

# Area 1 News

## Optimum Minutes

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**Audrey Bean riding Alara Ben Raad  
UNH Spring Horse Trials 2012**

Photo © Hoofpix.com

## HEY YOU! Stand Up & Be Counted

BY SUZANNE ADAMS

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history." And someone once described Eventers as a group of individuals who, despite all that can go wrong and all that seems insurmountable, come together for the love of a great (if not extreme) sport and GET IT DONE!

Remember those calls for help that came over the past several years, like the havoc and destruction of GMHA and Huntington after Hurricane Irene? And who can forget how we all came together after the fire to help rebuild True Prospect Farm? When there is a call to arms, Eventers rise up and take charge much like attacking a difficult cross country course. "I see it, I know it needs to be conquered and I sit up and kick until I cross the finish line".

Folks... UNH still need us, even more now than ever before! "But," you say, "I thought it was all ok now! It is, isn't it?" (And some of you might even be saying... "Huh? What's up with UNH? Didn't they have a Horse Trial a couple of weeks ago?")

Let me see if I can simplify a somewhat complicated situation...

- **The Problem** - NH State budget cuts reduced funding to the University by \$48 million. UNH developed a Campus Master Plan (CMP) which originally planned to lease out lands used by the Agriculture/Equine/Life Sciences programs for commercial development to bridge some of the shortfall.

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## STAND UP & BE COUNTED (continued)

- That means RETAIL stores - think Big Box Stores.
- **The Outcry** - Two public meetings (which can be viewed at [www.vimeo.com/40612933](http://www.vimeo.com/40612933)) were held. Over 600 people attended and the support against this development was astounding. As a result of this outcry, the Master Plan Steering Committee changed the language to “limit” potential development in these areas
- “Limit” does not mean no commercial development.
- **More of the Problem** - The public meetings were contentious and the Master Plan Steering Committee along with the Consultants were caught unprepared for such a reaction from the community. Now, they meet quietly until the next public release. There are Plans to move the Equine program in order to make way for commercial/business development eliminating the current facilities (parts of the XC course, stabling, paddocks, farm buildings, indoor and stadium jumping course).

So, the Master Plan Steering Committee feels that by moving the facilities, all will be well and that we will be silent. Yet, where is an already cash-strapped university going to find the money to replace what is being “moved”?



It's kind of like a shell game... they are not canceling the plans for development; they are shuffling it around. And, for how long will the shuffling last? Will the Equine Program be able to survive if it continues to be squeezed slowly and consistently like an anaconda eating its prey?

### *Some of you are all fired up, right?*

We're Eventers and we love a good challenge! And maybe some of you are thinking, "Well, it's kind of out of my hands and really, I don't live in NH and haven't ever competed at UNH." (I actually hope that's just my mom and not an Area 1 Eventer.)

Here is why it's important to all of us... even those Eventers outside of New England:

- Every time Commercial or Retail development occurs on green space we all lose. Think of all the Commercial and Retail lots in your area that are still “For Lease”, half empty or that have signs in the window “Store Closing”. Do we need more on our open lands?
- UNH is one of the first Land Grant Universities whose mission was to, among other things, teach Agriculture using the land granted to them. If we continue to erode our Agriculture/Environmental Educational base, who will teach our future horsemen?
- Is a Green/ Sustainable future really possible if these colleges continue to be paved over to make way for the Walmarts of the world?

If you love a good gallop, or a great XC run and if you want to continue to see Horse Trials throughout New England... **WE NEED YOU NOW.**

**READ MORE** ⇨

## **FYI** Did You Know

- » 2012 - UNH's Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA) team won the team regional championship for the northern New England region for the second consecutive year, amassing more points during the eight-competition season than teams from 11 other schools in the region.
- » 2011 - UNH celebrated 40 years of eventing... that's right 40 years!
- » 2009 - The UNH dressage team won the National Championship
- » 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 - The Dressage team won the regional championship
- » The Equine Program has tripled in size over the last 10 years and its students come from all over the US.
- » Facilities receive over 200 visitors per week
- » Hosts the last recognized USEA Horse Trials and USDF Dressage Shows in NH
- » USEA Horse Trials support the Equine Program
- » XC schooling on a sanctioned and unsanctioned course

## **STAND UP & BE COUNTED (continued)**

Take a few moments and email the following key individuals:

- UNH President, Mark Huddleston  
[Mark.Huddleston@UNH.edu](mailto:Mark.Huddleston@UNH.edu)
- UNH Board of Trustees Chair, Ed Dupont  
[EDupont@DupontGroup.com](mailto:EDupont@DupontGroup.com)
- UNH Director of Advancement, Peter Weiler  
[Peter.Weiler@UNH.edu](mailto:Peter.Weiler@UNH.edu)

*“Change happens when  
we make it happen.”*

Express your concern over the proposed development and kindly demand:

1. That the Campus Master Plan be revisited and redirected
2. That they must discontinue the plans for any large scale retail development on UNH land.
3. That Agriculture, Dairy, Equine, Organics and Sustainability are very important and should be invested in rather than squeezed out.
4. That the President meet directly with the College of Life Sciences and Agriculture to hear their input.

**You can follow Suzanne's Blog at:**  
<http://confessionsofanaaer.blogspot.com>

## **Rulebook Refresher**

*If you have questions or concerns regarding rules,  
please speak to any official (TD, Ground Jury, Organizer) at an event.*

### **EV119 Competitor Representative. BOD 1/23/11 Effective 12/1/11**

1. A Rider Representative(s) and an alternate will be named by the Competition Organizing Committee for all competitions at the Training through Advanced levels. An organizer may name more than one Rider Representative at his or her discretion.
2. A Rider Representative must meet the criteria outlined below:
  - a. For events offering Preliminary Level or below, the rider representative will be a Senior rider who has completed four (4) or more Horse Trials at the Preliminary Level or higher on two or more horses.
  - b. For events offering Intermediate Level or higher, the rider representative will be a Senior rider who has completed four (4) or more Horse Trials at the Intermediate Level or higher on two or more horses.
  - c. Under extraordinary circumstances the Technical Delegate may approve a person who does not meet the above criteria.
3. The Organizer will identify, contact and secure the name of a Rider Representative no less than 7 days prior to the start of competition.
4. The Organizer will post the name of the Rider Representative no later than when start times are made available. Rider Representative's cell number will be posted at the secretary's office before the start of competition.
5. Responsibilities of the Rider Representative:
  - a. Inspect the cross-country course(s) with either the Technical Delegate or President of the Ground Jury at a time convenient to that party, but no later than 3:00 p.m. the day before the competition starts.
  - b. Inspect the Show Jumping course not later than 15 minutes prior to the start of the relevant competition.
  - c. Communicate immediately with the TD or PGJ any issue of safety or concern, including but not limited to: obstacle construction or placement, distances in combinations, footing, potential lighting issues, etc.
  - d. Avail him/ her to all competitors and communicate all concerns to the TD or PGJ in a timely manner.
  - e. Areas of concern will be documented on the TD report and the Rider Representative Report.
  - f. Fill out and return to the USEA the official Rider Representative Report Form no more than 7 to 14 days after the end of competition.

Note: This added layer of participation by the Rider Representative does not in any way lessen the burden each competitor bears to actively voice his or her concerns either to a) the Rider Representative who will then communicate said concerns to the TD or PGJ or b) directly to the TD or PGJ. Further, competitors bear the responsibility in determining their own and their horse's fitness, preparation and readiness. Communication of concerns to the Rider Representative, TD or PGJ does not remove nor shift that responsibility away from the rider.

The list of eligible Rider Representatives will be updated annually by the PHC and be available on the USEA Website. The list may be modified by the USEA as deemed necessary to have adequate coverage for all competitions.



## *Clinic Happenings: Michael Page*

WRITTEN BY NANCY MARKS

Once again, Michael Page returned to the Rochester/Genesee Valley area to give his ever-popular jumping clinic on May 5-6. Every year we try to do something a little different, and this year was no exception.

With the help of a group of foxhunters from two families and the creativity of Michael, the team challenge was created. The Hart/Kirkwood family was trained by Kathleen Kirkwood, and the Thorne/Kenney family was coached by Marion Thorne. On the Saturday of the clinic, the Red Necks appeared dressed in matching red shirts and the Bluebloods appeared in their coordinated blue shirts. (Unfortunately, the attached picture was taken on Sunday when there was a breakdown in uniforms... sorry!)

Although the riding level of the group was a bit disparate, Michael was able to run them through his gymnastics without any difficulties. What was most notable about the riders was their ability to gallop and go forward to a fence. The end result was that they were able to jump the liverpool, barrels and other unusual combinations that more "schooled" groups could not do. This was definitely a lesson for those watching because the horses were very much in front of the leg. What a difference it made!

After Michael had completed the core of his lesson on Saturday, he offered up the challenge. Each team was to trot through a gymnastic exercise one right after the other

and then smoothly gather at the end of the ring and trot or canter side by side up the center, jumping one of three fences simultaneously. They were then to come around together and salute the judges (auditors).

A coin was tossed and the Red Necks won, choosing to go second. The Bluebloods completed the jumping elements magnificently, but were disorganized in their salute. Having learned from the mistakes of the first team, the Red Necks preformed flawlessly and carefully lined up for a very proper salute! The auditors' vote was close, but the Red Necks won.

In addition to the challenge teams, we also had young horse, novice and training groups each with specific exercises designed for the needs of the horse/ rider combinations. Michael's good humor, insightful comments and patience allowed each combination to have a worthwhile weekend.

We have been very fortunate to have Michael Page return year after year to share his vast knowledge with riders and auditors alike. Since we already know he will be returning next year, the real question is, what unique opportunity will we offer? Last year we had a group for first time clinic riders. Several returned this year as seasoned citizens! Special thanks to the Area 1 Adult Riders' Program for their continued support of this clinic through a \$250 grant.



***Pictured above from left to right: Russell Kirkwood, Doug Hart, Judy Hart, Kathleen Hart (standing), Joe Thorne, Marion Thorne, Katherine Kenney, and Michael Page (standing)***

# Building Success

## The Future Event Horse Series

BY KATIE MURPHY

I would never have thought I would have babies. A weanling, a yearling, and then purchasing a three year old? I did not foresee this trend. However, provided you have the time and patience, purchasing a quality-bred youngster is far more affordable than said youngster as a 4 year old. But, it is also a risk. Few things match the excitement of watching a youngster grow and develop. The anticipation of each visit to the field, eager to see what portion of the baby's body had grown that day. Visions of future equestrian stardom: the culmination of time, work, day dreams and fantasies will occur many years later under saddle as this youngster enters the dressage ring, leaves the start box, and lands from the final stadium jump.

And, so the Future Event Horse series comes into play. The FEH's goals are to accurately judge the potential of horses (weanlings- 3yo) towards becoming successful upper level event horses, encouraging event-horse breeders, and provide a calmer atmosphere from which the horses may gain experience. In time, I hope that this series will serve as an educational database for future competitors, breeders and riders with aspirations for all levels of eventing. Understanding the link between lineage, conformation, and way of movement may lend to further strengthening the modern-day event horse. As the program evolves, so do the standards and application of the key attributes judged. The USEA continues to improve the program and it is growing in popularity across the US.

I believe it is important to support the series for two reasons: the experience it offers our young equine partners in their development as competitors, and as an investment in the tracking of attributes common among successful eventing horses. Having the goal of showing at the FEH gave me a timeframe and structure in which to teach Emmitt (and then Garth) the necessary ground work for positive grooming, braiding and handling experiences. And let's admit – who doesn't love an outing when you look that spiffy in braids and a shiny coat? I often revisit the notes and critiques from the FEH shows, comparing them to each horse's stage of growth, current competitors, and the scores of horses who have graduated from the FEH to the Young Event Horse and USEA horse trials. I am hoping that over time there will be a direct correlation with FEH and YEH competitors and their success at eventing's upper levels.



**Esccord RGS recently placed 1st at Hitching Post Farm Horse Trials in Open Novice with a score of 23.0.**

I began showing my horses in the FEH series with my youngest gelding "Emitt" Ensign on Deck RGS. He was a yearling stud, and by his definition, a hot ticket – all chestnut coat, four white socks and his white blaze. Last fall, I purchased "Garth" Esccord RGS (both horses were bred by Page Brook Farms), a leggy Hanoverian gelding. Both of the boys went on to represent Area 1 in the East Coast National Championships. Emmitt will turn 3 at the end of June and will once again compete at the FEH show, hosted by GMHA the same month. As a four year old, Garth has graduated to the Young Event Horse series and will compete in that division.

This program offers a great opportunity to showcase your youngster. At last year's East Coast Championships, the judges agreed that the region had superior prospects compared to the rest of the US. This is a fabulous opportunity for Area 1 members to showcase their youngsters and we have many respectable (and successful) breeders here. Paired with our wonderful horse trials, many of which are ideal for horses building towards upper level careers, I think Area 1 could become a leading region for eventing prospects. Be it as a breeder, owner, or trainer, the FEH is a great way to support and represent Area 1 at the national level while further educating young horses.

Visit Katie's website and follow her blog at [www.murphyeventing.com](http://www.murphyeventing.com).

# Bring Out Your Volunteers

By SUZANNE ADAMS

Every year we get those messages (really, cries for help) from Organizers looking for volunteers. When I see these emails or posts, it sends me way back to my dating days...feeling the love but not always seeing a demonstration of love. Have you ever made a call that's a bit out of your comfort zone and then waited, hoping for the call back? Well, that's the role of a volunteer coordinator - first asking, then hoping and really, sometimes begging for just a little bit of attention.

So, I was on a quest early in the season to find out more about our volunteers and what makes them tick. Let's hear it from them:

**"I do it** because it makes me feel like I did something good for the eventing community. I also find it a good learning experience. I don't actually have a favorite job because all of the jobs I've had I enjoyed. I've been an assistant, the day/night before set up crew, XC fence judge, jump painter, dressage steward and show jump crew. I guess any job that involves watching the jumping is my favorite. But anything fairly hands-on I enjoy.

After watching how much work goes into setting up events I always try and get involved. It makes me feel good to know that I was part of what was going on and that I took the time to help out. I'd rather do a day of volunteering at a event than a day of a paid job!"

**Lauren Murphy, Massachusetts Eventer**

**"I volunteer** because if I don't do it, who is going to do it? I don't think it's fair to assume, 'Oh, someone else is going to sit at a jump all day so I can compete.' You have to go out and put your time in too. My favorite event to volunteer at is Valinor. I boarded there when I lived in MA and I liked volunteering more than competing there because they are like family and I wanted to do anything to help them like they've helped me. They also treat their volunteers very well. My favorite job is jump judge on XC, especially at the questions with "trickier" rules. It's a great chance to watch what does (and doesn't) work when riding.

Volunteer! If you don't, who else is going to? It's fun, educational, and you're appreciated more than you'll ever know."

**Jocelyn Petitto, Vermont Eventer**

**"I'm not a rider,** so volunteering at events gives me a way to be part of the sport. Many events are scrambling to get enough volunteers. I want to make sure the events work, so I do my part. As a mother, I'll do whatever it takes to support the activity(ies) of my children. If that means mucking stalls, sitting on the xc course in the rain, or stewarding a jumping ring on a hot summer day, then that's what I'll do. After all, these events don't run themselves. I also love getting to know the organizers and the folks involved in making the events happen.

I enjoy almost any job, but one of my favorites is the XC start box. I love being able to speak to each rider and say to each and every one "Have a great ride!" just as they gallop off! I also enjoy scribing and timing in the stadium ring or dressage ring – because it keeps me busy but I still get to watch the riders.

When I'm fence judging on XC and a horse & rider come by ... and you can hear that rider praising his/her horse after the jump "Good boy!" or "You've got this!", you can almost feel their connection in that split second. They often don't even realize anyone heard them, but it's the best feeling for me, as a volunteer, to know that I'm helping to make this moment happen.

Everyone can say it's rewarding (and it is). And I used to say I volunteered for the T-shirt. But what it really comes down to is NECESSITY. Events NEED a large group of volunteers to be successful. So get involved in the Young Riders program, the Area 1 Council, the Optimum Minutes team, and so on. If we, the people that are passionate about the sport of eventing, don't come forward to volunteer, who will?"

**Debbie Hastings, Mother of an Eventer (Mother Mucker) and Optimum Minutes Designer**

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## Get Ready... The 2012 Area I Championships Are Upon Us!

The incomparable [Fitch's Corner](#) is hosting the 2012 Area I Championships this year, and it promises to be just as thrilling and spectacular, if not moreso than last year's event. Competitors, volunteers and spectators alike can have the opportunity to be part of a top-notch competition, trade fair, and social scene unlike any other. Tiffany & Co and Dover Saddlery will be providing exquisite prizes. More information to come in the next Optimum Minutes!



**OPENING DAY: JUNE 5, 2012**

**"I volunteer** because I believe that you cannot even begin to understand what goes into running an event if you never attempt to participate. And, I believe that it is critical to give back to the sport I love. Without volunteers, I wouldn't be able to compete myself. Volunteers help make every single event possible.

As a Volunteer, one of my favorite events is King Oak. The first time I volunteered there, everyone recognized me as a competitor and remembered my horse too! I love to jump judge when I am at a fun fence to watch like the water or a coffin complex, but I did have a lot of fun sending people out on the XC course when I was working in the warm up area. I would also love to be a dressage scribe for an event. I think I could learn quite a bit about how to properly ride a dressage test!

I think that everyone who competes should try to volunteer at least once every season. If we can educate eventers (through experience) on how much effort and help is necessary to run a safe, smooth, and successful event then I believe we would have more events run smoothly with less interference. Also, there are quite a few events at which volunteers get a free XC schooling voucher or a small amount of credit to use towards an event or clinic at the facility later on (if those were more publicized I think that would help stimulate volunteering)."

***Elyse Fehr, Preliminary Eventer***

**"I usually** XC jump judge. Everyone should volunteer at some point. It's when you learn the rules you don't know and it helps polish up the ones you do."

***Celia Donovan, New Hampshire Eventer***

**"I/we do it** for several reasons - It's a way for us to give back to the sport we love; it's a way for me to teach my students that this sport needs more from us than just to train, pay for entries and compete; it's a way for me as a coach, to expose my students to a higher level of competition (that's an incredible motivational tool); and often the students hear nuances about our sport that are not always obvious at schooling shows. We volunteer at the Groton House Farm Horse Trials on Cross Country Day. We really do it there mostly for convenience. I have taken as many as 20 students and going much farther is a logistical issue. We have been assigned finish-line duties (handing out water and collecting pinneys) and warm-up ring management. I've also run the start box and my daughter has been a fence judge a couple of times. I have to say my favorite job has been the steward running the exit from the warm-up ring to the start box. I enjoy keeping things running in a timely manner and it gives me chance to meet everyone.

I would say to anyone considering volunteering at any show - try it! You'd be amazed how much fun it is and how much you can learn. You'll gain a whole new respect for what's involved with putting on a show. You'll finish the day feeling like you've accomplished something meaningful.

Engaging the kids is simple. Groton House Farm is a place and a competition to behold. I cancel lessons and provide transportation. The kids put in a long day, but they see a lot, they get to walk the course, see some spectacular competitors and for many of them, the Novice course is a taste of things to come."

***David Wilson, Owner/Instructor,  
Flying High Stables ([www.flyinghighstables.com](http://www.flyinghighstables.com))***

For the record, Area 1 is a volunteer organization and everyone working hard to keep you informed is a volunteer. I speak for myself but hear the echoes throughout your words.... Eventing is a sport that I love and giving back is just one way to keep it going for generations to come. And, I challenge you to do it once and I guarantee, you'll meet the same raucous crowd on the ground that you find as a competitor. It's fun and a great way to have a different kind of good time.

***Get out there and do it!***