



U.S.E.A. AREA III YOUNG RIDERS

What is Team Challenge?

You may have heard about the annual competition in Area VIII called the **Midsouth Three-Day Event and Team Challenge Horse Trials**, held in Lexington, Kentucky. This is a huge competition comprising somewhere between 30-35 teams of 3-4 riders at each of three levels: Open Novice, Open Training, Open Preliminary and CCI1*. Area III has chosen to use this competition as a training ground for future North American Junior Young Rider Championship (NAJYRC) candidates. The date for this year's Team Challenge event will be October 15-18, 2009.

In 2008, we had four teams representing Area III at Team Challenge (two novice, one training and one prelim level). The final results for Area III YRs had the Novice Team- Krewe de Carter in 6th Place with Rachael Isaacson ONF –1st Place – 27.4, Jordan Oldham ONH – 5th Place – 36.8; Caroline Knight ONE – 9th Place – 50.7 and Katherine Frangos ONH – 12th Place – 56.3 . Novice Team Fleur de Leap finished in 10th Place with Mary Atkins Hunt OND – 3rd Place – 31.6; Haylie Walker ONB – 6th Place – 40.5, Carley Whetstone ONA – 8th Place – 43.7 and Gensie Britton ONC – 11th Place – 43.7. Emily Renfroe placed 2nd individually in OTC with a 30.5 but the other members of the team faced difficulties that prevented the Training team from placing. The Preliminary Team finished in 6th Place with the help of their pick-up riders. Felicia Bradley finished 7th individually in OPB with a 44.6, Amanda Barnes –OPA – 6th Place – 46.8; Chelsea Adams - OPB – 10th Place – 72.8 and Emily was eliminated.

In 2007, we also had four teams representing Area III (two novice, one training and one prelim level). One of our novice teams won and our training team placed 2nd!! All of our riders enjoyed the camaraderie of team competition. As well as in past years, the families that went to support and cheer on the teams came away with a deeper sense of friendship with other Area III members and a better understanding of team competition.

The Young Riders Advancement Program (YRAP) was begun by the USEA to help develop our lower level riders into upper level riders, in an effort to be able to compete at the ** or *** level at the NAYRC instead of * or ** as is now done. In order to accomplish this goal, we must provide additional educational and competitive experiences for our lower level riders. With this in mind, we began to mimic the NAYRC selection process for the Midsouth Team Challenge Horse Trials to introduce the process to our future NAYRC candidates.

This year, in 2009, we will be having tryouts for four teams (or possibly more) and associated alternates: Beginner Novice (WHICH IS NEW THIS YEAR), Novice, Training, and Preliminary and the CIC1*. (First alternates will be competing as individuals on scramble teams, if not needed to fill in on their Area III team.) Interested candidates will be required to submit interest, qualify in horse trials and attend clinics and/or the Young Rider Camp to be observed by our



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selectors. Selection will be made in June. Our Team Challenge coach this year will be Kyle Carter!!!

There will be several REQUIRED activities that each candidate must plan to attend. It would be to your benefit to plan on attending the YRAP Summer Camp, June 13-1. The selection clinic, June 18-19 (at the end of camp), is required for all riders trying out for team challenge. **All team members and alternates will be required to raise \$500.00 (in addition to the \$300.00 all members are required to raise) to participate in Team Challenge.** All team members and alternates are REQUIRED to attend a training session before Team Challenge in which the date/location are TBA. This clinic will be open to all Young Riders who would like to attend.

As a reminder, again this year, each Young Rider contemplating trying out for the Team Challenge teams and the National One-star Team, MUST submit a Declaration of Intent specific to Team Challenge. It must be completely filled out and signed by all necessary parties, then mailed to me at the address below. I encourage you to submit the Declaration of Intent, even if you're not sure. ***This is not a commitment.*** You will need to reaffirm your intent at the required clinics, but without the Declaration you will not be considered to compete.

If you are interested in trying out for one of the Area III teams, information and forms will be posted on the website. Carefully read the information and forms, paying close attention to requirements and closing dates. If you have any questions or simply need more clarification, please feel free to contact me.

I invite you to join in this learning adventure! Meet new friends. Learn about team competition. Train with some of the BEST trainers in the country.

And again, if you have questions, ask. That's what I'm here for!

Judy Lewis
Chef d'Equipe Team Challenge

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