as a teenager. At 17, he transitioned to the jumper ring. The choice was fruitful and his career flourished, earning him accolades such as the 1983



USET Hermes Award and a spot on the 1984 World Cup Finals roster.

His remarkable career highlights include being a 2008 U.S. Olympic Team member and winning Grand Prix events at Devon, Hampton Classic, National Horse Show, Hickstead, and the American Invitational. Welles has represented the United States on many Nations Cup teams, including wins at Aachen and Barcelona. Now based at Triton Ventures in Brewster, NY, he focuses on training horses and clients while staying closely connected to the sport.

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(If you have items you would like to donate, contact the TRHC at office@trhc1925.org. Deadline for all items April 16.)

CELEBRATING TRADITION

by Michelle Yelton



Tryon Horse & Hound Show Returns, April 17-19

The Tryon Horse and Hound Show returns to FENCE on April 17-19, continuing a legacy that dates back to the 1920s. The event originally ran until the 1960s before being discontinued, but thanks to the efforts of the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club (TR&HC), it was reinstated four years ago. The 2025 show promises to be a spectacular celebration, uniting past champions, rising stars, and the dedicated equestrian community that has revived this cherished tradition.

Silent Auction at the Horse & Hound Show
Adding to the excitement, the silent auction will return for the 2025 Horse and Hound Show, opening on April 18th, at 9 a.m. and closing on

April 19th at 12 p.m. This highly anticipated auction has been a great success in past years. All proceeds benefit the TR&HC Philanthropy Program, which funds annual scholarships and grants to local community organizations. Auction items typically feature an equine or canine theme and past prizes have included: riding lessons, capping fees, dinner for four, spa certificates, and similar contributions.

Easter Egg Hunt

Families are invited to join the fun as this year's Horse and Hound Show includes an Easter Egg Hunt on April 18 at 5 p.m. A perfect way for children to take part in the festivities, this activ-

ity adds an extra element of excitement to the weekend.

Honoring Those Who Paved the Way

As TR&HC celebrates 100 years, the club reflects with gratitude on the individuals and families whose dedication has shaped the club's legacy. Events like the Tryon Horse and Hound Show are a testament to their commitment, preserving the region's rich equestrian traditions for future generations.

For more information on this year's Tryon Horse and Hound Show visit www.tryonridingandhuntclub.org.

RESCUING EQUINES IN NEED: REIN Mustang Rescue to Honor Storm Survivors, Resiliency

by Sarah Madden

On October 7, 2024, three mustangs arrived at REIN Rescue in Rutherfordton, N.C., in the wake of Hurricane Helene's ravaging of Western North Carolina. While working tirelessly to funnel supplies and donations to those most affected, the rescue staff were also gaining the trust of their newest residents – two Bureau of Land Management (BLM) mustangs. Later named REIN's Infinite Hope ("Finn") and REIN's Icon ("Ike"), REIN Rescue has high hopes for the promising equines.

REIN will be taking the mustangs to the 2025 Mustang Classic, hosted September 4-6 at the Kentucky Horse Park, for their chance at \$125,000 in cash and prizes. The highlight class, the Freestyle competition, boasts a prize of \$50,000. But winning money isn't the main purpose.

According to the event's website, "The goal of the 2025 Mustang Classic is to showcase the skill and adaptability of the American Mustang and the talented competitors that work with them in the English disciplines." Competitors will show their formerly wild mustangs in dressage, show jumping, and working equitation competitions before the grand finale, featuring the top ten overall competitors.

For Dr. Joy Baker, DVM, CVA, CVC, founder of REIN and an equine chiropractor and acupuncturist, the spirit and the resilience

of mustangs echoes the remarkable tenacity of the people of Western North Carolina.

"When mustangs are rounded up by the Bureau of Land Management, held, and later adopted, it is a traumatic process. However, these horses are incredibly resilient and



Above, wild mustangs Icon (left) and Finn (middle) are gearing up for their first competition.



Left, a volunteer works with Finn to accept ropes around his face.

are capable of almost any sport – provided they have the right initial training by riders and trainers who understand how they differ from domesticated horses."

Baker and the REIN team want to honor the resiliency and recovery of WNC by sending regionally-trained mustangs to the Mustang Classic. Beyond their tribute, however, the goal is also to showcase the value mustangs can offer to the equestrian community. "[Mustangs] are more affordable and a good option for people who are willing to learn how to train them or find trainers who can help them."

In November, REIN acquired two additional four-year-old geldings in a BLM online auction. After completing a quarantine period, they were delivered to Columbia, S.C. in February. Their names are REIN's Journey through the Storm and REIN's Just Believe. Two professional riders—Amelia Nowicki of Inman, S.C. and Christina Fisher-Hensley of Marshall, N.C.—are donating their time and talents to the cause and will be guiding these four mustangs toward a shot at a new life, in honor of those who are rebuilding their own lives.



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A Hunter's Guide to Dressage – Expanding Your Show Options *by Margaret Freeman*

Dressage can be a fun and productive alternative way for hunters looking to broaden their show experience. If you can compete ably over an eight-fence course and in a hack class, you have all the training and equipment you need to try a dressage show.

The one piece of tack you may need to change is the bit — lower-level dressage requires a plain snaffle. The rules call for an English-type saddle, so a forward-seat saddle is fine. The color of your tack and clothes, or the breed/type of your horse, doesn't matter. What matters is the quality of your riding and training, and whether you follow the rules.

Dressage shows are divided into two basic types: recognized (sanctioned by the U.S. Equestrian Federation) and schooling (unsanctioned by the USEF). Recognized shows require memberships and strict adherence to USEF rules. Schooling show rules are determined by whoever is organizing the show, although most follow USEF rules with certain exceptions, such as allowing wraps.

In the Tryon area, Tryon International hosts USEF-recognized shows while several local farms and organizations offer schooling shows, including the Foothills Riding Club, which holds five schooling shows a year at FENCE.

You can get a quick course on dressage-specific rules on the USEF website (click Rules, then DR, then DR 120-124). Rules are one thing and proto-



A forward-seat saddle, right, is as acceptable for a lower-level dressage test as a traditional dressage saddle, left.

col another. Protocol is most easily learned by just going to a schooling show to watch and to ask questions.

Dressage tests are divided by level (three at each level), readily available online. There are basically 10 levels: any well-schooled show hunter could do Intro Level (W-T), Training Level (W-T-C and 20-meter circles), or First Level (lengthenings, 10 and 15-meter circles).

An Intro or Training Level horse is required to "accept the bit," while a First Level horse should be "on the bit." Tests are divided into separate movements scored by the judge from 0-10, with the final score a percentage of the total. Judges also write comments throughout the test, so you get a detailed evaluation.

A mistake like a wrong lead or off-course isn't

costly — it's just one box, unless the mistake is repeated. There's also a set time schedule, available online in advance. You must arrive for your set ride time, with penalty of elimination. When the judge signals, you must start your test within 45 seconds. Tests can be read aloud, but otherwise no coaching while in the ring and no use of voice by the rider. Consistent bend to the inside is important.

Most regular hunter tack is fine, but no martingales. You can make your jumping saddle look more "dressagey" by simply adding a square pad. Schooling shows are usually casual in dress although an ASTM-approved helmet and heeled footwear are always required. Check with the show to see which non-USEF gear is okay.

If you are going to your first dressage show, you can practice at home by measuring a flat space that is 66 by 198 feet and placing soccer cones for the letters. You should memorize and practice your test thoroughly, even if using a reader, because if you go off course more than twice you're eliminated. Practice the required halt/salute on the centerline.

Most riders in lower-level classes enter two rides. Percentage scores are posted to determine placings. You then get your test returned and your test ribbon. Since you ride at set times, you can easily plan your day and be home for feeding and your own dinner.

Margaret Freeman is a Senior USEF-licensed dressage judge living in Tryon.

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Managing Spring Pasture Calories for Your Horse



By Cassie LeMaster, Area Equine & Livestock Agent, NC State Extension



With many horses transitioning to more time on pasture this time of year, I wanted to highlight how to manage their calorie consumption as they move from a mostly hay diet over the winter to an abundance of fresh spring pasture. If you enjoy math, here's an example demonstrating the big jump in calorie consumption once our horses start grazing more fresh forage.

For this example, I utilized the digestible energy requirement (DE, Mcals) for a horse in light work (1-3 rides per week) from the NRC Nutrient Requirements of Horses, which is 20 mega-calories (Mcals) per day. If an average-sized horse weighing about 1,100 pounds consumed 2 percent of his body weight per day in dry matter of average-quality grass hay (0.91 Mcals/lb. from Equi-Analytical's online database), it would consume about 20 Mcals per day, which is enough to meet his entire daily energy requirement without the addition of feed.

In nearly all cases, fresh forage from pasture is higher in energy (i.e., calories) than stored hay, but how can we estimate how many calories our horses are consuming while at pasture? If they have free access to pasture, they can consume between 2-2.5 percent of their body weight per day. For example, previously sampled fescue from a North Carolina pasture in April had an energy density of 1.13 Mcals per pound. The same horse in light work grazing about 22 pounds of dry matter from this pasture would consume approximately 25 Mcals per day- 5 extra Mcals than its daily requirement.

For comparison purposes, a growing two-year-old in a training program has a daily requirement of 24.8 Mcals/day. This excess in calorie consumption is enough for this horse to gain a full body condition score in about 2.5 months, and even quicker for a horse that is rarely ridden. Horses that are overweight carry a higher incidence of metabolic diseases such as insulin resistance, laminitis and cushings, so it's important to monitor changes in their weight over time.

Restricting time at pasture, using grazing muzzles, and feeding low-calorie hay before turnout to prevent gorging are all options to manage our horses' calorie consumption; however, some horses learn to manipulate whichever system you

choose. Research has demonstrated that some horses learn the turnout routine and speed up their consumption rate while at pasture. Others skillfully master the art of placing the grazing muzzle directly down on top of bunch grasses, such as fescue, to reduce the muzzle's effect. Try different management techniques to see what works best for you and your horses. If you're not tired of all the math so far, there's even a formula

developed by researchers at N.C. State University that we can use to estimate the number of calories your horse consumes based on the number of hours he spends grazing.

Contact me at the Extension office or by email Cassie_LeMaster@ncsu.edu to discuss options specific to your horse and management style.

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TR&HC MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Tryon Riding & Hunt Club Now Accepting Scholarship Applications

The Tryon Riding & Hunt Club (TR&HC) is proud to continue its tradition of supporting education by offering college scholarships totaling \$6,500 in 2025. Applications are now open and must be submitted by May 15, with awards announced in June.

TR&HC's scholarship program reflects the club's commitment to philanthropy, community service, and equestrian heritage. Eligible applicants must reside in Polk, Henderson, Rutherford, Spartanburg, or Greenville counties and be either a graduating high school senior or a current college student, with preference given to high school seniors.

Scholarship amounts will start at \$500, with priority consideration given to students involved in equestrian sports or organizations. Financial need will also be a factor in the selection process.



2024 Scholarship Winner, Samantha Collins.

Applicants cannot be related to current TR&HC board members or employees. Finalists may be required to submit a financial need statement and complete an interview. Recipients must provide proof of enrollment, a photo and media release, and may be asked to volunteer at a TR&HC event. Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the recipient's school.

For more details and to apply, visit tryonridingandhuntclub.org/scholarships.

Progress Continues at Green Creek Hounds Kennel Course

by Michelle Yelton

Exciting plans are ongoing at the Green Creek Hounds Kennel Course as course visionary Carolyn Cadier continues to expand its offerings. Recently, the Tryon Riding and Hunt Club donated a jump to the course to further support the venue.

"We are still very excited about further development of the course," said Cadier. "We are one-third of the way to sponsoring a water jump, and I hope to accomplish that before mid-spring. We have a lot of clean-up to still do from Hurricane Helene in our wooded section but will get those trails open and continue to build the course

through the woods."

In addition to course improvements, plans are in motion to bring in eventing clinicians once the weather stabilizes. Cadier also hopes to host a Juniors "play day" with Trena Kerr, who runs a thriving Junior program. The event will offer young riders exclusive access to the course for a day of fun and skill-building.

As work progresses, the Green Creek Hounds Kennel Course remains committed to providing an exceptional training environment for riders of all levels.



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