

March 25, 2011

Dear BCHSA members-

On behalf of the BCHSA Board, I'm writing this month with a little news and several reminders about various things of interest! And as a special addendum: an essay entitled "**Go With All Your Heart**" by Rio Parker, that I would like to recommend personally as a "must read!"

## **NEWS**

### **Medal Prizes from The Mill®!!!**

Please note that **The Mill®** <http://themillofbelair.com/> - - a feed, tack, pet, farm and livestock, crops, wildlife, and lawn & garden shop, with several convenient locations (BelAir, Hereford, Whiteford, Hampstead, Red Lion, and Black Horse) - - has generously offered to provide prizes to the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> place winners in 3 Divisions this year at all BCHSA-sponsored shows: **Adult Medal, Junior Pony Medal, and Junior Horse Medal!!!** The prizes will include such things as gift certificates to **The Mill®**, and miscellaneous, high quality grooming supplies! BCHSA greatly appreciates the ongoing support of BCHSA from **The Mill®**, and this very generous donation!

### **Open Meeting.**

The first of this year's open meetings was held on Feb 7 at Vito's Café in Cockeysville, and was very well attended (22 guests)!!! The Board was very pleased to see such a large turn-out of BCHSA members, and to have the opportunity to meet and talk with members about various aspects of the new rules, etc. Future open meetings will be held in June and October. We will remind you with specific dates as the time approaches. Please come if you can!

### **First show of the season – St. Tim's!**

Our first show of the season will be here very soon: **April 16-17 at St. Tims!** The Prize List is on our website [http://bchsa.org/pdf/st\\_tim\\_pl.pdf](http://bchsa.org/pdf/st_tim_pl.pdf) . We look forward to seeing you then and there! Don't miss it!

### **Prize Lists.**

Prize Lists are being posted on our website as we receive them from the various show venues. St Tim's and McDonogh shows are posted. Please check them out <http://bchsa.org/calendar.php> and put all of the shows on your calendars!

### **USHJA Opportunities**

In accordance with some new opportunities through USHJA, some of the BCHSA shows will be offering Outreach Hunter Classes this season. There are two awards associated with these classes- 1) **High Point Regional Awards** (for both Adults and Juniors), and 2) **Junior Hunter Challenge Awards** (for Juniors Only). The descriptions and requirements for these classes can be found on the USHJA website <http://ushja.org/content/programs/programs.aspx> . These classes provide another way to help bridge the gap between local shows and USEF rated shows, and also help trainers promote their clients that compete primarily on the local circuit.

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## **REMINDERS**

### **Show Calendar for 2011:**

The 2011 calendar of shows is posted on the website (<http://bchsa.org/calendar.php>). Remember- 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.**

### **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](http://bchsa.org/pdf/membership_form.pdf)). 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 (<http://bchsa.org/contact.php>) – think of it as a "suggestion box." There is also an evaluation form that you can submit (again anonymously) about show venues ([http://bchsa.org/pdf/evaluation\\_form.pdf](http://bchsa.org/pdf/evaluation_form.pdf)). 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!**

The BCHSA Facebook page will be up soon. As mentioned before, 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, and Kim Margiotta will help with monitoring and managing the page. In addition to Denise's photos, we will welcome submissions from the broader membership, assuming that they are of adequate quality for posting. 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 will be active again this year, and junior members of BCHSA are encouraged to get involved by attending meetings and/or communicating via the Junior Board Facebook page (search Facebook for "BCHSA Junior Board"). 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.

**BCHSA Wear.**

Let me just remind you that there's lots of great BCHSA stuff for sale on the website (<http://www.acesportswear.net/>). The BCHSA jackets that we gave away as prizes at the banquet last year were a huge hit! And there's lots more where that came from....!!!

Thanks for your continued support and participation in BCHSA!

On behalf of the BCHSA Board, I wish you happy trails, and will look forward to seeing you at the shows!

Andy Pope  
BCHSA President  
Mar 25, 2011

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***“Go With All Your Heart”***

My dad hands me the bracelet as I step up to the ring. I rub the bracelet on my horse's left shoulder. I can't feel the reassuring soft leather or the cold metal plate as I slip it into my pocket because of my gloves. I push my hand deep inside my show jacket pocket to make sure the bracelet can't possibly fall out. "Good luck and have fun out there," are the words my father always says as he slips me the bracelet. They ring in my head as I say my last words to my trainers and my horse and I walk into the ring.

I think back to when I got the bracelet. "I got you a present." My mom said to me brightly as I walked in the door.

"Sweet!" I replied happily, smiling my gapped eight-year-old smile. She hands me the white box. I lift the top to reveal the thin leather bracelet lying on the white cotton. I hold it up and admire the perfect silver plate with the words "*Go With All Your Heart*" engraved in beautiful swooping letters. I love it instantly.

Then I think of the first time I "wore" the bracelet. "How do I keep this on?" I asked my dad anxiously while standing by the ringside.

"Uh tie it." My dad answered.

"I can't! Meh!" I whined. "I don't have time."

"Here then put it in your pocket." He shoved it at me.

"Oh! Duh!" I realized, "that works."

I also think about the time I was afraid I would be without it. I sat in the car with butterflies swarming my stomach. 'We have hours before we even get to the horse show and I'm already nervous' I thought to myself. I pondered the phrase written on the bracelet. Riding is a sport in which you have to be willing to lose. You have to form a bond with your horse and your trainers. You create a team and overcome obstacles on the

way to success. When you walk in the ring and you give it all you got, you try as hard as you can. You succeed even when you fail if you give your best effort. “You go with all your heart,” I said half out-loud.

“Oops.... Oops.” My dad stuttered.

“What?” I shot back. “Please tell me you did not forget my gloves.”

“I forgot your bracelet.” He said from underneath a guilty look.

“What! No you didn’t. You wouldn’t... Stop it!” I said, but didn’t believe completely. It gave me something completely new to worry about the rest of the way to the show.

Right before the competition, as we stood by the ring my father held up the bracelet and gleefully said, “HA, HA! Had it all along, here you go. Have fun! And good luck out there!” He chuckled. I clutched the bracelet in my left hand, rubbed it on my horse’s left shoulder and stuck it deep in my left pocket.

I rolled my eyes “Thanks.” I muttered. I resumed trying to focus on the task at hand, and in doing so, resisting the urge to swat my dad playfully with my riding crop.

You may wonder why I do everything with this bracelet on the left side of my body and why I rub the left shoulder of my horse. Truth be told, I wonder too, and I simply have no answer, even though I think about it often. If my dad attempted to even hand it to me from my right side it would feel wrong. It would feel like I was writing with the wrong hand or walking backwards. I assume this tradition of sorts started the first time I ever “wore” the bracelet; he handed it to me from the left side and we haven’t done it differently since.

I have to admit I seriously doubt that this bracelet is good luck. I’ve lost, fallen off, and left the ring crying with it firmly in my pocket. But I’ve also won, had flawless courses, and left the ring with giant blue ribbons and shiny pieces of metal. Since I win more than I lose, maybe it’s a karma thing, an overall good luck charm. Or maybe the good luck charm is my dad handing it to me. My Dad, who has stood at my left for every event, at every show, since I was five, and said, “good luck, and have fun out there.”

Or maybe it’s good luck because my mom gave it to me; she’s in the stands. My Mom doesn’t hover over me at shows like my Dad, so the bracelet represents the words she would say if she were standing at my right, “go with all your heart,” which are the kind of words she always says to me.

Maybe it’s a combination of everything. Or just maybe the cold hard reality is there’s no luck involved at all. Regardless, I can’t take the risk. First there would be one less tradition in my life, and that’s not good. Secondly, even if the bracelet isn’t a literal “good luck charm”, one never knows what would happen if one were to ride into the ring without it, and I am not willing to find out.

Rio Parker  
March 2011