

Dear BCHSA members-

On behalf of the BCHSA Board, and with apologies in advance for the length of this email, I'm writing to let you know about several exciting things that are happening this year in BCHSA!

Show Calendar:

The 2011 calendar of shows has been posted on our website ([Click Here!](#)) – check it out! We will start with St Tims on April 16-17, and will end as usual with the Benefit show on (Oct 1), the Medals Finals (Oct 15), and the banquet on Nov 19. We are aware of the proximity of the Benefit show date to Rosh Hashanah, but have been assured that this is a workable date for those who are observant. Also, please NOTE that this year we will combine **ALL MEDALS FINALS on Oct 15 – Merit Medals (Short and Long Stirrup) will be held on this day instead during the Benefit Show.** Please put as many of these dates on your calendar as possible. We look forward to another year of full and fun competition!

Membership

It's not too early to join for 2011! The membership form is on the website ([Click Here!](#)). We encourage you to join as soon as possible.

Your input is welcome!

As an association, we want to be open and responsive to the interests and concerns of our members. So, let us know if you have any suggestions for how things could be done better, etc. Any of us would be happy to hear from you directly, but you can also use the form on our website (under "contact us") if you prefer to submit comments and suggestions anonymously ([Click Here!](#)) – think of it as a "suggestion box." There is also an evaluation form that you can submit (again anonymously) about show venues ([Click Here!](#)). The Board will give serious attention and consideration to any and all suggestions or concerns that we receive, and the comments and suggestions about venues will be shared with the appropriate people at the respective venues. We are serious about continuing to make this a safe, fun, and competitive activity, and your views on how to do that most effectively are of great interest to us.

Sharing Photos!

In the very near future, we will be starting a BCHSA FACEBOOK page! The main purpose for doing this is to give us a place to easily post photos from each of the shows. We plan to post the photos very soon after each show (within days). Denise Carnes, one of our new Board members, has volunteered to take photos at the shows and post them on FB. But we will also welcome submissions from the broader membership, assuming that they are of adequate quality for posting. Details on the FB page will follow soon. Meanwhile, PLEASE NOTE: this year's membership form includes a box to check that will indicate your willingness to allow us to post photos of you on the website and/or Facebook page.

Junior Board.

The Junior Board plans to be active again this year, and junior members are encouraged to get involved by attending meetings and/or communicating via the Junior Board Facebook page. The Junior Board plans to have at least one meeting that will be open to younger junior members (under 12 years of age). There will be more info on this sent out soon.

Communication and the Website

In keeping with our interest in enhancing a sense of community within the association, we plan to email brief summaries of our monthly Board meetings to our membership. Our goal in doing this is to keep you informed of what kinds of things we are working on, and any relevant upcoming activities, etc. So, for example, I want to let you know that our Website has some new enhancements - - we have started posting links to Horse Show Venues who participate as members of BCHSA. Please check it out ([Click Here!](#)) - several of our member venues have upcoming schooling shows that you might be interested in (Country Hill- this weekend; Caves - next weekend; McDonogh, etc).

BCHSA Wear.

Let me just remind you that there's lots of great BCHSA stuff for sale on the website ([Click Here!](#)). The BCHSA jackets that we gave away as prizes at the banquet were a huge hit! And there's lots more where that came from....!!!

Lastly, I want to make sure that you know that, as a Board, we are actively working on the continued success of the association, with your interests in mind! And it is a pleasure to work with such a dedicated group of Board members, and to be part of such a wonderful association!

See you at the shows!

Andy
Jan 14, 2011