

April 19, 2011

Dear BCHSA members-

On behalf of the BCHSA Board, I'm writing with just a few little announcements and reminders.

First show of the season this weekend – McDonogh School!

With the unfortunate weather circumstances last week that forced the postponing of the St. Tim's Show (to July 9-10), our first show of the season will be this coming **Saturday, April 23 at McDonogh School!** The Prize List is on our website <http://bchsa.org/pdf/mcprize.pdf> . We look forward to seeing you then and there! Don't miss it!

Rule Change: Thoroughbreds.

In response to some concerns last month from our membership about how horses in the Thoroughbred Division were not going to be able to accumulate points in classes lower than 2'6", the BCHSA Board has decided to modify the rules to include the Hopeful Hunter and Pre-Children's/Adult Hunter Divisions in the Thoroughbred Competition (both of these Divisions are offered below 2'6"). This means that Thoroughbred horses who compete in these 2 Divisions will now be eligible to accumulate points throughout the show season towards the year-end Thoroughbred Trophy (please note that the horse must be registered as TB with BCHSA, and that you should indicate on the TB registration form which division you'll mainly be competing in).

At the Benefit Show, the Classic will be offered at 2'6" and 3' only. A horse that has shown below 2'6" throughout the year is eligible to compete at 2'6" in the Classic, if they so choose. To be eligible to compete in the Classic, a horse must already be registered with BCHSA as both a member and a Thoroughbred, and they must have competed in at least one regular season show.

- **Reminder: New Division- Pre-Children's/Adult Hunter** We developed this division to allow for the growing interest in the Hopeful Hunter, and at the same time, allow the junior and amateur riders a chance to compete at this height without professionals. This division will be equivalent to Hopeful Hunter, minus the professional riders. It will be run at 2'-2'3" and will have 2 over fences and one under saddle. Our thinking is that this new division would follow the Hopeful Hunter Division (allowing for professionals to school the horses if needed). Then the Juniors and Amateurs can compete only against themselves in the Pre-Children's/Adults. The description in the rule book will read as follows: *Pre-Children's/Adult Hunter: Open to horses and ponies, to be ridden by Juniors and Amateurs only. Adults may ride ponies. Manners and suitability of a horse shall be emphasized in all classes; extreme speed shall be penalized. Suitability of a rider shall be determined by the height and weight of the rider as related to the size of the horse as well as the compatibility of the rider and horse. Judges may penalize but shall not eliminate an entry not having such manners and suitability. Fences to be approximately 2' to 2'3" in height.* This division will be pointed, and therefore must be offered at all BCHSA recognized shows.

Facebook Page for BCHSA is up!!!.

Please check out the new BCHSA Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Bchsa/165839236804619>). We will plan to post photos here after each show, and also hope that this will provide a nice place for some informal communication. Please remember that this is a public site and that manners matter. We expect that the site will be used in a positive way.

Membership.

This is just a reminder that it's not too early to join for 2011! The membership form is on the website (http://bchsa.org/pdf/membership_form.pdf). We encourage you to join as soon as possible.

Scholarship Hack.

Please remember that the scholarship hack will be held at all BCHSA shows. The proceeds will go to a year-end scholarship for junior members. This was a huge success last year. We had 2 winners last year who both received \$1,500 scholarships! Criteria are:

- Offered at all BCHSA shows, except bi-pointed shows. Schedule of Hack is up to show management. \$10 per entry, per show – payable in cash at the in-gate.
- Open to all Junior and Adult Riders, ponies and horses except mini, short and long stirrup riders.
- Entry Fees will go into the annual Catie Carnes Scholarship (amount to be determined based on funds raised).
- Scholarship will be awarded at the end of the year to a Junior rider who competes in at least 5 Hacks.
- High point award for the year will be given at the Banquet.

Thank you for your attention and support! We look forward to seeing you this weekend!

Andy Pope
President
BCHSA