

CROSS COUNTRY NEWS

Special 30th Anniversary Edition - Summer 2011

From the trailer of the President...

Dear Members, Families, & Eventing Enthusiasts,

As most of you have heard by now, NTEA celebrates its "official" 30th anniversary this month, although our roots go back to the 1960s and 1970s. To commemorate this milestone, we have gathered some photos and memoirs for this newsletter to share with you just a little bit of history. We hope you enjoy it!

Mark your calendars now for our fantastic **year-end gala on January 7, 2012 at The Party Barn in Mansfield** to celebrate another terrific year of eventing in north Texas and Area V and to honor our founding members, high point winners, scholarship winners and special award winners. Whether or not you are a current competitor or a current winner, please join us at the party - this is your sport and your club, and it won't be the same without you! We will be sponsoring another brief online survey later this summer to find out your ideas about how to make the year-end party more fun and to increase attendance - please let us hear from you.

NTEA has an enthusiastic team of leaders this year who are working hard to bring you a great educational line up. This spring, NTEA hosted a free body clipping demonstration and lunch followed by a free equine acupuncture and alternative medicine demonstration and lunch, both at Quail Run, as well as an equine bodywork demonstration at Bryn Melyn Farm by renowned therapist Jim Masterson. We hope to continue this free educational series at schooling days this coming Fall!

On July 2-3, NTEA is sponsoring a low cost "members only" clinic at Gold Chip Stables with Mike Huber. Then, on July 16, NTEA is hosting our first "Intro to Eventing" Clinic at Willow Draw, which will focus on educating horsemen and women from other disciplines about our sport. The next day, July 17, NTEA offers another low cost clinic for members, with a \$10 Dressage Ride a Test at Willow Draw and schooling day.

Thank you to all of you who shared memories, stories and photos for this special newsletter; to our talented Newsletter Editor, Mandy Kelly, for pulling this together; Quail Run, Bryn Melyn, and Willow Draw for hosting these events free of charge to NTEA; trainers Kim & Jody Taylor, Leslye Shellam and Meg Fletcher for volunteering to teach at the Intro Clinic; and Mike Huber for hosting and teaching a weekend clinic for our members at a substantially reduced price. If you can give some time to help with any of the NTEA clinics this summer, or if you have an idea for a Fall educational activity, or if you would like to host one, please contact Kim Willnow, our Activities VP, at kwillnow@msn.com or call 817-919-7263

Thank you for partnering with us to make this the best year yet for NTEA and eventing in Area V.

Mica Pryor
President

Special Anniversary Edition Newsletter

- Memories and photos from some long time NTEA/NTCTA members
- Program from the 1987 NTCTA Horse Trials at Quail Run
- NTEA Member Profile: Jan Michie
- In Loving Memory of a beloved and well known horse

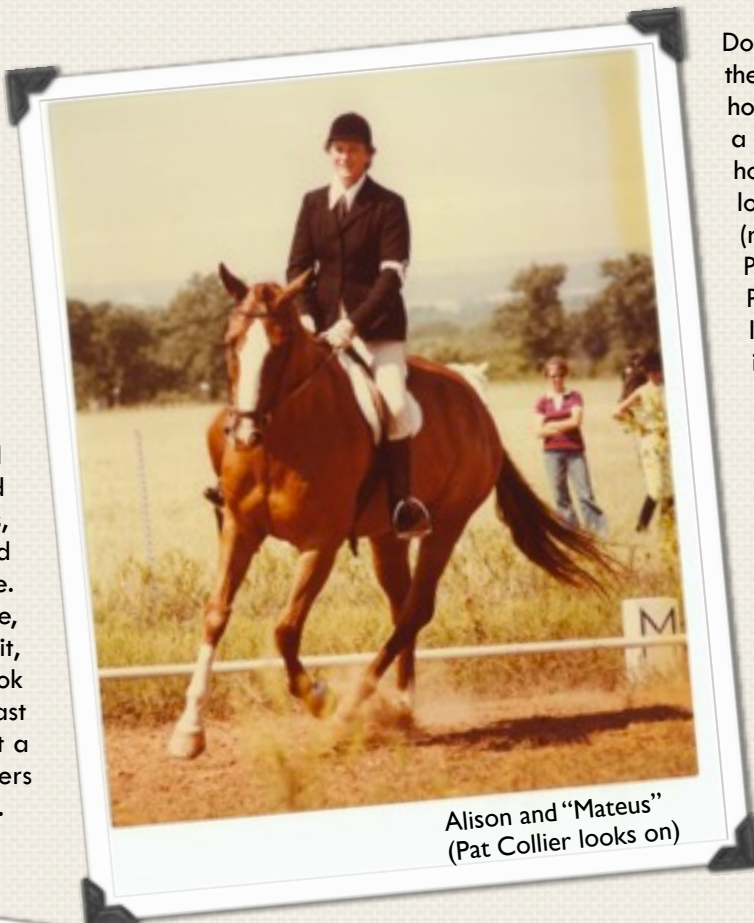


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NTEA Reflections

**Alison Ramos
(NTEA Founder
and Life Member)**

It used to be in the world of eventing that when USCTA President Neil Ayer spoke, we listened. So when at one of the Governor's meetings in the 1970s Neil broached the idea of forming local Combined Training Associations, we listened. It seemed a great idea to me. When I got home, anxious, I must admit, to make Area V look good to our East Coast masters. I sounded out a few fellow eventers and we got to work.



Alison and "Mateus"
(Pat Collier looks on)

Don and Pat Collier hosted the first gathering at their home where we formulated a plan. Then we went on to hold a public meeting and, lo and behold, the NTCTA (now the NTEA) was born. Pat became the first President of this little club long before it was officially incorporated in 1981. I can see that meeting room in my mind's eye but faces are blurred. So it would be wonderful to hear from anyone who was there, for you were the pioneers of what I call the second stage of the sport in the U.S. Neil's idea opened the door to so many newcomers who were able to take advantage of the simultaneous creation of new divisions of competition with reduced difficulty in distances, speeds and size of fences while having fun and feeling part of a close knit group, their local CTA.



Alison and "Friendly Persuasion"

The creation of the NTCTA and its sister organizations was not the dawning of eventing in Area V. For nearly twenty years a bunch of diehard enthusiasts had built courses, run events, and competed (this writer included) wherever and whenever they could. During this time the influence of the US Pony Clubs was of overwhelming importance and helped steer us all in the right direction. Those years make a story unto itself, a story which I would enjoy telling at another time. For the moment, my thanks and congratulations go to all the members of the NTEA who have kept the dream alive for thirty-plus years.

NTEA Reflections



Bottoms Up! NTCTA Volunteers
Richard Hester and Alison Ramos at Lickskillet

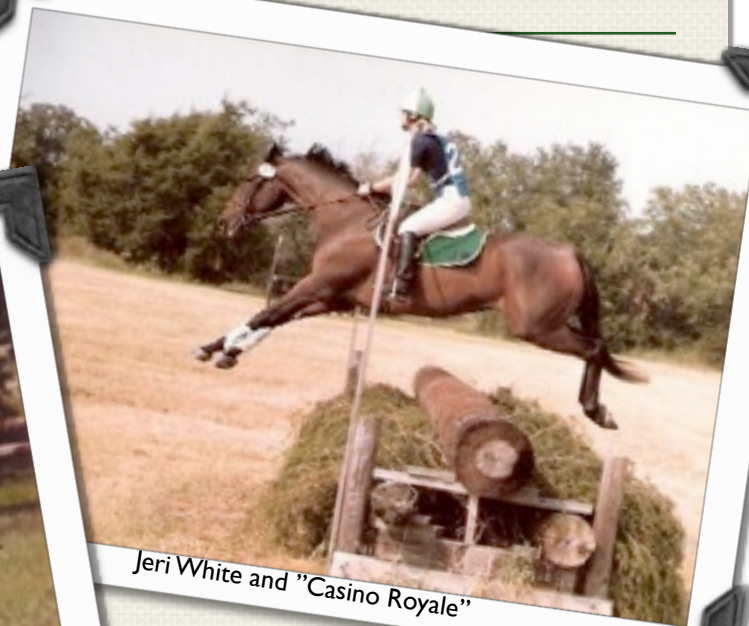
Jeri White and Pat Collier (NTEA Founding Members)

Eventing in the 70's makes me think of many wonderful people and of wonderful events which we no longer have. There are memories of Cedarwood, Lickskillet, Sky Vista, Three Day Farm, Prairie Creek, Tipasa and others. Cedarwood had a combination named New York Life which kept many a rider up the night before. Prairie Creek had some awesome steps which seemed to fall off a cliff and Lickskillet had a deep dry creek bed which wasn't on course but caused many an unofficial stop. There must have been a bear in there somewhere. We formed teams which added to the comradeship. How I would love to ride for Team Hiney just once more.

All of these events had great people behind them which furthered the

sport of eventing. In those days, allowing schooling days on courses didn't exist. We ran them cold. What a way to move up a level! A big moment for the club was getting permission from Walter Strauss to school his water jump and **only** the water jump. We will always be grateful to Walter for his many contributions.

In the early days, NTCTA members went as a group and built jumps at Lickskillet and other venues, eventually building a Preliminary recognized course there. NTCTA organized and hosted horse trials, and also hosted hunter trials and clinics at Stone Farm and Three Day Farm with eventing legends such as Jack Le Goff (veteran of several Olympic games and long time coach of the USET), Richard Meade (eventing Gold medalist from 1968 and 1972 Olympics), Torrance



Jeri White and "Casino Royale"

Watkins (Olympic medalist and first woman inducted into the USEA Hall of Fame) and other eventing greats beginning in the 1970s.

The sport has evolved in many ways with more technical courses and better safety concerns. However the club's lofty goals have remained the same with a dedication to the betterment of eventing. Many thanks to our founder Alison Ramos!

Editor's Note: Jeri White served on the NTCTA board for many years and lives with her husband George on their farm in Bartonville. Pat Collier is the first President of NTCTA and has retired with her husband Don to their home in Florida.

NTEA Reflections

Mare Pack (New Day Farm) and Noreen Corlett (Curragh Equestrian Center)

Thirty years! That is quite a bit of time! I look over my shoulder and see we have certainly



Mare Pack and "Royal Duke"
Photo by Leslie Wilson © 1983



Noreen Corlett and "Finnegan"

come a long, long, way in the North Texas Eventing scene. I think of event venues, not only perhaps forgotten by the few of us that have been around awhile but most likely never known by most of the NTEA's current membership: Horse Trials such as Blanco, 3 Day Farm, Mortgage Hill, Tipasa, Sky Vista, Prairie Creek, and our much loved Cedarwood whose predictable BN course provided the first nervous strides out of a start box for many an area rider.

Let's look back, but not to compare and find a previous era lacking, for certainly the current present formations of great courses, great horses, and the high standard of skillfulness now representative of our area couldn't exist without the foundation stones and formative bones of those events now long extinct.

Believe me, we were a hardy group of eventing pioneers. I remember most of the stabling situations required the necessity of each rider manning a hammer and duct tape just to be sure your horse did not have an unwanted acupuncture experience in the night and not all events offered stabling "on grounds". The events held in small towns

often

did not offer any ritzier standard of accommodation for humans either! Our

times spent in some of those motels might classify as "B horror flicks", but on we went... for the love of the sport.

It was a time when most had but one saddle for all 3 phases, when many rode a mere pasture pet onto triumph, and just completing a dressage test found you in contention! When a "good mover" was defined as a horse who could walk, trot and canter without hitting its chin with its knees, and a clean cross country could include an unseated rider who hung on until the "penalty zone" was cleared. Parking was a gathering of two horse trailers, with the exception of Alyce Hinkle's big rig :-).

It is important to remember that the passion to pursue this wonderful sport has been supported for more than 30 years by the strong arm of local volunteers. The NTEA deserves a great deal of credit for bringing the sport to where it is today in Texas. Those who have served have done so admirably. You've provided educational opportunities, affirmed riders with annual awards, and in many ways have been an engine of progress. We look around with grateful hearts to all our event organizers and all who have volunteered in any capacity—enabling us to do what we love. Thank-you NTEA and Happy Birthday!

NTEA Reflections

Jan Walling
(NTEA Founding and Life Member)

We first found the property now known as Quail Run Farm in the Spring of 1983. As we drove up the overgrown, unmaintained drive, little birds ran ahead of us. "Look dove!" shouted one of our young sons, "No they are not dove, they are quail, quail run!" yelled another. "If we buy this property, 'Quail Run' is what we need to name it!" I said! Later that day as we walked over the overgrown wilderness, I kept imagining cross country jumps and an event course. As a child and teenager I loved to watch Badminton Horse Trials on the television each April. When we bought the property in 1983 and started to cross fence it, I would add a cross country fence as well as a gate as a means of getting from field to field.

I became an NTEA member in about 1984. In those days educational activities and meetings were held monthly in the form of "Pot Luck Suppers". They were great for getting to know fellow members and learning more about eventing and horsemanship. The club also ran Mini Dressage meets. In the fall of 1987, at an NTEA monthly meeting, there was some discussion about Quail Run and NTCTA hosting a show. I thought little more about it until I opened the next NTCTA newsletter and saw an announcement about the horse trials scheduled for December 6 at my facility. "My goodness", I said, "we don't have a cross country course!" With the help of our neighbors (including Jeri and George White), three Argyle Fire Volunteer Fighters, NTCTA, and our helper, Martin, we built the course in less than six weeks. We used whatever we could find to build the jumps, including scavenging electrical spools from a local supply company to build the wings and supports for most of the jumps on course. (See the excerpts from that first show program, including the first course map and the NTCTA jump which still stands at Quail Run today, on the next page)

There was a little dry stream bed over which the Training course was to run. I had requested that Mr. Walter Straus should act as the Technical Delegate to ensure that all the jumps were safe and suitable. On the original course planning walk, Mr. Straus said to me, in his deep ponderous German accent: "If I were you, I would get your man Martin to dig out this stream and make it look more like a ditch!" I later explained to Martin, Mr. Straus' wishes. The following day, I was met by my very enthusiastic farm hand, who could not wait to show me his work! "OH my gosh!" I exclaimed as I saw the huge ditch, now four

feet deep and four feet wide. I learned never to underestimate the power of a spade in the hands of a good farm hand! We held that first event as scheduled and the rest is history.

Quail Run Farm held our first USCTA recognized event in 1989 with encouragement from the late Mr. Straus. Meadow Creek Park and Greenwood followed shortly

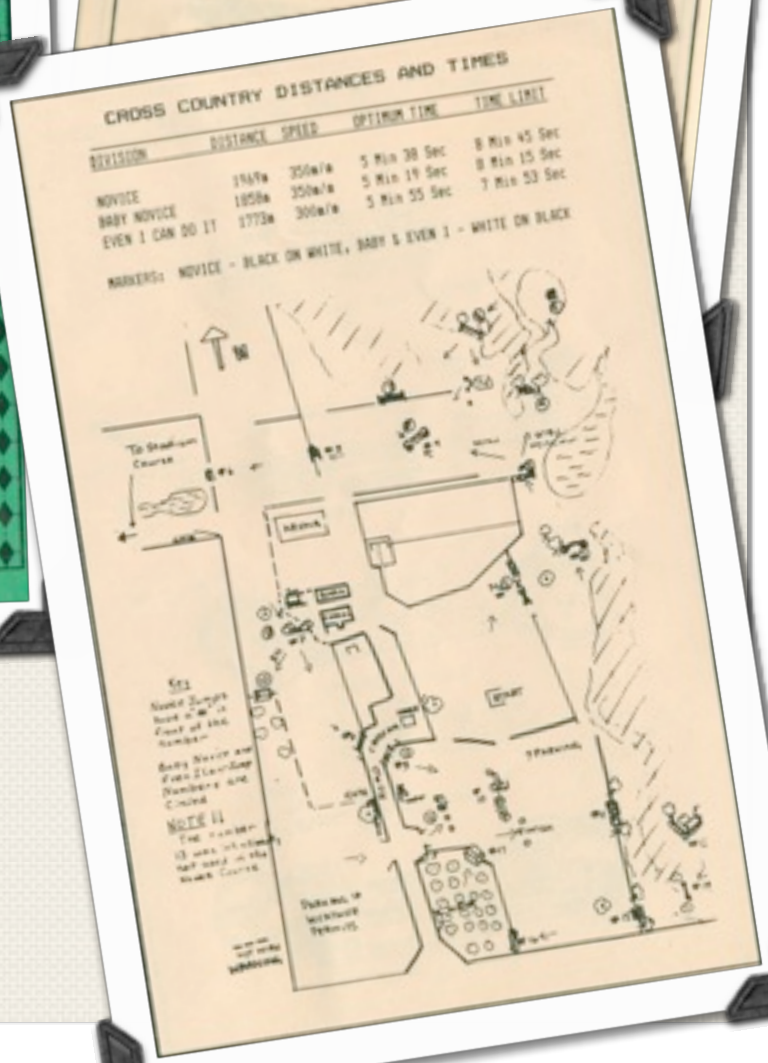
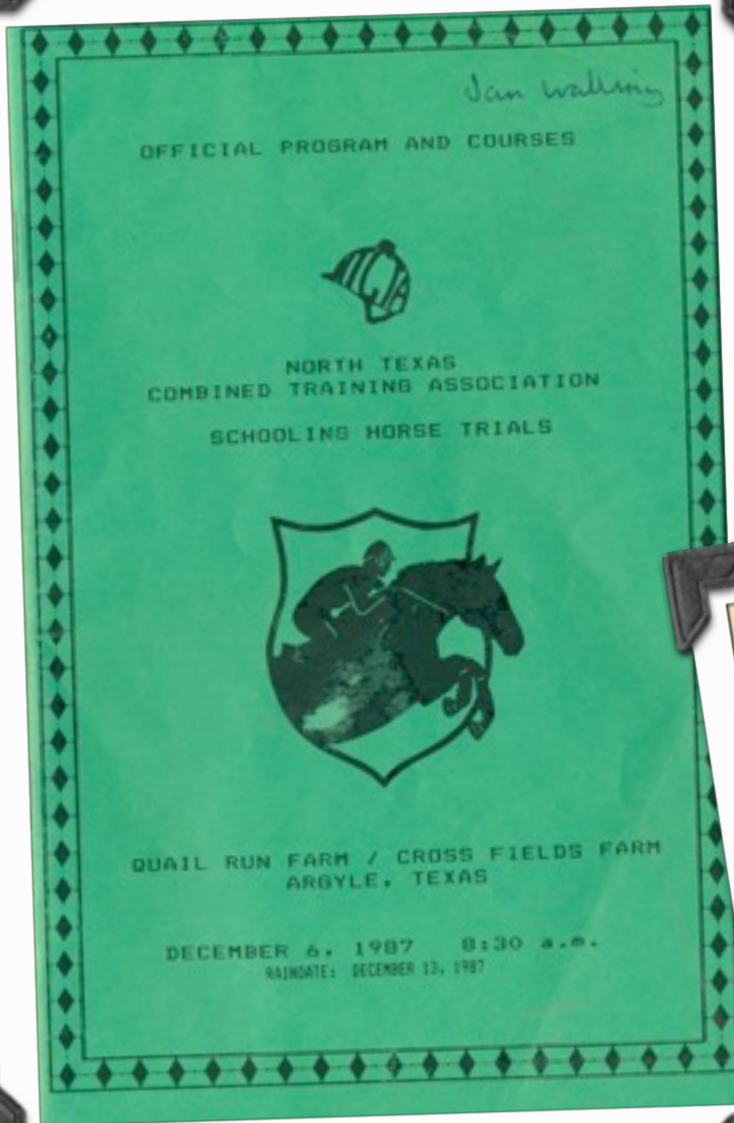
thereafter. By 2002, Area V had 32 events scheduled for the year. We decided that Quail Run no longer needed to do the recognized events and chose to run schooling events instead, which both Peter and I found to be less stressful and far more fun to organize!

We have met a lot of fabulous people through our involvement with NTEA and USEA. I served on the NTCTA board as president and in other capacities for several years and still enjoy involvement with the club as a volunteer and advisor. We have been privileged to host eventing activities at Quail Run Farm for 25+ years. I am always proud to say that when the last trailer pulls off the property, all that remains are footprints, little piles of hay which the cows love, and an occasional half full plastic water bottle or coke can left discretely by a tree or jump where the owner had forgotten to retrieve it. Our guests are courteous and appreciative and we look forward to their return. Thanks for the memories!



Jan Walling and "Whirl Power"

NTCTA Horse Trials at Quail Run



Member Profile

Jan Michie

**NTEA Founding and Life Member
2009 NTEA Founders Award
Recipient**

Jan Michie grew up riding horses on a Texas ranch on the Red River. After marrying and moving to Memphis, Jan was introduced to English riding and foxhunting. Eventually she moved with her family to Dallas and boarded at Willow Bend in North Dallas where she established lifelong friendships with Jan Walling and other founding members of NTCTA. She established Roadrunner Farm in Argyle in the early 1980s and helped organize and promote events throughout the years including the USCTA recognized horse trials at Lickskillet Farm in 1985. Jan served on the board of NTCTA and USCTA/USEA for many years and is still active on the Area V



Jan and "Cheers"

Council helping establish new events. Jan was one of the earliest sponsors in north Texas to bring well known and gifted clinicians to our area, including Karen Lende (now O'Connor) and Jim Woffard. Roadrunner Farm has hosted summer camps for Young Riders for many



Jan and "Cheers"



Jan and "Miss Helen"

years, of her horses, and devotion to her students - especially young riders. Over the years, many young riders with limited financial resources found suitable mounts due to Jan's generosity and keen eye. In 2009, Jan was honored with The NTEA Founders Award for her contribution to our sport over the last 30+ years.

NTEA Reflections

NTEA Life Member Christie Tull

Not one stride of my life's journey in Texas could have been taken without the support and friendship of many incredible friends too numerous to mention (horses, hounds, cats and dogs included). Maybe this brief list of events will spark some memories of your own.

1981 Married Texan Mac Tull and moved from Leesburg, Virginia to Crowley, Texas

1982 Talland II opens in Burleson; took show jumping with Joaquin Perez de las Heras, stable management from Noreen Corlett.

1984 Purchased 63 acres in Weatherford –the future Greenwood Farm

1985 Built barn, arena, and started a boarding, training, and riding school facility with Margot Down, first wife of Jimmy Williams (whose bronzed hat is annually awarded to USEF Equestrian of the Year). School horses like Amy, Splash Down, Flash, and Carol were "starters" for riders including Nikki Olsen Ing, Stephanie Martin, Angela Grzywinski, and many others. Boarders such as Sheffields,

Robinsons and Burroughs families moved to Parker County.

1986-1992 Greenwood Farm barn boarders joined newly formed Brazos Valley Hunt. Dressage lessons with Debra Sue Waters and Centered Riding group. Debra Sue formed Pony Club and our daughters grew up riding in it. Organized St. Francis School Charity Open Show at Greenwood, and had numerous clinics, lessons, trail rides, camps, hunts

1992-1995 Unrecognized Horse Trials at Greenwood with Pony Club

1995 Reorganization of Greenwood Farm Inc.



Christie Tull and "Splash Down"

First USEA event in fall with the help of Mike Huber, Gary & Kay Sheffield, Helen Ingmire, Mat & Barbara Manson, and neighbor Marvin Savage. NTEA volunteers for the entire thing!

2006 First CIC in June as Area V Young Riders qualifier

2011 Sixteenth anniversary of Greenwood Farm USEA Horse Trials

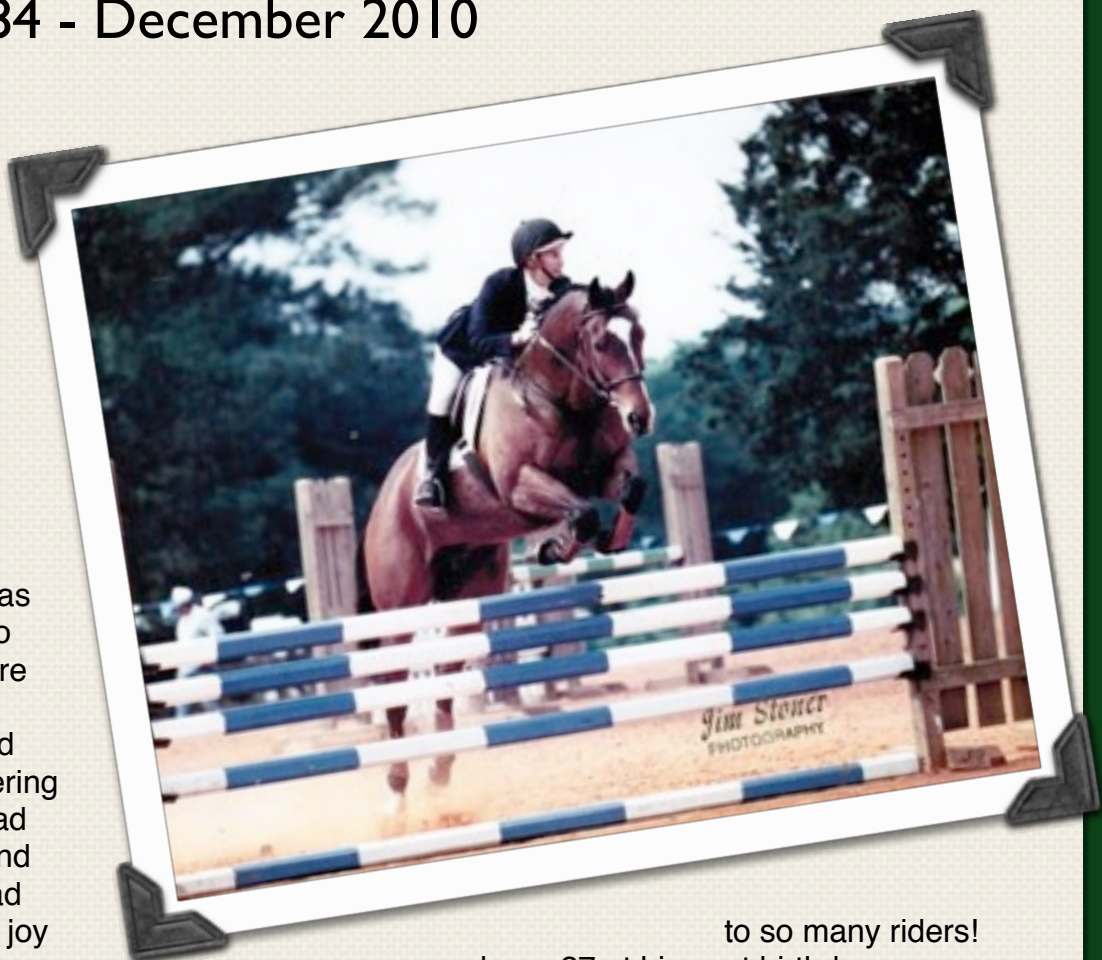
Although Horse Trials are "only" a recreational sport, I realized that the ability to be part of them is a privilege that means we are still living peaceful, green, productive, and free lives. This is what the horses mean to me and what I'd like to see all of us continue to nurture.

NTEA REMEMBERS

“Cheers”

March 1984 - December 2010

NTEA founding member Jan Michie's horse, Cheers, was euthanized due to colic on Christmas Day 2010. That morning Cheers had been turned out to pasture wearing his blanket and had as usual jumped into the bottom pasture over the 3' cross country fence and back before suffering from colic. He had enjoyed a long and happy life and had brought so much joy Cheers would have



to so many riders!
been 27 at his next birthday.

Jan purchased him as a 15.3 h, 3 year old, in 1987. Several years later at 16 2" she took him to Preliminary Level. Just before departing for the east coast to show Cheers at Morven Park, Jan damaged her rotator cuff. Mike Huber rode Cheers instead and won with him at Morven Park; two weeks later, Karen O'Connor won the 3 Day Event (long format) at Radnor, where Cheers was named the "Best Conditioned Horse"!

Jan regrettably sold him to one of Karen's young male students, who took him to Intermediate before outgrowing him! The young man's gracious family, knowing how much Cheers meant to Jan, donated him to Young Riders and Cheers returned to Jan in Texas. Over the years Cheers was competed successfully by many of Jan's students and had until recently been lightly ridden!

Cheers, you are missed and your memory will be cherished by many for years to come.

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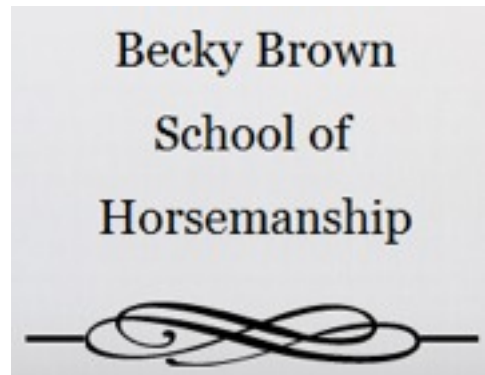
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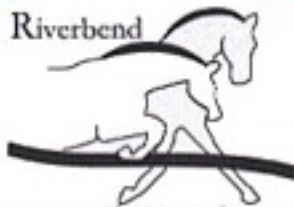
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NORTH TEXAS EVENTING ASSOCIATION

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NTEA Calendar

Get up to the minute events, clinic and show information on our website at **www.nteventing.net**.

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