

THE PUBLICATION OF THE UNITED STATES EVENTING ASSOCIATION

# EVENTING USA

Volume 41 • Issue Three • April • 2011  
USA \$5.00 • CAN \$6.00



May/June 2011  
TACK ROOM OMNIBUS!



## THE 2011 ROLEX KENTUCKY PREVIEW ISSUE

A New Face For Rolex Kentucky: Meet Head Course Designer Derek di Grazia

2011 Rolex Kentucky Horse and Rider Roster

Bonus Feature: Your Visual Guide To Tailgating at Rolex Kentucky

Event Previews: Winona H.T. at Stone Gate • Hitching Post • Mill Creek • Woodside

A Year in the Life of Boyd Martin • CAPTAIN'S COMMENTARY: Rolex & Badminton • Adequan USEA Gold Cup UPDATE • AREA REPORTS: IV and IX

## Area IV

**Mill Creek Pony Club Horse Trials** at Longview kicks off the season for Area IV on May 14-15. This Kansas-City based event offers BN-P as well as combined tests. This year, competitors can enjoy the newly modified cross-country tracks! Check out the complete preview on page 36.

**Otter Creek** will host their spring event on May 20-22, and competitors have their choice of divisions from starter through Intermediate. The courses are very spectator-friendly, and have rolling hills with great sandy footing. As a reminder, competitors must use pinny holders for this event—they can be purchased on-site for \$15.

During the last weekend in May, riders can enjoy **Briar Fox Farm Horse Trials**. Want to learn more about their courses? Check out the virtual course walks, and tons of other clinics and schooling shows, at [www.TheHorseFarm.com](http://www.TheHorseFarm.com)—many new jumps added this year! Also, the Beginner Novice courses are perfect for new eventers.

## Area V

If you're near Weatherford, Texas, come check out the **Weatherford and Greenwood Farm CIC1\*/2\*** on the first weekend in May. The event will offer not only divisions through In-

termediate, but also Future and Young Event Horse classes as well. Check out [www.GreenwoodFarmOnline.com](http://www.GreenwoodFarmOnline.com) to see photos of all the courses.

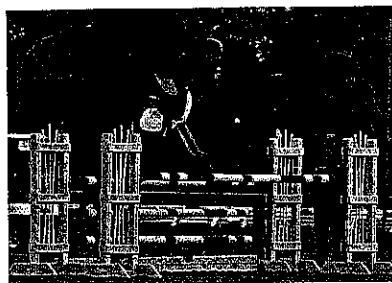
The oldest sanctioned horse trials in Area V, **Jubilee Horse Trials**, will host their one-day event on May 14, giving competitors their choice of BN-T divisions. This Arkansas event is run mostly by volunteers from the Rackensack Pony Club.

The **Texas Lions Camp Charity HT** at Meadow Creek offers the sole SmartPak USEA Training Three-Day Event in Area V on May 27-29. Additionally, Novice and Beginner Novice "mini" three-day eventing tests will run, as well as horse trial divisions through Intermediate/Preliminary.

## Area VI

On May 13-15, **Galway Downs** will offer their spring horse trials for BN-I divisions, the third event in their early-season series. YEH classes will also be offered, giving riders who'd like to compete in the West Coast YEH Championships (Twin Rivers, Sept. 22-23) the chance to qualify.

The **Spring Event at Woodside** will



**ABOVE:** Susan Beebee won the Open Preliminary division aboard Wolf. She also rode Prowler (pictured) in the division to place 9th. *LINDSAY BERRETH PHOTO*

## Southern Pines H.T. I

Raeford, NC | Mar. 12-13

BY LINDSAY BERRETH

AREA II'S SPRING SEASON KICKED OFF AT THE SOUTHERN PINES I HORSE TRIALS AT THE CAROLINA HORSE PARK, MARCH 12-13.

Over 300 riders competed from Beginner Novice through Preliminary over two days. Early arrivals on Friday had to bundle up their horses overnight and woke up to a light frost, but the sun quickly warmed to perfect riding weather in the 60's and 70's over both days.

Show jumping course designer Marc Donovan's flowing track caused very few problems at all levels and was praised by competitors as a good early-season course.

Susan Beebee and Wolf earned one of the lowest dressage scores of the weekend, a 20.9, to win a competitive Open Preliminary division of thirty-two starters. They earned just 1.6 time penalties on cross-country. Beebee also placed ninth in the same division with her Advanced partner Prowler. Both horses are owned by Plan Bee Equestrian LLC.

Jan Byyny and Why Not continued their successful spring season finishing second to Beebee on a 24.3. Jan also won Open Novice-B with BeBe LaRue RRS. Jules Ennis and her horse Walstraed added nothing to their dressage score to take the win in the Preliminary Rider division on 25.2, over ten points ahead of second-placed Dayne Lee and Full Bloom. Cross-country time faults caught quite a few riders, but Tremaine Cooper's course rode well with only five pairs accumulating jump penalties out of both large Preliminary divisions.

Scores were tight in most divisions. North Carolina rider Benjamin Tursam and Pilgrim Du Barquet edged out Devlin Murphy and Goodtime Goggles in the closest finish to win in Open Training A. Both riders finished on 29.1.

In a large Beginner Novice rider division, Rebecca Mahaffey and Cookies N' Cream moved up from second after dressage to take the win over Jyl Lavera and Kentucky Karma by just 0.5 points.



**ABOVE:** Kathleen Hall and Sullivan won the Training Rider division at Pine Top Spring Horse Trials. *HOOFCLIX.COM PHOTO*

## Pine Top Spring H.T. Thomson, GA | Mar. 19-20

BY LESLIE THRELKELD

COMPETITORS GOT A TASTE OF SOUTHERN SUMMERS AT THE PINE TOP FARM HORSE TRIALS ON MARCH 19-20. Temperatures in the mid-80's on Saturday were countered sud-

denly by an overnight storm and dreary gray clouds for Sunday's cross-country competition.

Phillip Dutton and Doug Payne each competed seven horses: Dutton piloted Nina Gardner's Indie to a first place finish in Open Preliminary, adding no penalties to their dressage score of 26.4, while his primary rider, Jennie Brannigan, was sidelined with a broken collarbone. Doug Payne won the Open Novice division on the 2009 FEH Champ Royal Tribute on a score of 24.0.

Pine Top's cross-country course designer John Williams rode two mounts in Open Training. He and Reba Dean were tied for first place on a dressage score of 25.5 with Amy Barrington and Kemmerlin until they crossed the finish line on cross-country closest to the optimum time to secure the win. Williams also finished in third place on Finnegan on a score of 29.9.

Rachel Benoit and The Conman were victorious in the competitive Open Beginner-Novice division, moving up from fourth after dressage to finish on a 33.4. This was Benoit's first trip to Area III after maintaining a strict training schedule for "Conner" to prepare for the upcoming season while also keeping up her full-time English studies and working to pay for her horsey habit. "New Hampshire during the winter is tough. I had to think outside of the box," Benoit said. "I'm really proud of what he did."

Benoit bought Conner from a hunter/jumper barn two years ago and she describes him as willing but sensitive. "As little as he was being ridden, he was so enthusiastic," she said. "He has thrived under his new program, and it is nice to see how his personality has emerged."

This dedicated pair will be moving up to Novice in Area I this year: "Prelim is a good goal for us in the future."

Nine-year-old Avery Lewis and the grey Connemara Balmullo's Beacon, owned by Vanessa Morgan, stole hearts competing in Avery's first recognized event in the Junior/Young Rider Beginner Novice division. The talented duo moved up from 14th after dressage to finish in eighth place. "She had a blast. She can't stop talking about it," said Avery's father, Jeff Lewis.

Avery is an active Pony Clubber and has been riding since age two, but it seems she has found her niche in eventing. "She likes the challenge of three phases," Jeff said.

Avery goes straight to the barn on her parent's property when she gets home from school every day. At Pine Top she introduced herself to each one of the upper level riders she admires and even negotiated a few autographs; her biggest hero is Gina Miles.

"We call ourselves Team Lewis. We work together to make this happen," Jeff said. Then he added, "The eventing crowd is the nicest group of people you could ever meet. It's like walking around a village; everyone is so friendly."