Oh, what a feeling!

Heide Rothweiler at practice on Sonny Boy

Photo: Cornelia Becker
**AVA Convention**

**Daniel Stewart**

*Linda Wright*

**Inspiring Balance and Success**

At the AVA Annual Convention, Daniel Stewart will be providing group classes on methods for improving biomechanics and balance. He will also give his inspiring, enthusiastic lecture on sports psychology, speaking from his own personal experience as coach of competitive riders.

Region III of the AVA was lucky enough to experience these classes in March, as Daniel Stewart was a clinician and the keynote speaker at the 2008 Northwest Spirit of Vaulting event. The Sports Psychology talk was inspiring for everyone: vaulters, riders, coaches or parents. The balance and biophysics clinic was particularly eye-opening for athletes and coaches while offering lots of fun for all – no matter what age or athletic ability.

A common thread ran through all of Daniel’s sessions: fun. He really tries to make the sessions light-hearted and memorable, involving participants in ways appropriate to their age and experience.

Here are some highlights of what we learned and what you might expect from Daniel’s offerings:

In the balance and biomechanics workshop Daniel demonstrates the natural tendency of every athlete – no matter how advanced – to have one side stronger than the other. While the rider or vaulter feels balanced, their imperfection may affect the action of the horse and may appear non-symmetrical in performance. Participants in the class will learn techniques to achieve true balance during exercises including use of the Stable Board. You will undoubtedly have an opportunity to see for yourself that you have a stronger side and how it could affect performance. After plenty of good-hearted laughter you will leave the session with valuable tips on how to improve your (or your vaulter’s) balance, symmetry, posture, and overall body awareness.

Some of Daniel’s anti-negative methods include: Detachment (Go to a calming place in your mind); Memory Motivation (Let your memory of a fantastic experience help you overcome fear); Imagery/Imagination (Imagine that you’ve just accomplished something that makes you feel really good); Visualization (Run your perfect performance through your mind, step by step); Positive Babble (Daniel may even say, “Fake it ‘til you make it.”)

Just as physical conditioning and exercise are needed for the body to succeed, a positive state of mind is also needed. Daniel has seen time and again how negative self-talk can handicap an athlete. Practice is needed for the mind, as well as the body. Daniel emphasizes how critical it is for athletes to practice talking to themselves with positive messages. And, most importantly, he describes how each athlete can set him or herself up for success no matter what their ultimate score or placing.

More information on Daniel Stewart is available at www.riderightnow.com.

**Public Transit To and Around the AVA Convention**

**Travel To and Around the AVA Convention**

**Public Transit to Hotel**

The Washington, D.C. Metrorail (rail line) system has a station at National Airport. The station is connected via pedestrian bridges to the concourse level of airport terminals B and C. Once in the National Airport Metro Station, take a Yellow Line train in the direction of Fort Totten. Disembark at the Gallery Place/Chinatown station, and take a Red Line train in the direction of Shady Grove. Disembark at Shady Grove and call the Marriott for complementary shuttle service to the hotel. The Metro portion of the trip will take approximately one hour.

**Bus to Metro**

Take the B30 Metrobus Express from the BWI station to the Greenbelt Metro Station. The fare is $3.10 cash, and exact change is needed. Schedule: http://www.wmata.com/timetables/md/b30.pdf. The bus station is located on the lower level of concourse A/B, and is labeled “Regional Bus Stop #1”. Follow the signs for “Public Transit”. From BWI to Greenbelt Metro takes approximately 30 minutes. At the Greenbelt Metro station, take the Green Line train in the direction of Branch Avenue. Disembark at the Fort Totten station and take a Red Line train toward Shady Grove. Disembark at Shady Grove and call the Marriott for complementary shuttle service to the hotel. The Metro portion of the trip will take approximately one hour.

**Train to Metro**

Monday through Friday, one can take the MARC Penn Line train ($6, 45 min) from the BWI station to Union Station (train/bus/metro stop). Schedule: http://www.mtmaryland.com/services/marc/schedulesSystemMaps/MARC_PENN.HTML_New.cfm From Union Station, take a Red Line train in the direction of Shady Grove. Disembark at Shady Grove and call the Marriott for complementary shuttle service to the hotel. The Metro portion of the trip will take approximately 45 minutes. Fares vary.

**Airport Shuttle to Hotel**


**Driving Directions to Hotel**

Driving directions: www.MarriottGaithersburg.com. Instead of taking I-66 to 495, locals recommend taking the George Washington Parkway westbound from National Airport to 495. (Remainder of the directions are the same.)
President’s Message - Our Time to Shine

Sheri Benjamin

2009 has come quickly, and it will be over in the blink of an eye, but not before we, the members of the American Vaulting Association, make the most of our Association’s 40th anniversary to continue to get the word out about our fabulous sport.

As with any non-profit organization, we have limited resources – limited money, as well as a limited number of volunteers with limited hours of volunteer time. How can you, our members, help us grow vaulting in America, especially in our 40th anniversary year?

Be a “We,” Not a “They.”

In all associations, its members are made up of those who are “they’s” and those who are “we’s.” The “they” folks are members who somehow feel they are powerless to help, cannot be bothered to help, or feel like they’ve offered once to help, or voiced their opinion once, and are upset (and stay upset) that it hasn’t been heard. You’ll recognize that these folks are the “they’s” by the way these individuals talk about an organization -- as in “they don’t know what they’re doing” or “they never get anything right.”

The “we’s” are those who take ownership in their organization, and are committed to helping the organization find its way, knowing full well that “stuff happens,” that organizations aren’t perfect, and that there is a way for each and every person to contribute to an organization. You’ll recognize them as the more action-oriented folks—those who take the bull by the horns (the horse by the surcingle?), make sure they are part of the solution, and help the organization achieve its specific goals.

As a small non-profit, it is imperative that every member of the AVA be a “we” and not a “they.” Which are you?

Be More Than an Enthusiast: Be a Vaulting Evangelist

Those passionate about a sport generally fall into two general categories: enthusiast and evangelist. The vaulting enthusiast, for example, loves vaulting, likes to be in the company of others who also love vaulting, and is eager to learn more about vaulting any way he or she can: Vaulting World, reading tips on the AVA website, going to clinics, etc.

A vaulting evangelist, on the other hand, gets outside the realm of the sport itself, and is eager to tell others (practically anyone who will listen!) why vaulting is a great sport and why more people should vault.

Nancy Stevens-Brown, our outgoing AVA President, and now our Past President and Association Historian, is a natural at the evangelist role. Most of you know Nancy from her role in our association, her many clinics nationwide, and her announcing at our National and Regional competitions, but have you ever had the wonderful treat of hearing Nancy evangelize vaulting to those who know nothing of the sport? Her description of our sport would make anyone want to learn how to vault! (For some tips on how to go from being a vaulting enthusiast to a vaulting evangelist, see page 24.)

Volunteer!

You’ve heard this before, but our organization needs many, many more volunteers—at the local, regional and national levels. Volunteerism is the linchpin (the dictionary definition is: “something that holds the various elements of a complicated structure together”) of the AVA, and without it, we will continue to fall short of our great potential as an equestrian sport for the masses. To that end, our most critical open volunteer position to date is our new VP of Volunteers who will work with the regions to help identify regional and national volunteer candidates for a variety of project and committee positions.

If you are an organized “people person” with a knack for recruiting others, please contact me directly (sheribananinsci.com, and be sure to put “AVA” in the subject line!) or call me (408-872-1562) to chat.

Finally, for the AVA to be strong, our best ideas and our biggest problems must rise to the top so that we can implement the very best ideas and get rid of our biggest problems. To that end, I urge you each to communicate directly with your area’s own Regional Supervisor on regional issues and with our AVA committee chairs, board members and executive board members regarding national issues. Go to the “Contact Us” section of the website, or the second-to-the-last page of Vaulting World, for contact information on all of these folks. And me? I’d love to hear from you and will be making my way across the country this year to visit all the regions. In the meantime, feel free to email me (sheribananinsci.com) or call me (408-872-1562) to chat.

2009 is our year – a year where we must celebrate our past successes and forge new paths at the exact same time. Ralph Waldo Emerson might have said it best:

“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

Here’s to celebrating the vaulting trails we have blazed, and to blazing new trails in 2009!
Table of Contents

AVA Convention Update
  Daniel Stewart Linda Wright ......................... 2
  Travel To and Around Convention .................. 2
President’s Message Our Time to Shine ............ 3
Club Reports
  Region I ........................................ 4
  Region II ..................................... 6
  Region III ..................................... 11
  Region IV ..................................... 15
  Region IX ..................................... 20
  Region X ....................................... 22
  Foreign ....................................... 23
Posters
  Tasha Thorner .................................. 14
  Woodside B Team ................................ 16
  Great Balance Silver Tambourine Visions C Team ........................................... 17
  Joey Gadd ..................................... 18
In Memory of Holly Carrie Wick .................... 23
Three Easy Ways to Be a Vaulting Evangelist
  Sheri Benjamin ................................ 24
Looking Forward to CVI Lexington Kerith Lemon 25
CVI Sydney Elizabeth Brigham ..................... 26
USEF Honors Linda Bibbler, Elizabeth Osborn and Isabelle Parker .......... 27
Are You Game for Vaultanium Megan Grove ...... 28
Winter Clinics
  CHA Clinic Patti Skipton, Tammi Gainer ...... 29
  Moore in Texas Rosie Brown .................... 29
  USEF Vaulter Training Camps Pam Lane, Patti Skipton ........................................ 29
  Circus Camp Noel Martonovich .................. 30
  Region II Clinic Marianne Rose ................ 31
AVA Directory ...................................... 31
Calendar of Vaulting Events ....................... 32

AVA Education Committee Needs You
Wendy Ware

Clinicians (or anyone who has an area of expertise relative to our sport): help spread equestrian vaulting by sharing your skills and knowledge. If you are a coach, share your teaching skills. As a horse trainer/longeur you could help develop training for new horses and/or refine the training of our experienced horses. Are you a parent with managerial, business, fund raising, music, dance or gymnastics proficiency? A clinic to share your area of interest does not have to be a big deal – it could be as simple as a coffee klatsch with a vaulting agenda. Just about every member of the AVA has something valuable to teach or share. You could help a new club or support an existing club to grow and improve its programs. Please provide the following information and send to Wendy Ware, VP Education at wenware@gmail.com: Name, e-mail, telephone, location (city, state), nearest airport, area of expertise/interest (75 words or less), past experience (50 words or less), special requests (limit of number of participants, hours per day, diet, hotel vs. home stay, etc.). Fees will be determined individually.

The Answers are in the Questions
Wendy Ware

The AVA Education Committee is looking for volunteers to help with developing online AVA educational vaulter/coach self-assessment questionnaires at various levels. We are looking for information and questions about: coaching vaulting, how to teach or coach kids developmentally, safety, exercises, group games or team building, vaulting rules, horse training and care, club business and management. Contact Wendy at wenware@gmail.com if you can help with this project.

Technical Test Exercises
Suzanne Detol

Emma Garrod Seely (USA) Chairwoman of the FEI Vaulting Committee presented a first draft of the new Technical Exercises to come into effect next year: the Stand Split in the Loop (to replace the Needle) and the Wheelbarrow (to replace the Shoulder Stand). The purpose of this presentation was to allow for discussion and commentary from the assembled judges and trainers in order to prepare a further draft to be sent out to all NFs in the coming months. It transpired that some of the description would require further clarification and a modified version integrating the feedback and including sketches would be prepared by the Committee.


AVA Grant Applications
Jan Garrod

AVA grant applications are due March 10th. Visit www.americanvaulting.org/members/avabusiness/Grants08.shtml for more information.
Club Reports

REGION I

CAROUSEL RANCH, INC.
34289 Rocking Horse Rd., Agua Dulce, CA 91390
Phone: 661-268-8010, Contact: Denise Tomey

DIAMOND BAR COUNTRY VAULTERS
2132 Indian Creek Rd, Diamond Bar, CA 91765.3345, Email: connie_geisler@hotmail.com
Phone: 909-861-1564, Contact: Connie Geisler
First Year: 1989, Colors: Red, Gold, Black

FLYING B VAULTERS
30338 Stein Way, Hemet, CA 92543
Email: jbertling@roadrunner.com
Phone: 951-658-4468, Contact: Jan Bertling
First Year: 2006, Colors: Black, Red, White, Blue

LOMPOC VAULTERS
3590 Via Gala, Lompoc, CA 93436
Email: peggy.vanhook@gmail.com
Phone: 805-698-3681, Contact: Peggy Van Hook
First Year: 1976, Colors: Black, Green, Teal

M.A.R.E. ALL-STAR VAULTERS
18200 Johnson Rd., Bakersfield, CA 93314
Email: percross@bakrr.com
Phone: 661-589-1877, Contact: Peggy Cross
First Year: 2005, Colors: White, Black, Blue
www.mareridingcenter.com

MOUNTAIN SPRINGS VAULTERS (inactive)
555 W. Sierra Hwy, Acton, CA 93510
Email: amazing_lady@hotmail.com
Phone: 661-274-2111, Contact: Debi Pakizer
First Year: 2006, Colors: Orange, Blue

OAK HILLS VAULTERS
1435 E 900 S, Salem, UT 84653
Email: oakhillsvaulters@hotmail.com
Phone: 801-836-0799, Contact: KyLynn Warren
First Year: 1996, Colors: Navy, Red, Silver
www.oakhillsvaulters.com

RAWHIDE RANCH (Affiliate Club)
PO Box 216, Bonsall, CA 92003
Email: chelsey@rawhideranch.com
Phone: 760-758-0083 x105, Contact: Chelsey Ayers
First Year: 2008, Colors: Red, Blue

SHOWTIME VAULTERS
4597 Ave 272, Visalia, CA 93277
Email: showtimevaulters@hotmail.com
Phone: 559-684-8568, Contact: Leslie Hamar
First Year: 1996, Colors: Purple, Gold, Black

TECHNIQUE EQUESTRIAN VAULTING CLUB
10851 N. 5750 W., Highland, UT 84003
Email: cambrykay@gmail.com
Phone: 801-368-4438, Contact: Brian Kaylor
First Year: 2008, Colors: Black, Light Blue, White
www.techniquevaulting.org

NEW CLUBS

TECHNIQUE EQUESTRIAN VAULTING CLUB
10851 N. 5750 W., Highland, UT 84003
Email: cambrykay@gmail.com
Phone: 801-368-4438, Contact: Brian Kaylor
First Year: 2008, Colors: Black, Light Blue, White
www.techniquevaulting.org

Chase Kaylor proves that “real men wear tights!”

At Nationals Lompoc’s Linda Van Hook demonstrates her Bronze freestyle on Sir Henry.

Photo: Primo Ponies Photography

Stewart supports the Oak Hills Trot Team at Nationals.

Photo: Primo Ponies Photography

Kenny Geisler and Kalyon Noah of Diamond Bar perform their Pas de Deux on Half Moon Bay’s Pixie.

Photo: Primo Ponies Photography

As the year came to a snowy and very cold vaulting end here in Utah, we asked some of Technique’s members what they thought about the year.

“Only real men wear tights!”
Bruce Wayne aka Chase Kaylor - vaulter, longeur, coach

“There is no charge for awesomeness!”
Olivia Imig - vaulter

“I love the horses, and the kids, but the propane heater is my best friend!”
Kim Kaylor - longeur at 14 degrees

“Perseverance pays off!”
Cambry Kaylor - coach

“Just keep the treats coming!”
Thuder, Opal, Tasia, Gizmo – horses

“I’m glad my sister did it first!”
Megan Ade - vaulter

“Vaulting always makes me have a good day!”
Malorie Kahn - vaulter

“And I thought riding was hard!”
Stacey Ade - longeur

“Vaulting - when riding the horse just isn’t enough!”

Technique Club

THE RIDING ACADEMY
30300 Garbani Rd, Menifee, CA 92584
Email: theridingacademy@hotmail.com
Phone: 951-301-9272, Contact: Sarah Hill
First Year: 2007, Colors: Blue, Black
www.vaulton.com

Continued
The Riding Academy continued
Sarah Hill

Our first year of competition was wonderful. Our Belgian/Morgan Gelding, Ted, performed better than we could ever have expected. Who knew that our stoic little (fifteen hundred pound) guy would love to perform! We had a fantastic time at Nationals in Watsonville. We ended this year at the Vaulting in Las Vegas competition and can’t wait until we get to Kentucky this July. If we only knew vaulting competitions were this much fun we would have started competing years ago.

In 2009 we hope to grow as a club and have our six-year-old Oldenburg canter mare, Gigi, ready for our advancing vaulters. Our great parents have supported us by video taping our events, taking photos and helping with coaching. Blessed with a good group of vaulters, they have made our practices and competitions fun and enjoyable. Special thanks go to Rick and Virginia Hawthorne with Valley View Vaulters and Connie Geisler with Diamond Bar for answering all my “what, where, when and why” questions. Drop by and say, “hi” and vault with us if you are in the area.

Ted supports Catherine Hill coached by her dad, Roy. Photo: Primo Ponies Photography

VALLEY OF THE SUN VAULTERS
7671 E Sutton Dr, Scottsdale, AZ 85260
Email: merrilliane@cox.net
Phone: 480-348-1607, Contact: Merrill Leffmann
First Year: 2005
www.sunvaulters.com

VALLEY VIEW VAULTERS
11295 Orcas Ave, Lake View Terrace, CA 91342
Email: vvvvirginia@ca.rr.com
Phone: 818-302-0153, Contact: Virginia Hawthorne/Rick Hawthorne
First Year: 1981, Colors: Maroon, White, Black
www.valleyviewvaulters.com

Virginia Hawthorne

We are well into our 29th year of teaching vaulting now and I’ve been reflecting about all those years, I guess it’s the season for contemplation – remembering all the good times we have had with all of you. I’ve lost track of the number of people we’ve taught over the years. It’s hundreds – maybe even a thousand or more. Some vaulters started with us as toddlers less than two years old and others started as adults. And then there’s the legion of parents, caregivers and friends, too. How blessed we’ve been to know you all!

The moments that stand out most and the memories Rick and I savor the most are the successes we’ve seen. Some are just a momentary triumph and others are victories earned with months or years of effort and practice. With the help of our very special “Gentle Giant,” we changed lives forever. Can you remember some of our past vaulters?

* Sylvia and Stacy came in third at the 1989 Nationals. Sylvia is now famous as our gown and longeur.
* Shannon and Carolyn competed. Carolyn is now an architect and Shannon is in accounting. Altogether, we now have five wonderful grandchildren.
* Tim came to us in a wheelchair. Years later, with remarkable courage and tenacity, he was able to stand at his own wedding.
* Blake started vaulting at two and a half. He competed very successfully at the World Championships and now is back as coach of Valley View’s canter team.
* Ammarie with Cerebral Palsy was unable to speak or vault when she started. She has been vaulting for 23 years and now walks up and down stairs and much more.

The moments that stand out most and the successes we’ve seen. Some are just a momentary triumph and others are victories earned with months or years of effort and practice. With the help of our very special “Gentle Giant,” we changed lives forever. Can you remember some of our past vaulters?

* Sylvia and Stacy came in third at the 1989 Nationals. Sylvia is now famous as our gown and longeur.
* Shannon and Carolyn competed. Carolyn is now an architect and Shannon is in accounting. Altogether, we now have five wonderful grandchildren.
* Tim came to us in a wheelchair. Years later, with remarkable courage and tenacity, he was able to stand at his own wedding.
* Blake started vaulting at two and a half. He competed very successfully at the World Championships and now is back as coach of Valley View’s canter team.
* Ammarie with Cerebral Palsy was unable to speak or vault when she started. She has been vaulting for 23 years and now walks up and down stairs and much more.

Amidala of the Mile-High Vaulting Club supported Nichole Gorman of Brookside in her Bronze freestyle at Nationals.

Photo: Primo Ponies Photography
Club Reports

**ELKHORN PARK PLACE EQU. VAULTERS**

6011 W. 6th Street, Rio Linda, CA 95673  
Email: lmyers@covad.net  
Phone: 916-992-1740, Contact: Elizabeth Myers  
First Year: 2005, Colors: Red, Black, White, Silver  
www.elkhornequestrian.com

At Nationals, Ivana Garcia of Elkhorn performed her Trot freestyle on Horus  
Photo: Primo Ponies Photography

**GOLD RUSH VAULTERS**

4808 E. Chinahill Road, El Dorado, CA 95623  
Email: eej@primoponies.com  
Phone: 530-621-4911, Contact: Eileen Jassowski  
First Year: 2007, Colors: Blue, Silver, White  
www.goldrushvaulters.com  
Eileen Jassowski

Our year was a whirlwind of energy at the many shows: Tambourine, Face Off, Garrod’s Spring Classic, Woodside Vaulters Spring Fest, the AVA Nebraska Camp, Region II Championships and Nationals. The final two competitions, the Willow Tree/Morningstar Fest and Mt. Eden’s Halloween Fest showcased our new Percheron Mavourneen, which we started training in June. Sadly, our canter horse, Mandela, was injured around that time and our trot horse, Rocket, was retired.

This past season we seemed to spend a lot of time in Las Vegas – not for gambling, but for vaulting. We attended a show and circus clinic hosted by Region I in November. As a holiday surprise in December the Jassowski girls attended an awesome clinic put on by Erik Marstonovich. The girls spent all day vaulting, then went to the gym and came back at night to learn circus skills and enjoy guest performances. It was a great way to end our year.

Our year would not be complete without the demonstrations, which are a constant part of the Gold Rush Club’s activities to spread the word about our sport.

2009 will be another year of change as our wonderful coach, Laura Jassowski, plans to attend college in the fall.

**HALF MOON BAY VAULTERS**

321 Verde Rd, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019  
Email: jpa1775551@aol.com  
Phone: 650-726-3115, Contact: Jill Palmer  
First Year: 1999, Colors: Navy Blue, Light Blue, Red, White  
www.goldrushvaulters.com

Half Moon Bay’s Cassidy Palmer flies high above Hudson at Nationals.  
Photo: Primo Ponies Photography

**MORNING STAR VAULTERS**

95 San Miguel Way, Novato, CA 94947  
Email: carolyn.conner@verizon.net  
Phone: 415-897-8486, Contact: Carolyn Conner  
First Year: 1999, Colors: Blue, White  
www.mysite.verizon.net/res1ev60/morningstarvaulters/  
Carolyn Conner

The highlights of 2008 were helping put on a vaulting demonstration at the University of California at Davis’ Picnic Day in April, going to Nationals in Watsonville, holding our own fest at a new location in October and attending the Las Vegas fest in November. Our horses Dillinger, Sparticus, Kelly and Tanita were wonderful throughout the year!

At the UC Davis’ Picnic Day in April, the UC Davis Aggie Vaulters took Tanita in the parade prior to the vaulting demo. She was unflappable with all the marching bands and craziness. Then the Morning Star vaulters, along with Sparticus, Kelly and horses and members of five other clubs performed a wonderful demonstration for the college crowd.

 Nationals were close to home so we went with four vaulters. The Watsonville weather was perfect and the fruit stands were popular with our group – so yummy!

Zara Thompson and Kelly enjoy the surf on one of Morning Star Vaulting Club’s “beach days.”  
Photo: Carolyn Conner

We held our annual fest with the Willow Tree vaulters at the Novato Horsemen’s Arena this year. The facility was great and the fest went very smoothly thanks to all the parent volunteers and of course a big thanks to Marianne Rose for the scheduling and office help. We could not have done it without her!

Our final competition was the Las Vegas Continued
Morning Star continued
Fest put on by Region I. We drove ten hours to get there but it was worth it! We had so much fun on the Las Vegas strip, at the fest and then at the circus clinic. We want to go again this year!!

We also went to the beach with our horses several times. It is so much fun to gallop down the beach in the surf. Sparticus and Kelly are old hands and will go quite deep into the water. Tanita is still a little timid in the water but, by the end of this year, she should be much braver. Dillinger has yet to experience the beach. This may be his year.

We had a German vaulting staying with one of our families for half of the year. Larissa Kruchewski was a great addition to our club. Larissa loves our horses, especially Sparticus. We are hoping she comes back soon. We miss her so much!

MT. EDEN VAULTING CLUB
11845 Skyline Blvd, Los Gatos, CA 95033
Email: emmaseely@sbcglobal.net
Phone: 408-868-9476, Contact: Emma Seely
First Year: 1979, Colors: Black, Maroon, White, Blue, Gold www.mtedenvaulting.org

Mt. Eden Trot Team members displayed their freestyle skills on Danny Boy at Nationals.

Photo: Primo Ponies Photography

Marianne Rose

Mt. Eden had a busy year. As always, we welcomed new vaulters and sadly said goodbye to some others. Our big club grew a little bit. Our head coach, Emma Seely, worked hard to develop a solid coaching staff and to train more horses. After all these years, even though we have new families each year, the administration of the club and events has become easier and there are fewer surprises.

We did one major new event in 2008: a very successful fundraiser. The planning began before the New Year even came around. We decided that mid-April would be a good time, as the main vaulting season would be just starting. The generous Garrod family again made their ranch available to us for the event. After lots of discussion, we decided to have a mid-day meal, silent auction, wine bar, vaulting demonstration and an area set aside for the public to have their picture taken on a vaulting horse.

The Vaulting in the Vineyards committee met every few weeks to iron out issues – and there were lots of them! We asked each Mt. Eden family to sell a set amount of tickets. Many families sold more than their quota. One of our members did a wonderful job with publicity, getting the event out to local print calendars and websites. That has to be done three months ahead for some magazines. As with any volunteer group, there are those members who do more than expected – who can be counted on to do their jobs with grace and competence. Of course a few folks do less but in a big group, the jobs get done anyway.

The menu was finalized and members accepted supervisory jobs. Posters were placed around town, invitation postcards were sent to as many mailing lists as we could get (the ranch, the winery, the club, etc.). The silent auction donations started slow but we got some fabulous items toward the end. All auction items were posted on the event page of the Mt. Eden club website as they came in. Some members successfully solicited donations from local businesses. The donations included riding lessons, pony rides, a weekend condo at Lake Tahoe, sailboat adventures, tickets to sporting and entertainment events, a gift certificate for vaulting wear, dinners at fine restaurants, frequent flyer miles, a private vaulting class, a local airplane tour, and much more. Posters were created for each item to make bidding easier.

Early the day of the event the vaulting arena was groomed and our practice areas were cleaned up. Borrowed and rented tables and chairs were set up. Flowers were arranged. Tables were set. Food was prepared. The silent auction tent was set up. The photography and printing equipment was tested. A screen in the dining area showed vaulting videos all day. Wine bottles were opened and glasses set out. The vaulters helped with the set-up work and then performed their demonstration. We had 411 paid guests and another 23 people just donated but did not show up. The silent auction was a huge success – and a lot of fun.

A major event like this has many benefits for the host club. Of course the money is important, but the club members also learn to work together, they learn to reach out to the community for help, they appreciate how much work it takes to make an event run well and they earn the satisfaction of creating a fun and profitable event for the club. It’s a win-win all around.

Delany Alman performed at the Harvest Fundraiser on Touch of Magic.

Photo courtesy Nu Balance

Doreen Alman

Headed by Michelle Solorzano (head coach extraordinaire) the club had a very busy, fun-filled year but also a year with some real milestones for our club members. The focus at the beginning of the year was medal testing, leaving attendance at competitions to take a back seat for the first part of the year.

Our first round of medal testing took place in June at our home arena, with subsequent testing at Region II Championships resulting in one Gold, two Silver, five Bronze medals, two Trot medals and one Novice pin. Congratulations and well done to all new medalists, and many thanks to all the judges who made these vaulters’ goals attainable!

On a sad note, our team horse Promise Me (A.K.A. Joey), passed away peacefully on January 18, 2008. He built our club and made...
Club Reports

our vaulters who they are today. He will be greatly missed and remains in the hearts of each of his vaulters.

Eighteen of our vaulters competed at Region II in Grass Valley. Nu Balance Club was the winner of the horsemanship/safety challenge held at Regionals. Despite the smoke from the numerous forest fires, it turned out to be a successful and enjoyable competition for all.

A small group of Nu Balance vaulters enjoyed the wonderful learning experience of Nationals. While the club members thoroughly enjoyed the competition and worked hard, there was time for play at the Santa Cruz Beach/Boardwalk. It was a great time of team bonding.

From Watsonville, the club went straight to the California State Fair where many club members stayed and performed daily for the entire run of the fair. Shows included Hollywood and Broadway themes. Nu Balance has provided entertainment at the California State Fair for many years as part of the headliner show at the Cavalcade of Horses. As in the past, a vaulter or two from other clubs have joined in the fun for part of the Fair time.

This summer Nu Balance was blessed with a visit from 12-year-old vaulter Martina Verga, from Italy. She stayed on and vaulted with us through the middle of August. Martina was a joy to everyone, who most of the time had everyone, young and old, laughing and enjoying her antics. We so enjoyed her company and were so sad to see her go - lots of tears were shed!!!

On the heels of Nationals and State Fair, and never a club to let exhaustion get in the way, plans moved forward to put on the Nu Balance Annual Harvest Festival. Two shows were performed before a wonderful, local crowd who enjoyed a BBQ meal, raffles, craft sales and cakewalk. A great time was had by all.

Finally, the club competed at Mt. Eden’s Halloween Fest. As many of you know, Nu Balance is a club that enjoys their costumes and character portrayals and this was evident to all who attended the competition as can be seen in the last issue of Vaulting World.

As always the club participated in fundraisers for a variety of charitable causes such as Huntington’s disease, and impoverished kids in Nicaragua and Africa.

2008 was a year of great change for the club. We have had some seasoned vaulters move on to new challenges and joys in life and we’ve had some new members join us who are bringing new energy and excitement into the club.

Susan Frankel

In the Vaulters’ Arena: Pacific Coast Vaulters had a super great 10th Anniversary year. Lots of demonstrations, clinics, competitions – just awesome vaulting.

Our vaulters and some of our neighboring clubs participated in the University of California Davis’ Picnic Day. Our annual Wine and Vaulting Demo was held on May 10th. Friends, family and teachers came to see the awesome preview of our vaulting for the 2008 season. In June some of our vaulters participated in CVI Krumke, Germany. Our club members joined with members of Half Moon Bay vaulters to make up a team. CVI Krumke was fun and a great experience for our vaulters to meet new friends and vault on different horses.

September found us again at Polo in the Park in San Francisco. For the third year Pacific Coast was honored to perform at this fundraiser for the James S. Brady Therapeutic Riding Program. Marianne Rose announced, our horse Bronson supported our vaulters as they displayed their skills and then our vaulters spotted members of the audience who wanted to try some vaulting moves.

In November Pacific Coast hosted the USEF individual vaulting clinic with Alex Hartl from Germany. We also hosted an A V A longeing clinic with Alex. Longeurs came from as far away as Washington State to participate.

In the Horse Barn: Poppy Coulter and Kristin Olson have our horses looking fit and ready to go for the 2009 Season.

In the Coaches’ and Longeurs’ Circle: Poppy and Kristin attended the Jeff Moore longeing clinic at Osierlea. They are eagerly awaiting his next clinic. Coach Brittany O’Leary is dedicated to teach the great sport of vaulting to our next generation of vaulters – preliminary trot and tiny tots.

Coach Mari Inouye is looking forward to an awesome 2009 Vaulting Season with Pacific Coast. She is devoted to the sport of vaulting and has been setting up clinics and working on conditioning with older vaulters.

Peace and vaulting blessings to all.

PEGASUS VAULTERS
2643 Old San Jose Rd, Soquel, CA 95073-977
Email: kitchyk@aol.com
Phone: 831-475-8679,
Contact: Kitchy Burdette
First Year: 2008.
Colors: Blue, White, Red, Orange, Yellow

Intica Jaquith of Pegasus Vaulters performed on Morning Star’s Sparticus at Mt. Eden’s Halloween Fest.
Photo: Eric Jewett

PHOENIX VAULTING CLUB
3995 County Rd. S, Orland, CA 95963
Email: danelle@tcassessor.org
Phone: 530-865-4558, Contact: Megan Grove
First Year: 2005, Colors: Turquoise, Orange, Black

Phoenix vaulters develop an assisted stand on Picasso.
Photo courtesy Phoenix

Megan Grove

Some years go smoothly and others are trial and error with lots of learning opportunities. This past year we learned so much from experiencing our first long-term horse lameness and from creating and competing with our very first C-Team.

We need to give a special thank you to our horse Belgarion, “Bless you for tolerating our insanity.” He was our back-up for our back-up and ended up being the primary C-Team horse. You are a super star! My team mates and friends made astronomical efforts, phenomenal progress and became real champions for bravery and for their “never give up” attitude that contributed to our success.

We achieved our first assisted backward stand with jump turn to forward stand. We said goodbye to our horse Truffles. We hope he is enjoying sunny weather in Los Angeles and thank him for carrying our vaulters in the last two years. We are looking forward to moving along the road for a great new year – hopefully with a few less speed bumps and pot-holes.

Sandy Hungerford, coach of Miracle Mountain Ranch has a new email address: cshungerford@gmail.com
Toni Amoroso, (AVA R) has a new address: 2168 Royal Ave., Simi Valley, CA 93065 and a new home phone number: 805-791-3800

Changes
Club Reports

PRIMO PONIES VAULTERS
4808 E China Hill Road, El Dorado, CA 95623
Email: eej@primoponies.com
Phone: 530-621-4911, Contact: Michael Jassowski
First Year: 2007, Colors: Green, Gold

ROUGH IT D AY CAMP (Affiliate Club)
P.O. Box 1266, Orinda, CA 94563
Email: camp@roughingit.com
Phone: 925-283-3795, Contact: Hobie Woods
First Year: 2008
www.roughingit.com/horse

SILVER BAY VAULTERS
8601 Oak Circle, Cotati, CA 94931
Email: vaultsilverbay@hotmail.com
Phone: 707-795-2822, Contact: Julie Keville
First Year: 2003, Colors: Blue, Silver, White

STARLITE VAULTERS
5220 N. Greenwood Ave., Clovis, CA 93619
Phone: 559-323-8550, Contact: Aletha Traskin
First Year: 1987, Colors: Fuchsia, Black, Silver, White
www.geocities.com/starlite_at/

Alethea Traskin

Starlite vaulters continue to prosper thanks to the support of the wonderful people in our neighborhood. We added two assistant coaches. Tiffany Stevens who is a retired silver medalist, horse trainer and farrier is now ready to try her hand at vaulting again. Jesa Harper, new to vaulting, brings a wealth of athletic knowledge to our club. Our 11-year-old wonder child is also autistic and can only communicate through smiles and a few vocal sounds. He continues to amaze us with his ability and understanding of the compulsories and freestyle. Starlite is now becoming handi-capable.

At Nationals Alena Orth performed her Preliminary Trot freestyle on Nu Balance’s Colonel Mustard. Photo: Primo Ponies Photography

Thanks (more than we can ever say or show) to Amy Miller of San Diego, who donated an Oldenburg Mare named Phreesia to Starlite. Phreesia is about 17 hands, 12 years old, beautiful, and becoming a wonderful canter horse. Our other horses, Rosie and Natasha, are great trot horses.

During the 2008 year, we attended a number of demonstrations/competitions: Tambourine’s barrel fest in January, Garrod’s Spring Classic in May, Woodside’s fest in June, Region II Championships in July, A V A Nationals in August, Mt. Eden’s Halloween Fest in October, Macy’s Community Day demonstration in November, and both Sanger’s Parade and Clovis’ Christmas Parade in December.

A huge thank you goes to Michelle Solorzano of Nu Balance Vaulters who not only opened her home to us, but also coached and offered their horse, Romeo, for Starlite Vaulters to use at the Region II Championships and A V A Nationals. Starlite learned a lot from Nu Balance Vaulters and made some great friends along the way. Carolyn Conner of Morning Star Vaulters seems to always be there for us with one of her horses. This year we enjoyed her generosity at Garrod’s Spring Classic. Megan Grove of the Phoenix Vaulting Club allowed us to use her horse, Picasso, at Mt. Eden’s Halloween Fest.

Starlite continues to practice twice a week in Clovis during the school year. More practices are added during holidays or vacations. We encourage any vaulter who is in the neighborhood to please stop by and visit. Better yet, come vault with us!

TAMBOURINE VAULTERS
1 Liberty Rd, Petaluma, CA 94952
Email: tambourine-farm@worldnet.att.net
Phone: 707-665-9281, Contact: Kelley Holly
First Year: 1983, Colors: Green, Blue, White, Silver, Navy.

Kelley Holly

Tambourine Vaulters have had a very good year again with outstanding parental support and many new skills achieved by the vaulters and their horses. We have enjoyed participation in several horse and vaulter clinics at our own place and those offered by the USEF and Region II. We held another successful medal test given by Adrienne Stang. Several of our vaulters moved up a level.

At the Mt. Eden Halloween Fest, the Willow Tree Vaulters entry was Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs in the costume class. They looked great. Tanita from Morning Star filled in as Snow White since Caramel came down with a nasty cold the day before the fest.

In November we held a wine tasting fundraiser organized by Kim Fix where we provided vaulting as entertainment for the kids while their parents tasted wine. It was a great success and we introduced vaulting to several kids who have since joined our club.

Willow Tree Vaulters are so very grateful to Sydney Frankel of Pacific Coast for donating a surcingle to their club. Thank you so much Sydney!

Willow Tree vaulters and Daisy appreciate the surcingle donated by Sydney Frankel.
Photo: Carolyn Conner

Carolyn Conner

The Willow Tree Vaulters club has revived after a short break and is going strong with 14 members and three horses: Caramel, Coco and Daisy. Practices are twice a week, rain or shine thanks to our new gym. Several parents pitched in and fixed up a barn by installing new floorboards. We have four barrels, pull-up bars and mats – inside where we can practice even when it is too wet and stormy to work the horses. The vaulters are getting very, very fit! Conditioning, stretching and gymnastic techniques are coached by Rebecca Hambly and Haley Blount while Carolyn Conner coaches and trains vaulters on the horses.

Many of our vaulters competed for the first time this year and they did very well. The parents of Willow Tree helped put on the Morning Star/Willow Tree Fest in October and had lots of fun doing it. Many marveled at the camaraderie of all the vaulters at the fests. They had never seen a sport where there was such support from the older participants and such cooperation and good sportsmanship between clubs.

At the Mt. Eden Halloween Fest, the Willow Tree vaulters entry was Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs in the costume class. They looked great. Tanita from Morning Star filled in as Snow White since Caramel came down with a nasty cold the day before the fest.

In November we held a wine tasting fundraiser organized by Kim Fix where we provided vaulting as entertainment for the kids while their parents tasted wine. It was a great success and we introduced vaulting to several kids who have since joined our club.

Willow Tree Vaulters are so very grateful to Sydney Frankel of Pacific Coast for donating a surcingle to their club. Thank you so much Sydney!
WOODSIDE VAULTERS
1209 Crompton Rd, Redwood City, CA 94061
Phone: 650-299-9281, Contact: Isabelle Parker
First Year: 1991, Colors: Purple, White
www.woodsidevaulters.org

Carrie Wick
Ask anyone associated with vaulting, and they’re sure to say that one of the main benefits of the sport is the enduring friendships they’ve made. The members of Woodside Vaulters would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank friends of the club, near and far, who have lent us special support in 2008.

Close to home, we thank Linda Bibbler for again taking on the huge task of organizing and running our annual Spring Fest AVA/USEF recognized competition. Linda also has been appointed head of the USEF Vaulting High Performance Committee. We’re very proud of Linda and grateful to her service to our club, the USEF and the vaulting community.

We also wish to thank Susan Griner and Susie Bors, vaulter alumnae moms, for providing their expert sewing skills to keep Woodside’s horses and vaulters looking spiffy in purple and white pad covers, armbands, uniforms, barrel covers and other necessities. We also send our best wishes to Susan Griner for a speedy recovery from a protracted illness. Hats off also to Ingrid Hamar of Showtime Vaulters for her ongoing friendship and assistance to our club, and for sharing her beautiful mare Sovira with our vaulters at competitions.

Our horse Cali continues to perform well. Together with the Mt. Rainier vaulters we hosted a barrel demonstration and booth at the King County 4-H Equine Expo. Several of our members participated in both the Mt. Rainier Vaulters’ Nancy Stevens-Brown clinic and Region III’s Northwest Spirit of Vaulting Conference. In March our club hosted a small clinic with Cambry Kaylor.

REGION III

ABOVE AND BEYOND VAULTERS
P.O. Box 372, Snohomish, WA 98291
Phone: 425-870-4365, Contact: Saacha DeAmborosso
First Year: 2006, Colors: Black, Purple, Green
www.noblezebra.com/better_late_than_never.htm

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER VAULTERS
221 Highland Rd, Washougal, WA 98671
Phone: 360-837-3152, Contact: Kerry Noble
First Year: 2007, Colors: Purple, Green

CASCADE VAULTERS
16422 NE 19th St, Bellevue, WA 98008
Phone: 425-837-3152, Contact: Kerry Noble
First Year: 2006, Colors: Black, Purple, Green

Carrie Wick

At Nationals, Joey of Harbor View supported Broken Top’s Laura Wright’s Bronze freestyle.

At Woodside, Cora Kotecki-Yourth joined us for a very fun two-hour practice on the morning after Halloween.

Cascade coach Tom Sayles performed in costume at Harbor View’s Oktoberfest.

CascadeVaulters.org website.

In 2008 the Krumker-Voltis vauliting club of Krumke, Germany again extended the hand of friendship to Woodside Vaulters in extraordinarily generous ways. Krumker-Voltis families hosted Woodside’s Gold individual vaulters at CVI Krumke and our B and C teams for training camps in Krumke in June. Marion Schulze, Krumker-Voltis’ coach and longeur, accompanied Woodside’s top vaulters to CVIO Aachen and the World Championships in Brno where she longed Pikkolo for all three American women individuals. We are grateful to Marion for her great kindness, skill and generosity, which enabled the US women to perform fabulously at these events.

Finally, we’d like to say hello to our two new little friends (and future Woodside vaulters!), Lena Parker, born to Head Coach Isabelle Bibbler Parker and Josh Parker on April 5, and Cora Kotecki-Yourth, born to former Woodside vaulter and coach Aleta Kotecki and Wes Youth on November 24. Our club says good-bye, thank you and good luck to Marina Olivieri, who is retiring from coaching to pursue a career in nursing.

Along with the Mt. Rainier Vaulters, the Harbor View Vaulters and the Washington contingent of the Valley View Vaulters we hosted a very successful 2008 Vaulters of the Northwest Spring Fest. In addition to a full slate of mounted and barrel competition classes, this year’s fest included booths for clubs, businesses and equestrian organizations as well as a silent auction. In June we participated in the 2008 Equine Vaulting Association of British Columbia’s Spring Into Summer Celebration in Chilliwack. During July our head coach, Tom Sayles, was the boys’ counselor and horse health instructor at the AVA’s Fort Robinson Camp. A few of our members attended the USEF/AVA National Vaulting Championships in Watsonville, California as spectators and volunteers. This fall our members participated in both the EVA of BC’s Provincial Vaulting Championships and in the Harbor View Vaulters’ Oktoberfest. We also had a fun costume practice on the morning after Halloween.

The highlight of our year was being featured on King 5 TV’s Evening Magazine in a segment on “Gymnastics on Horseback”. Mt. Rainier, Sky Mountain and Warm Beach vaulters joined us for a very fun two-hour practice session in front of the TV crew. A link to the video, which was broadcast in Seattle and carried on cable systems throughout the Pacific Northwest, is available from our CascadeVaulters.org website.

Continued
Cascade continued

During the last season, our volunteers donated more than 500 hours just supporting practices. Countless additional hours were spent managing the club and organizing vaulting events. Our plans for 2009 include hosting Mr. Rainier’s Winter Warm-up Fest in March and our Vaulters of the Northwest Spring Fest on May 2-3 and participating in two Canadian fests, Nationals in Kentucky, several clinics, demonstrations and other events. We are expanding into a two-horse-club with a perspective vaulting horse, Willow, now in training. For the latest information about the Cascade Vaulters, check out our CascadeVaulters.org website.

DEVONWOOD VAULTERS
34142 SW Johnson School Rd, Cornelius, OR 97113-6228, Email: sdetol@aol.com
Phone: 503-357-9651, Contact: Sue Detol
First Year: 2004, Colors: Dark Blue, Light Blue
Suzanne Detol

2008 was a year of change for our club. We had always vaulted out of the DevonWood Equestrian Centre and enjoyed a perfect environment. In February of 2008, however, the owners changed the footing to sand, which they felt was better for dressage. Unfortunately, we found that the sand was too wet and a bit too hard for our sport so, in April, we regrettably said goodbye to our friends at the DevonWood Equestrian Centre.

We moved our club to a facility 15 miles away, in North Plains, Oregon. The new facility is very welcoming and supportive of vaulting. The riding trails are superb, and Calando (our canter horse) seems to love “4-wheel driving” up and down the forested Federal lands. The canter vaulters trained hard for Nationals. We looked forward to Calando’s debut on the “big stage.” In early July Calando was injured in a turn-out accident. I brought him home shortly thereafter and our plans for Nationals were necessarily changed. Ingrid Hamar of Showtime Vaulters and Marci Siegel-Kittrell of Flying Star Vaulters came to our rescue. I would like to thank both clubs for generously sharing their horses to the DevonWood canter vaulters at Nationals 2008. We had a wonderful time and are so very grateful to both clubs for the opportunity to participate at Nationals.

Calando recovered and was ready for vaulting in August. We vaulted at the Detol home until the rains came. We have been working on technique on the barrel and cross training, yoga, weight lifting, and more.

We are currently anxiously awaiting the opening of a new barn in North Plains. It was designed after the DevonWood Equestrian Centre, and will even have the same vaulting-friendly footing. We have been invited to call it our home base and are anticipating being able to vault again by mid-January.

ECCO RIDGE VAULTERS
32655 NE Corral Cr, Newberg, OR 97132
Email: chance21559@aol.com
Phone: 503-537-0580, Contact: Chris Hull
First Year: 2008, Colors: Purple, White, Black
EMERALD CITY VAULTERS
PO Box 715, Wuana, WA 98395
Email: animalhousefarm@comcast.net
Phone: 253-318-2900, Contact: Deanne Buffum
First Year: 1992, Colors: Black, Teal
www.forwardstride.org

The Power of Community

Marcie Siegel-Kittrell

Although Flying Star Vaulters participated in a variety of events in 2008, the highlight was definitely the National Championships. This was our first year having the entire club participate in the event, and it was a memorable one. Vaulters, parents, siblings, horse and longeurs – all worked together to ensure a successful and organized event for our club. They began preparing for the competition before we left for the event, as the members all helped to get Rhubarb ready. Our longeur, Amber Henneck, and coach, Marci Siegel-Kittrell, made the trip with him. Traveling from Beaverton, Oregon to Watsonville, California was one long day. As is typical for the Flying Stars, they arrived late into the evening and were one of the first few clubs there. Rhubarb settled in as usual, anxious until he saw his vaulters and his family.

All our vaulting families worked together to make sure the responsibilities of the competition were covered. Everyone made sure to be there for scheduled chores, and the kids frequently offered to do more. Mackenzie Johnson and Sydney Dexter both pitched in to cover those early morning chores. I was so impressed that all of our vaulters supported each other, even when they were disappointed with their own performances. They made sure to be there after each go and show each vaulter what true friends they had. They put on brave faces when dealing with their disappointments. They proved that, no matter what happens in the competition arena, they’re still loved by many.

FLYING STAR VAULTERS
18218 SW Horse Tale Dr, Beaverton, OR 97007
Email: marci.siegel@gmail.com
Phone: 503-830-6222, Contact: Marci Siegel-Kittrell
First Year: 2006, Colors: Blue, Gold
www.forwardstrider.org

Although most of the competition went smoothly, there was quite an adventure for our club. While getting ready to warm up for the trot freestyles Rhubarb did something out of character. He backed up until he flipped over onto his back! Luckily we had a flat handled surcingle and he landed square. We got him up and several clubs jumped to our aid. As is always the case in this sport, members of the community never hesitate to help each other out. The other amazing part was that Rhubarb seemed to be ok. He showed no signs of lame-ness and was able to go in for the trot freestyles! Still in shock, we were thankful to have such an incredible horse! Not only that, but our vaulters were able to keep their cool and calm down after such a traumatic event. They all performed like pros and I couldn’t have been more proud! Afterward, the whole team came to Rhubarb’s aid, rubbing him with medicine and washing him off to soothe his muscles. Later that day, another member of the vaulting community came to our aid. Jenny Lazzee, one of Woodside’s coaches and also a veterinarian gave us the names of some local vets and chiropractors to call and agreed to look Rhubarb over herself. She was flabbergasted that she couldn’t find anything.

Erin Tinney of BrookWood (DevonWood) performed her Silver Freestyle on Showtime’s Sovira. Photo: Primo Ponies Photography
wrong with him. We can’t thank Jenny enough for giving us the peace of mind to allow our horse to continue with the event. All of the vaulters and parents continued to check in and make sure Rhubarb was walked frequently and hosed down to prevent stiffness. Once again, our club and the vaulting community pulled together for a successful event. Nationals 2008 was quite an emotional event. It’s not the wins or losses that make an event, but the memories that will last a lifetime.

HAPPY HORSE RIDING SCHOOL
548 Turtle Ln, Burbank, WA 99323
Email: lindylhrs@charter.net
Phone: 509-547-6035, Contact: Lindy Cogswell
First Year: 2008

HARBOR VIEW VAULTERS
10012 Creviston Dr. NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98329
Email: clrobison@narrows.com
Phone: 253-858-0857, Contact: Lori Robison
First Year: 2007;
Colors: Blue, Green, White, Turquoise

IRON MOUNTAIN VAULTERS
PO Box 1253, Lake Oswego, OR 97035
Email: LWaldman1@aol.com
Phone: 503-744-0765, Contact: Lisa Waldman
First Year: 2004;
Colors: Green, White

LEADING EDGE VAULTING TEAM
37107 N Short Rd, Deer Park, WA 99006
Email: jstephens@west.com
Phone: 509-991-0100, Contact: Julie Stephens
First Year: 2008;
Colors: Teal, Grey

MOUNTAIN WIND VAULTERS
192 C Jackknife Lookout Rd, Kettle Falls, WA 99141
Email: tsdenault@oz.net
Phone: 509-738-2077, Contact: Tamea C. Denault
First Year: 2006;
Colors: Teal, Bright Blue

MT. RAINIER VAULTERS
9412 258th Avenue E, Buckley, WA 98321
Email: ebkuki@ix3.com
Phone: 360-829-3298, Contact: Bonnie Kuki
First Year: 2002;
Colors: Black, White, Blue

Sue Mitchell
This past year has been one of great growth for the Mt. Rainier Vaulters. Eight new vaulters joined the club, bringing us to eighteen by the end of the year. We welcomed Ginger Dohmen back to the Pacific Northwest as our assistant coach and Paige Abbott debuted as our second longeur along with coach Bonnie Kuki. We also introduced two new horses in 2008. Peaches, an Oldenburg mare with a strong dressage background, has taken happily to vaulting and is already carrying our canter vaulters. Bene our baby, is a seven-year-old Spanish Norman mare just starting out at the Green Horse level. They are both wonderful teammates for veterans Smokey and Bonnie (the horse).

We opened the year by hosting a popular two-day clinic with Nancy Stevens-Brown. Nancy instructed 35 participants and auditors from Washington State and Canada and held 19 individual sessions over the course of the weekend. Vaulters Allison Mitchell was able to attend the AWA Annual Meeting, thanks to the generosity of Wendy Ware, Penny Maydak, and Kerry Noble, who agreed to be her “guardians” for the weekend! Several of us attended the Spirit of Vaulting in the Northwest conference, where vaulters learned lots of new skills to share with the club.

Through the spring and summer months, our vaulters demonstrated their skills in exhibitions at area 4-H and Pony Club events and participated in a series of clinics at the nearby Back Forte Equestrian Center. Coaches-in-Training Cherissa Porter, Stasie Henson and Allison Mitchell also spent the summer teaching vaulting as camp counselors, while Sydney Gusler and Olivia Abbott enjoyed clinics with the Warm Beach Vaulters. Our coaching staff attended longeing and coaching clinics taught by Jeff Moore and Suzanne Detol as well as the CHA Coaches Certification Clinic.

Mt. Rainier participated in just two competitions this year. With so many new vaulters, it was great have so much time to practice which allowed them to enjoy their very first competitions with confidence!

We are anticipating some exciting things for our club in 2009: hosting our very first competition in March; training a new Trot Team; traveling to Lexington for Nationals; and continuing to develop our new website, www.mtrainiervaulters.org. The Mt. Rainier Vaulters are proud to be a part of the amazing vaulting community in Region III.

NORTHWIND VAULTERS
16355 SW 319th Place, Hillsboro, OR 97123
Email: wenware@gmail.com
Phone: 503-628-0918, Contact: Wendy Ware
First Year: 1996;
Colors: Navy, Turquoise

REDWING VAULTERS
3016 256th Ave SE, Redmond, WA 98053.2515
Email: faithfarm5016@msn.com
Phone: 425-898-9778, Contact: Katy Venters
First Year: 1996;
Colors: Black, Red, Yellow

REGION III OF THE AWA
16355 SW 319th Place, Hillsboro, OR 97123
Email: region3AVA@gmail.com
Phone: 503-703-9177, Contact: Penny Maydak
First Year: 2006

WARM BEACH VAULTERS
28086 Marine Dr. Box 40, Stanwood, WA 98292
Email: pskipton@warmbeach.com
Phone: 360-652-7575 ext. 258, Contact: Patti Skipton
First Year: 2006;
Colors: Blue, Black, Silver

Patti Skipton
Warm Beach Vaulters had a full and fun year, with many firsts. We hosted our first Certified Horsemans Association Recreational Vaulting Coaches Certification clinic for twelve participants who shared many ideas and coaching techniques with all of us. Some of the coaches role-played as vaulters and many laughs were shared by all!

Several of our vaulters and their parents attended the AWA Annual Convention. The vaulters worked with Samantha Smith and came home very inspired. The parents had lots to think about as well. Having parents become involved with the AWA is such a help to the club as a whole.

The Spirit of Vaulting in the Northwest was our next big event, with attendance by all of our team vaulters and most of their parents. Vaulters had the awesome opportunity to work with many top AWA clinicians. We took three of our horses and enjoyed working on other clubs’ horses. It was an incredibly motivating weekend and set the standard for spring training at our club!
Tasha Thorner of Mt. Eden performs her 2008 National Championship Bronze freestyle on Sunny Boy.

Photo: Primo Ponies Photography
Patti had many reunion moments with former beavers and Gizdich Ranch were an added bonus! Nationals was awesome and the trips to the famous U-turns with the horse trailer this year! for 20 years, she didn't have to do any of her basement work. With five horses, there was plenty of horse time for all! In-between horse and barrel work, gymnastics, conditioning and video review the vaulters took some trail rides, went swimming, flew down the zipline and conquered the ropes course!

During the spring we competed only one time in our Region so we decided to travel to California for Woodside's Fest in June. Having our two teams and all our individuals compete in one day proved to be a challenge but we learned a lot and had a great time. The competition in California is definitely stiff.

Nationals, of course, was a highlight for our club. Since the fairgrounds was only a couple of miles from where coach Patti lived for 20 years, she didn't have to do any of her famous U-turns with the horse trailer this year! Nationals was awesome and the trips to the beach and Gizdich Ranch were an added bonus! Patti had many reunion moments with former Monte Vista Vaulters and the kids were all surprised at how old those vaulters were!

We stayed busy in the fall with a competition in Canada and another in Washington hosted by Harbor View Vaulters – very first! Two of our vaulters traveled to California for the USEF Team High Performance camp and Patti attended the Alex Hartel longeving clinic. Then we traveled to Canada for training with Alex Hartel, Samantha Smith and Devon Maitozo. What a wonderful trio of clinicians to work on every aspect of team and individual vaulting. We learned enough to carry us through the winter with no let-up in training.

Now, as I write this in December, we have over a foot of snow and eight draft horses living temporarily in our covered arena! Hmmm... I wonder if I could drive them like Erik Martonovich does and vault on all of them at once? At least everyone would stay warm that way! We’re having new records for snow, and our vaulters will continue to have many firsts as well as we continue in this great vaulting adventure!

### REGION IV

**ACORN VAULTERS**

732 Camino Del Bosque, Albuquerque, NM 87114

Email: scaskey@swcp.com
Phone: 505-459-4846, Contact: Susan Caskey
First Year: 2006, Colors: Silver, Blue

**Surface Vaulters**

302 Camino De La Placita, Albuquerque, NM 87102

Email: susancaskey@swcp.com
Phone: 505-459-4846, Contact: Susan Caskey
First Year: 2006, Colors: Silver, Blue

**The Acorn Club**

117 Camino Alto, Corrales, NM 87048, 7573

Email: merryvault@go.com
Phone: 505-898-6185, Contact: Merry Cole
First Year: 1983, Colors: Turquoise, Black

**Merry Cole**

2008 was an interesting year for the Albuquerque Vaulters. When Natalie Muelkie moved back to her home in Massachusetts we were left coachless. After a wonderful camp in Nebraska and a good showing at Nationals vaulters Loretta Gallegos and Hayley Hanson agreed to take on the coaching duties. Loretta teaches at the local gymnastics gym and Hayley is on the school softball team. Both girls are on the staff of a recognized foxhunt and ride up with the hounds. Teresa Salazar, former coach of the Rocking Horse Vaulters, serves as longeur and coach on Saturdays.

This has also been a year of publicity. Perhaps due to the upcoming WEG or my 30 years teaching vaulting, we have had lots of publicity. Here are some ideas that might help other clubs.

- Breed organizations are very happy to write articles about your successes and achievements! Our Irish draft horse, loaned to us by Robin Kelly of DigitalHorse.com was just getting started with her training when the magazine The Blarney wanted an article and pictures. We were happy to comply.

  - The National Spotted Draft Horse Association obtained some vaulting photos of our Pinto Percheron, John Boy Joe, which I had sent two years ago. Two of the photos will be on their 2009 calendar.
  - Hayley Hanson had a two-page article in a Junior issue of The Chronicle of the Horse about her vaulting and hunting activities.
  - Then a local free paper, Duke City Fit, which features sports in New Mexico wrote a whimsical two-page article on vaulting. The editor created a great ad for us, which I have used for other magazines.

  - We were approached about doing a clinic for refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Cuba and Liberia. The kids, ages 10-17, turned out to be very talented and really related to the horses, but were afraid of our sweet Labrador Retriever!

  - Currently I am being interviewed for an article in the same magazine on “Old Timers” who have made a difference in the community. The section is called Imprints.

We are now looking at fundraising ideas with the hopes of getting as many vaulters as possible to the 2009 Nationals in Kentucky.
The Woodside 2008 National Championship B Team performs their freestyle on Cheval.

Photo: Primo Ponies Photography
The C Team composed of vaulters from Balance, Great Falls, Silver Bay, Tambourine and Vaulting Visions clubs won the 2008 C Team National Championship on Gryffindor.

Photo: Primo Ponies Photography
Nicole Czyzewski and Lisa Turner of Golden Gate compete on Flash.

Photo courtesy Golden Gate

Noel Martonovich

Golden Gate made a big transition in 2008. We retired our super star horse, Doc, from competition. Doc is an 18 hand, unregistered beautiful sorrel Belgian with flaxen mane and tail. He had his first opportunity to compete at a local draft horse auction when he was five years old. He has been the backbone of the Golden Gate vaulting club and lesson program since 1997 when he went to his first Nationals. He has even performed as a dressage horse in several exhibitions. Doc became a friend to vaulters in the highest levels of competition as well as the beginning levels. No child has ever been hurt on his back. He was a safe, steady and reliable vaulting horse who loved his vaulters and his job. He is truly a gentle giant.

Doc has gone to live with his long-time partner, Erik Martonovich, in Las Vegas. He is now performing all over North America as part of Big Horse Productions and you can still see him on YouTube.

Golden Gate has replaced him with another incredible Belgian: Flash. After less than a year’s training and with the help of our other wonderful horses, Oliver and Sargent, Flash carried all the Golden Gate freestyles from Copper to Gold individuals as well as our B Team during the 2008 season. We all miss Doc but are very proud of our new horses.

Thanks to all the vaulters and their parents who worked so hard to make a successful transition this year.

LONE STAR VAULTERS
11316 Jollyville #167, Austin, TX 78759
Email: rosie@americanvaulting.org
Phone: 512-968-1561, Contact: Rose Brown
First Year: 2006, Colors: Red, White
www.lonestarvaulters.com

Lone Star’s Alex Schaubhut displayed her freestyle on Mile-High’s Amidalata at Nationals.

Photo: Primo Ponies Photography

Rosie Brown

2008 was a year of great accomplishments for the Lone Star Vaulters. We attended our first competitions where most vaulters placed in the top ten at both local events and Nationals. We performed at the Austin Rodeo, San Antonio Rodeo, Budafest Christmas Parade and participated in clinics in Austin with Nancy Stevens-Brown and Jeff Moore.

The local FOX News Edge took an interest in our sport and even gave us a minute in the spotlight. The number of our club members doubled in the second half of ‘08 and continues to grow. Our new horse, Teddy, is coming along well and Poncho continues to improve. Vegas has begun his training and will be very nice for vaulting as well. Poncho and Vegas were cast as “extras” in a Friday Night Lights episode.

We already have a full schedule for 2009 between rodeos, horse shows, clinics, and competitions. It will be busy! A big thank you to the Brown and Schaubhut families (the sponsors who helped us to get to Nationals) for their continued support and to all the members of this great club. Vault strong!

MILE-HIGH VAULTERS
2525 Weld County Rd. 21, Fort Lupton, CO 80621
Email: chestnutvauleter@yahoo.com
Phone: 303-931-7072, Contact: Jodi Rinard
First Year: 2002, Colors: Green, Gold

Dena Madden

The Mile High Vaulters almost have more horses than vaulters this year. We have been training six young horses and still have Ami and Sampson for our competition horses. We have nine regular vaulters plus a few part-time vaulters, ranging from toddler to AARP age. We were in a parade, went to Nationals in California, attended a “Jackpot” show, and gave demonstrations at horse shows and parties. We have new uniforms with a great design!

Outside of vaulting you will find our members directing plays, performing in the Nutcracker ballet, winning a martial arts competition and making crafts for our year-end party – all while going to school or working.

What is it that keeps us going? I think that it is the relationships. Our horses are the greatest. From Sam who thinks he is a 19 hand lap dog to Ami who thinks the best command is “Stop,” they all have their own personalities. I enjoy watching the teenagers nurture, nag and cajole the toddlers into their moves and the smiles all around when it comes together. I have seen our vaulters coach their competitors – even at a competition – to get the best out of everyone. We work together and have fun together. It is an unbeatable combination.
Mt. Eden’s Joey Gadd won the 2008 National Bronze Men’s Championship with his freestyle on Amadeus.

Photo: Primo Ponies Photography
VAULTERS DEL SOL
1282 Mountain Valley Rd, Sandia Park, NM 87047
Email: vaultersdelsol@earthlink.net
Phone: 505-281-6835, Contact: Ann Shubert
First Year: 2007

WELSH RABBIT VAULTING CLUB
3721 Country Vista Dr., Burleson, TX 76028
Email: txvaulting@yahoo.com
Phone: 817-561-9947, Contact: Meg Fletcher
First Year: 1996, Colors: Black, Purple

Megan Fletcher
The Welsh Rabbits had a quiet year as we are still looking for a replacement horse for Nita, our Belgian mare who had soundness issues ever since performing at the annual meeting in Texas last year. So my vaulters are mostly confined to the walk. We will have the most advanced walk vaulters in the country! Sticking to a slow gait has given them a lot of confidence and first year vaulters are trying some pretty amazing tricks.

Recently a friend needed to find new homes for her horses and we inherited a Hanoverian mare that might work, so wish us luck!

The highlight of our year was taking part in a Nancy Stevens-Brown clinic put on by the Lone Star Vaulters. Our vaulters worked hard and came home feeling like Gold medal vaulters. Again, they worked mostly at a walk. Oh well, they still got a good feel for the choreography and did some things they KNEW they couldn’t do on any other gait.

We also worked the Burleson Boo Bash on Halloween, and handed out hundreds of flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy - our flyers with thousands of pieces of candy.

WESTERN SLOPE VAULTERS
800-1400 LANE, Delta, CO 81416
Email: vaultersdelsol@earthlink.net
Phone: 248-933-2822, Contact: Katherine Metzger
First Year: 2006, Colors: Black, Silver, Red

REGION IX

BALANCE VAULTERS
1887 Spruce Lane, Maidens, VA 23102
Email: kathieflannagan@comcast.net
Phone: 804-556-6376, Contact: Katie Flannagan
First Year: 1996, Colors: Black, Green, White
www.balancevaulters.org

BLUE STAR VAULTERS
832 Copeland Rd, Suffolk, VA 23434
Email: puppydreams3@aol.com
Phone: 757-621-6442, Contact: Nicole D’Auriol
First Year: 2002
Colors: Royal Blue, Light Blue, Silver

CATR FARMS VAULTING TEAM
19 South Hampton Drive, Charleston, SC 29407
Email: anja_cain@bellsouth.net
Phone: 843-766-4359, Contact: Anja Cain
First Year: 2007

CAVALIER VAULTERS (Inactive Club)
193 Duck Pond Dr, Grotto, MA 01450
Email: jannweber@gmail.com
Phone: 978-448-4193
First Year: 1996, Colors: Green, Blue, White

DREAM WEAVER VAULTERS
861 State Highway 80, New Berlin, NY 13411
Email: mlw555@gmail.com
Phone: 607-287-1292, Contact: MacKenzie Waro
First Year: 2008, Colors: Maroon, Silver

FALCONWOOD VAULTERS
1187 Floyd Street, Covington, GA 30014
Email: falconwoodfarms@yahoo.com
Phone: 770-786-7283, Contact: Priscilla B. Faulkner
First Year: 1989, Colors: Blue, Black, Red
www.falconwoodvaulters.com
Priscilla Faulkner

It has been a very exciting year for us but also a year of change! For the first time we have hosted both a spring and a fall competition at our farm. We also hosted a vaulting clinic to help introduce our wonderful sport to barns in Georgia, Tennessee, and South Carolina. Following our fall competition in September came a tough time for our club. We had to say good bye to one of our horses, Angus. He had been retired for about ten years but was one of those horses that wanted to keep on living his luxurious life as a yard friend, a therapeutic horse and a vaulting horse. Angus was the first horse I competed on and a first for many vaulters at Falconwood. He was the kind of horse that never needed a long line and loved everyone. A former vaulter, Sally Boyd said, “I remember when I was six and I would literally climb up the side of that poor horse because I could only reach the Cossack loops...good times.”

In October our canter team started their 5-month workout in our gym at the farm. We are focusing on conditioning and strength exercises to help improve our performance and technique on the horse. Our tiny tots are also following a new direction this year by focusing their practices on games on and around the horse. Instead of focusing only on form they are moving around on the horse and feel more comfortable. Our trot team is improving their strength with the addition of new vaulters. They are adding games to their compulsories and freestyles on the horse as well. We have found that the more creative you make practice and the more you switch things up each week, practice is more fun for everyone.

GREAT FALLS
11021 Dobbins Dr., Potomac, MD 20854
Email: williams@ontologyworks.com
Phone: 301-983-9795, Contact: Jennifer Williams
First Year: 1978, Colors: Green, Maroon, Blue
Elizabeth Brigham

2008 was Great Falls Vaulters 30th year as an AVA Recognized Club! In the fall of 2007, our newest canter horse Pete joined our club. He was not new to vaulting but had enjoyed a break from the sport since 2004. It took a little bit of time to get him back into shape, but he has become an irreplaceable member of our club. When our veteran canter horse Murphy went lame in the spring, Pete stepped up and carried our vaulters at our Mother’s Day Fest and at Regionals all by himself. Luckily, after a very thorough lameness exam, our vet was able to find the source of Murphy’s lameness – a broken splint bone in his hind leg. He had minor surgery in June and, after a couple months of rest and TLC with all of the vaulters taking turns coming out to the barn to hand-walk him, he is sound and happy again. This December we welcomed another new horse, Zoey, to the club. We hope she will become our Trot Team horse. In just a few weeks she is making huge improvements and seems to be enjoying her new job.

We once again co-hosted two USEF/AVA Recognized fests with Topaz Vaulters and Virginia Vaulters in May and September. Putting on two big competitions each year is always a lot of work, but also a lot of fun. We enjoyed havingvaulters from California join us in May for our selection trial fest. Of course we always enjoy the company of our judges who travel so far to come judge for us. We also hosted our annual St. Patrick’s Day Barrel Fest in March and attended the Region IX Championships in New Jersey. Several of our vaulters also attended Falconwood’s Spring and Fall Festivals and the Shea Rose Fest in April. We hosted two clinics with Kerith Lemon as well as attending several other clinics throughout the year. Elizabeth Brigham represented us at the spring selection trial fests and Nationals in California, the CVIO in Austria and the CVI in Australia.

We are very thankful for all the amazing vaulters and parents who make up our club and to all of the other clubs that have offered us horses this year. We are especially excited to have such a great group of novice vaulters join us this year. We thank our wonderful coach Jen Williams for all the hard work that she does to keep our club running and to make sure everyone has lots of fun. We are looking forward to hosting the 2009 AVA Annual Convention in Washington D.C. and to celebrating our 30th anniversary. We hope to see you all there!
### HIGH VAULTAGE
872 Rte 146 A, Clifton Park, NY 12065
Email: anjatoole@verizon.net, First Year: 2005
Phone: 518-877-8303, Contact: Anja O'Toole

### IMAGE VAULTERS
11760 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20191
Phone: 401-481-6439, Contact: Stephanie Harris
First Year: 2006, Colors: Maroon, Grey, White

### IN STEP VAULTERS
5024 Ogg Rd, Cedar Hill, TN 37032
Email: Rwodaywoodfarm@aol.com
Phone: 615-382-4360, Contact: Lily K. Wray-Davis
First Year: 2005, Colors: Red, White

### MATRIX VAULTING PROGRAMS
200 Rockingham Rd, Seneca, SC 29672
Email: amymercuc@yahoo.com, First Year: 1996, Colors: Blue, White

### MIRACLE MTN. RANCH (Affiliate Club)
101 Rodeo Dr, Spring Creek, PA 16436
Email: mmrchip@mmrm.org
Phone: 814-664-7673, Contact: Sandy Hungerford
First Year: 2005

### MT. TABOR VAULTERS
620 Deercroft Dr., Blackburg, VA 24060,8910
Email: kbeseckeck@vt.edu
Phone: 540-951-4816, Contact: Kim Beisecker
First Year: 1990, Colors: Purple, Jade Green, Black

### NEW ENGLAND VALKRYIES
PO Box 404, Littleton, MA 01460
Email: papageno@juno.com, First Year: 1994
Phone: 978-952-6787, Contact: Rachael E. Markels Webber

### ONOATOK VAULTING
1066 Signal Valley Trail, Chelsea, AL 35043
Email: nancyaufhammer@bellsouth.net
Phone: 205-678-3340, Contact: Nancy Aufhammer
First Year: 2008

### PARADISE VAULTERS
3037 Friends Rd, Hayes, VA 23072
Email: parodichan@aol.com
Phone: 804-684-9936, Contact: Suzanne Parodi
First Year: 2005, Colors: Black, Gold

**Sheri Adkins**

It is time to look back and see where we began and how far we have come. Our new horse Portos (Joe to all his vaulters) now has one competition under his ample belt. Because of the great helping spirit of other vaulters he was able to stay offsite, which helped his nerves and managed to get through his events without incident. He seemed to enjoy all of the moves and lessons that he was able to teach us before he left us.

We had two students earn their novice pins and two working towards their Bronze. We are very excited to have a German Exchange Student coming to live with us in January who

---

**Renaissance vaulters perform their triple on Avalon.** Photo courtesy of Renaissance Pam Fleurant

Renaissance Farm Vaulting Club is the only vaulting club in New Hampshire. Although vaulting all year is a challenge for us with long winters, we seem to manage. We attended Region IX Championships and our scores were an improvement from the previous year. We also drove 13 hours to the Great Falls/Topaz USEF recognized event in September and did well.

The club is looking forward to 2009 to compete in our first National Championships in Kentucky on our own horses. We are fortunate to have Kerith Lemon live close by to help us throughout the year at clinics and camps.

**ROOF FARM VAULTERS**
6000 Rock Rd, Verona, NY 13478
Email: office@rootfarm.org, Phone: 315-363-6124, Contact: Pete Senn, First Year: 2005, Colors: Green, Black, www.rootfarm.org

**Kim Senn**

What an amazing vaulting year this turned out to be! The Root Farm vaulters spent much of the summer “On the Road” doing vaulting demonstrations and clinics. Transporting our barrels and horses allowed many special needs groups around the county an opportunity to experience vaulting. On one morning over 120 kids had the chance to vault on our horses.

When not traveling, the vaulters held additional practices to get ready for the Renaissance Barrel Fest. We had the largest number of vaulters from our club ever at that competition. Some of our vaulters got the chance to vault on great vaulting horses borrowed from Pam Fleurant.

The Root Farm club added new members in the summer and fall. Some of our former members returned to join the fun. The moves have become more challenging as the team matures. The vaulters worked hard on a routine for the Root Farm fundraiser: a unique equestrian theatrical production entitled “Angels for Children: The Magical Horse.” The show illustrated the historical role of horses as physical and emotional healers among humankind.

New challenges found us…only with a few days left to fine-tune our routine, we lost power just as practice started. Practice continued in the dark by flashlight – talk about having trust in your horse and teammates!

Our 2009 adaptive vaulting symposium is set for May 1-3, 2009. Once again Rick and Virginia Hawthorne will come east from California to inspire therapists, vaulters and horse enthusiasts with their extensive knowledge and experience of therapeutic and competitive vaulting. The last day of the symposium will be a barrel competition judged by Rick for vaulters of all abilities.

The vaulters plan to go to more competitions this year including our first trip to Nationals. Check our website www.rootfarm.org for updates on the symposium and our “Angels” event.

---

**SHEA-ROSE VAULTERS**
2411 Waxhaw-Marvin Rd, Marvin, NC 28173
Email: shearose@mindspring.com
Phone: 704-843-4306, Contact: Carol Land
First Year: 1993, Colors: Red, Black, White, Silver
www.shearosevaulters.org

**SHOOTING STARS VAULTING CLUB**
6903 Harding Hwy, Mays Landing, NJ 08330
Email: vanvrank@yahoo.com
Phone: 609-476-4266, Contact: Dana Van Vranken
First Year: 1998, Colors: Purple, Silver, Black
shootingstarsvaulting.org

**SILVER STAR VAULTERS**
9615 Simpson Rd, Waxhaw, NC 28173
Email: Touchthesky12891@aol.com
Phone: 704-843-9412, Contact: Dusti Hausman
First Year: 2005, Colors: Teal, Silver, White

---

**SHEA-ROSE VAULTERS**
2411 Waxhaw-Marvin Rd, Marvin, NC 28173
Email: shearose@mindspring.com
Phone: 704-843-4306, Contact: Carol Land
First Year: 1993, Colors: Red, Black, White, Silver
www.shearosevaulters.org

**SHOOTING STARS VAULTING CLUB**
6903 Harding Hwy, Mays Landing, NJ 08330
Email: vanvrank@yahoo.com
Phone: 609-476-4266, Contact: Dana Van Vranken
First Year: 1998, Colors: Purple, Silver, Black
shootingstarsvaulting.org

**SILVER STAR VAULTERS**
9615 Simpson Rd, Waxhaw, NC 28173
Email: Touchthesky12891@aol.com
Phone: 704-843-9412, Contact: Dusti Hausman
First Year: 2005, Colors: Teal, Silver, White

**SMOOTH MOVES VLTG TEAM (Affiliate Club)**
2507 Mill Rd, Powhatan, VA 23139
Email: treckpitt@msn.com
Phone: 804-598-0171, Contact: Kathy Pitt
First Year: 2001, Colors: Green, Tan

---

**SPIRIT CREEK VAULTERS**
325 Main Ave, Millway, NJ 08340
Email: bbleifuss@comcast.net
Phone: 609-501-0947, Contact: Brandi Bleifuss
First Year: 2008, Colors: Blue, Black
Karim Schmidt

Life has been very busy, as it is for most people. I took over all of Stonehill Stable and am managing 22 horses. Of course vaulting is one of the main things we do at the stable. Lately we have to deal with pretty extreme weather conditions – Snow, more snow and even more snow, ice, thawing, flooded stalls, winds that took sheds and fences down, and frost – you name it. The worst was that we lost a horse. He had severe colic and couldn’t be saved. People say things like this are part of life, but still, it is so hard.

Our new horse, Caspian, is soon turning seven and coming along nicely. I built up quite a nice group of recreational vaulters but in this kind of weather the number has shrunk by about 90%. I just hope some of them will be back in the spring. Other than that we are doing fine. The horses get worked very regularly and our kids are very devoted to training inside and at the barn. We have the big goal of going to the Nationals this year.

Leoni Schmidt on Caspian

Photo: Karin Schmidt

AGAPE VAULTERS

32510 School St, Dowagiac, MI 49047
Email: jegger@epowerc.net
Phone: 269-782-3206, Contact: Jane Egger
First Year: 1986, Colors: Black, Red, White

Ruthann Goodrich of Agape performed on Half Moon Bay’s Pixie.

Photo: Primo Ponies Photography

Photo: Primo Ponies Photography

BLUE SKY VAULTERS

808 E. Dunkerton Rd., Cedar Falls, IA 50613
Email: c.f.equcenter@cfu.net
Phone: 319-240-7392, Contact: Deb DeVries
First Year: 2008, Colors: Blue, Silver
www.cfsequistrancenter.com

CEDAR LODGE

PO Box 218, Lawrence, MI 49064
Email: info@cedarlodged.com, First Year: 2006
Phone: 269-674-8071, Contact: Amy Edwards
www.cedarlodges.com

COUNTRYSTYLE VAULTERS

15839 Floating Bridge Rd, Three Rivers, MI 49093
Email: four_r_ranch@juno.com, First Year: 2007
Phone: 269-816-4468, Contact: Brooke Ruggles
Judy Ruggles

Even though we are club of only three vaulters, we are a very strong and active group. We hosted three AVA recognized competitions in Region X in 2008 – not a small feat for a large club. We alone three vaulters. By hosting events, we were able to vault AVA Zone Award jackets. We will be hosting two shows prior to Nationals in 2009.

Our club, in partnership with Timberlaine vaulters, produced a second annual 2009 calendar featuring vaulters in our region. This was a successful fundraiser. We already have ideas for next year and are looking forward to doing it again. We also sold holiday wreaths for the first time and expect this to be a successful fundraiser for next year.

We embrace the opportunity to compete at Nationals in our own region. We will be bringing our horses DJ and Katrina. Watch for us in the Bronze and Silver divisions.

ELEMENTS OF GRACE

1477 10th St. SE, Buffalo, MN 55313
Email: boyd1477@yahoo.com
Phone: 763-227-7347, Contact: Sally Boyd
First Year: 2008, Colors: Aqua, Orange, Black

FIDDLER’ GREEN VAULTERS

14222 Harder Road, Three Rivers, MI 49093
Email: vaultingmomde@peoplepc.com
Phone: 269-273-2667, Contact: Cindy Mehaney
First Year: 2004, Colors: Black, Teal, Silver

GRAHAM ACRES VAULTING

5451 McKinley, China, MI 48054
Email: graham.acres@comcast.net
Phone: 810-765-4076, Contact: Janet Huff
First Year: 2008, Colors: Black, Brown, Purple

IN-STRIDE VAULTERS

W7810 Loveland Road, Poyette, WI 53955
Email: zumreithof@yahoo.com
Phone: 608-635-2968, Contact: Carol Nelson
First Year: 2005

IN-STRIDE VAULTERS

W7810 Loveland Road, Poyette, WI 53955
Email: zumreithof@yahoo.com
Phone: 608-635-2968, Contact: Carol Nelson
First Year: 2005
In Memory of Holly

Carrie Wick

Woodside Vaulters has bid a sad farewell to our lovely trot horse, Holly. She was known at AVA competitions, as "Miss Holly Wood" because of her beautiful big brown eyes and gorgeous eyelashes. Holly, a Percheron/Quarter Horse cross, came to Woodside in 2002. She was a gentle and steadfast trot horse through years of practices and competitions, and a beloved friend. Nearly every Woodside vaulter started their career on Holly. She carried several individual champions and Woodside’s 2005 National Trot Team Champions.

Holly traveled widely to competitions, including three National Championships in Denver. She sustained a minor injury during the trailer ride from Woodside to Denver on the way to Nationals in August 2007. She was unable to enter the ring and was never quite the same after that. The Warrens kindly invited Holly to stay with them in Rocky Mountain House, where she recuperated. For nearly 16 months Holly enjoyed the care and attention of the Warrens and their family. She spent several Christmas holidays with the Plungy family and she never fussed about anything. Holly also loved her special snacks. Lisa recalls that Holly adored “corn pops, corn bread and the tangerines called California Cuties.” Holly was practically a member of Lisa’s family. She was adored by the Plungy family and Lisa’s parents, Chris and Gary Warren, at their 8-acre property in San Juan Bautista, California.

Holly was truly a well-rounded horse. Lisa described Holly as an “awesome trail horse,” and she enjoyed riding Holly in a dressage competition. Holly also was an adored participant in the Woodside chapter of US Pony Club, taking Tori Greenen (sister of vaulter Yvonne Greenen) through her D1, D2, D3 and C1 level ratings between 2005 and 2007, and participating in the Woodside Pony Club Classic Horse Show in 2006. Holly especially loved going through water on cross-country courses and across streams on trail rides.

Holly traveled widely to competitions, including three National Championships in Denver. She sustained a minor injury during the trailer ride from Woodside to Denver on the way to Nationals in August 2007. She was unable to enter the ring and was never quite the same after that. The Warrens kindly invited Holly to stay with them in Rocky Mountain House, where she recuperated. For nearly 16 months Holly enjoyed the care and attention of the Warrens and Lisa while the club looked forward to her recovery and return to vaulting. However, this was not to be. After a series of setbacks, Holly succumbed to colic at age 16 on November 11, 2008.

Woodside Vaulters offer heartfelt thanks to Lisa and the Warrens for their kind care of Holly, and sadly say goodbye to their sweet and beautiful mare.

Holly and Tori Greenen on their way to US Pony Club C1 rating. Photo: Yvonne Greenen
Three Easy Ways to Be a Vaulting Evangelist

Sheri Benjamin

1. Wear Vaulting Gear or Display Vaulting “Stuff” – it’s a great conversation starter

Whether you’re a parent, a vaulter, a coach, a judge, vaulting alumni or simply a vaulting enthusiast, you can help evangelize our sport by simply wearing your National Championships t-shirt, or any other vaulting clothing you own, on a regular basis.

Our new AVA car decals, with our website URL displayed under a silhouette of a vaulting team, is also great way to evangelize our sport. Every car, truck and horse trailer you own should feature this distinctive and fun decal. And for a very modest price you can buy additional decals and get the grandparents, the babysitter and your riding coach to help evangelize our sport as well. If you are a member of a vaulting club, ask each and every member to make sure that decal finds its way from their membership packet (not doing much good there!) onto a car or truck, where it will be seen by dozens to hundreds of people every day.

2. Know Your “Vaulting Elevator Speech”

In business, an elevator speech is the short riff you give when someone asks you more about your company. It’s always good to know your Vaulting Elevator Speech before someone asks you about vaulting. If you’re wearing vaulting clothing, or displaying your vaulting car decal, people will ask: “What is vaulting?”

Here are some things you might want to include in your vaulting elevator speech:

• First, you might want to clarify by calling our sport equestrian vaulting, since many people are confused as to whether an equine is even involved!
• Equestrian vaulting is gymnastics and dance on a moving horse.
• Vaulting is the safest of all equestrian sports — safer than jumping and safer than riding. In fact, vaulting is even statistically safer than playing soccer, or simply playing on a playground! (This is a very powerful point, and gets people to really look at our sport differently.)
• Vaulting is great because a group of vaulters share the cost of a single horse, making it one of the more affordable equestrian sports.
• Vaulting is a team and individual sport and can be done on a recreational basis or competitively. Vaulters can be either male or female, and range in age from toddlers to 50-year-olds.

3. Get the Vaulting Word Out

You don’t have to be a professional public relations or Web 2.0 guru to help get the word out about vaulting in your area:

• Publicize events in your local area: upcoming competitions, of course, but also a two-hour “try vaulting” event at your local club, your team’s yearly tryouts, parades in which you will participate. Get on the local web and newspaper calendars for these events. (Be sure you actually read the publication or website to which you’re submitting your news, and understand its deadlines so you don’t miss the boat! Mimic whatever format they actually use.)
• Publicize your winners: local to national competition winners, parade winners, recipients of medals at AVA Medal Tests, etc.
• Use blogs, Twitter, MySpace and Facebook to continue to evangelize vaulting. Parents – never heard any of the above? Ask your vaulters to teach you more about these tools!
• Be sure you have a vaulting website for your club, and that it’s updated on a regular basis. Make sure your club’s URL, as well as the URL of the AVA, are included in all vaulting communications you send out.
• Publicize all of the above to not only the community-at-large, but to your local equestrian community as well.

Warm Beach Camp presents:

VAULTING CAMPS

Concentrated learning & training techniques to improve compulsories and encourage creativity in freestyles. All levels invited.

Instructor:
Patti Skipton, WBC Vaulting Coach

Guest Clinician, April 5-10 Camp:
Samantha Smith, Gold Level International Competitor

Camp Dates:
April 5-10, 2009 (ages 10-16) $396
April 17-19, 2009 (ages 7-18) $198
Aug. 16-22, 2009 (ages 10-18) $568

Register Today!
360-652-7575
WarmBeach.Com
Looking Forward to CVI Lexington

Kerith Lemon

Mark your calendars, the United States will be hosting The Lexington Vaulting Cup, a CVI * and **, to be held at the Kentucky Horse Park July 27 - August 2, 2009. As the official vaulting test event for the 2010 World Equestrian games, the Lexington Vaulting Cup will be the premiere chance for vaulters to experience the new 6,000 seat climate-controlled indoor arena and beautiful 1,200 acres of lush grounds nestled in Kentucky’s famous Bluegrass Region.

One and Two Star Competitions

The CVI will offer * and ** level competitions for teams, individuals and Pas de Deux. This is a great chance for everyone to compete in an international competition on your own home turf. In a one star CVI event, teams perform a modified compulsory and free test routines. The compulsory movements are divided into two blocks including: mount, riding seat, half mill, reverse click, flag, stand and clicks. The freestyle allows any amount of single and double movements and six triple exercises.

In the two star CVI event, teams perform their compulsory and free test routines as per the A level of USEF competition.

Bronze, Silver and Gold

Vaulters are Welcome

All individual vaulters who will be 14 in the year of 2009 and who have their Bronze, Silver or Gold medal are eligible for competition. One star competitors will perform two rounds of compulsory and free test routines; two star competitors will perform a technical test in the second round.

Pas de Deux Competition

At the Lexington Vaulting Cup, the Pas de Deux competition is open to pairs of two vaulters of the same or opposite gender. Either type of pairs are eligible to compete so now is the time to get creative! Both vaulters must be 14 or older and hold their Bronze, Silver or Gold medals to be eligible.

Horses, Horse, Horses

The Kentucky Horse Park is the national headquarters for the USEF and is an equine theme park facility dedicated to man’s relationship with the horse. Come attend with your own vaulters and/or make your horse available to vaulters from the national and international vaulting community. Vaulters from around the world will be looking to borrow individual, Pas de Deux, and team horses for this event. A great way for clubs to share expenses is to list your horse on vaultinghorses.org (see page 2, December 2009 Vaulting World).

Make sure you plan ahead! For the CVI your horse will need at least a National Passport (request for the necessary waiver is still pending with FEI). It may be most cost effective to get a National Passport in 2009 and, if needed, upgrade to an FEI Passport in 2010 but you may skip the National Passport. Every situation is different, so consider what will work best for your horse and club. You must get the passport approved by the USEF. The forms are available at www.usef.org/contentPage2.aspx?id=formspubs&subjecthorse. Print the forms, fill out what you can and give them to your vet, and then send them to USEF. This may take a number of months so do not wait until the last minute! Your horses’ participation will depend on having correct and complete paperwork! To learn about the necessary requirements visit www.usef.org and www.fei.org.

Volunteer at the CVI and WEG

Unable to attend with vaulters this year? The 2010 World Equestrian Games will need thousands of volunteers. Get involved now by helping out at CVI Lexington. All volunteers wishing to participate at 2010 WEG will need to participate in CVI Lexington. To add your name to our volunteer registry, visit the WEG website at www.feigames2010.org and click on “Get Involved.”

Vacation

The CVI will be a wonderful chance for families to see some of the United States’ most beautiful horse country. The Blue Grass Airport (LEX) is the official airport of Lexington; however, the Cincinnati airport (CVG) is also an option.

For information about housing contact Krista Greathouse at Short’s Sports and Events (kgreathouse@shortstravel.com) for blocks of ten rooms or more. You can make single reservations at: www.planningpoint.net/Registrations/index.cfm?Display=dsp_waves.cfm&EventID=999. If you want to rent a home or apartment check out Event Home Leasing at www.eventhomeleasing.com. There will also be camping available onsite for the CVI with camper rental available through www.northsidervcs.com.


Michigan Teams Demonstration

Karen Rach

The North American Horse Fest was held in Novi, Michigan at the Rock Financial Showplace, November 7 – 9, 2008. Karen Rach, coach of Michigan Vaulting Club hosted a weekend-long informational booth at this event and conducted a seminar involving vaulting. Vaulters from the Michigan Vaulting Team and the Sunshine Vaulting Club participated in “Night of the Horse” performances on Friday and Saturday evenings. These vaulters did the sport proud!

Photo courtesy of Karen Rach
Elizabeth Brigham

In October, I had the opportunity to travel to Sydney, Australia for CVI**Sydney. The CVI was held at the Sydney International Equestrian Center that was built for the 2000 Olympic Games. The very long flight (6 hours from Maryland to California and then 14 hours from San Francisco to Australia) was more than worth it. Since I was traveling by myself, I really appreciated how everyone in Australia adopted me and made me feel at home right away. A large number of the teams camped on the grounds or stayed in cabins right at the horse park. I met lots of vaulters while I was trying out horses and eating with everyone in the mess hall. Almost everyone was really generous about letting me try out their horses so that I could find the best match for me. I owe a big thanks to Bronwen Lowe and the vaulters from New Zealand who did a great job competing at the CVI, which was their first competition!

After awards there was a big banquet at a hotel to give out the perpetual trophies for the National Championships. It was fun to see everyone dressed up and to have one last chance to talk to everyone and exchange e-mail addresses before going home. I certainly hope that I will see my new friends again either in Australia or at WEG in Kentucky. Before I left Doug and Jenny Denby (the competition organizers) made sure that I got to see some of downtown Sydney. The Sydney Harbor is gorgeous, especially on a sunny spring day, and the Opera House is really as beautiful as it is in pictures.

It is always an amazing experience to travel to a vaulting competition and have the opportunity to represent not only my club but also the United States. No matter where I go in the world, vaulters and their families always prove to be some of the most generous and welcoming people I have ever met.

CVI** Sydney, Australia

FEI Recognized • October 10-12, 2008
Judges: E. Dolinski, A. Deeks, N. Fritzell

Participating Countries: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, USA

Compulsories Round 1 - Women

1. Tristyn Lowe - Bremen, Bronwen Lowe - Australia .................................................. 7.763
2. Samantha Blunden - Montage, Greg Blunden - Australia ........................................ 7.407
4. Alisa Porter - Mr. Tao, Karen Ford - Canada .......................................................... 6.722
5. Krystle Lander - Special Event, Lyn Lynch - Australia .......................................... 6.656
7. Elizabeth Brigham - Skye, Bronwen Lowe - USA ............................................... 6.548

Freestyle Round I - Women

1. Tristyn Lowe - Bremen, Bronwen Lowe - Australia .................................................. 7.839
2. Samantha Blunden - Montage, Greg Blunden - Australia ........................................ 7.497
4. Alisa Porter - Mr. Tao, Karen Ford - Canada .......................................................... 7.061
7. Elizabeth Brigham - Skye, Bronwen Lowe - USA ............................................... 6.316

Technical Test Round II - Women

1. Tristyn Lowe - Bremen, Bronwen Lowe - Australia .................................................. 7.827
2. Samantha Blunden - Montage, Greg Blunden - Australia ........................................ 6.743
4. Elizabeth Brigham - Skye, Bronwen Lowe - USA ............................................... 6.210
6. Emma Moulds - Montage, Greg Blunden - Australia ............................................. 5.517
7. Alisa Porter - Mr. Tao, Karen Ford - Canada .......................................................... 5.423
8. Abbi Priston-Turner - Special Event, Lyn Lynch - New Zealand ................... 5.820

Freestyle Round II - Women

1. Tristyn Lowe - Bremen, Bronwen Lowe - Australia .................................................. 8.160
2. Samantha Blunden - Montage, Greg Blunden - Australia ........................................ 8.147
4. Alisa Porter - Mr. Tao, Karen Ford - Canada .......................................................... 7.453
5. Krystle Lander - Special Event, Lyn Lynch - Australia .......................................... 7.300
6. Elizabeth Brigham - Skye, Bronwen Lowe - USA ............................................... 7.922

Overall - Women

1. Tristyn Lowe - Bremen, Bronwen Lowe - Australia .................................................. 7.897
2. Samantha Blunden - Montage, Greg Blunden - Australia ........................................ 7.404
5. Alisa Porter - Mr. Tao, Karen Ford - Canada .......................................................... 6.665
6. Elizabeth Brigham - Skye, Bronwen Lowe - USA ............................................... 6.525
7. Emma Moulds - Montage, Greg Blunden - Australia ............................................. 6.355
8. Abbi Priston-Turner - Special Event, Lyn Lynch - New Zealand ................... 4.918

Elizabeth enjoys the sights of Sydney, Australia. Photo courtesy Elizabeth Brigham
USEF Honors

Linda Bibbler Honored by the USEF

Diane Popp

Linda Bibbler has been selected as one of USEF’s Top Ten Show Secretaries of the Year by the USEF Sport Data Staff. I told Linda, “You’ve made my life a lot simpler”. Linda’s major contributions include working out a manageable electronic reporting system for vaulting results and her ongoing work on the USEF Vaulting Horse of the Year tracking system. She is being acknowledged for her achievement at the Competition Management Seminar held at the 2009 USEF Annual Meeting. She has also earned a $1000 grant from the USEF to help cover her expenses to attend the Seminar. Congratulations!

USEF Vaulter of the Year

Elizabeth Osborn

Isabelle Parker

The United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) has announced that Elizabeth Osborn of the Woodside Vaulters equestrian vaulting club has won the prestigious title of USEF Vaulter of the Year. Osborn received her award on January 16 at a ceremony during the USEF’s 2009 Annual Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio. Osborn is the 2008 USEF American Vaulting Association (AVA) Gold Level Reserve National Champion. During the 2008 National Championships, she also earned an AVA Gold Medal with Honors, achieving the highest level of recognition in the sport in the U.S. by earning top scores from two international judges on her compulsory exercises and freestyle moves.

I am very proud of Elizabeth for winning this award. Her achievements this year were very impressive. She consistently performed at a high level during a long and demanding competition season in the U.S. and Europe. In particular, at the 2008 World Vaulting Championships in Brno, Czech Republic, she was the highest scoring vaulter on the U.S. team, which placed first in the compulsory round.

In the women’s individual competition at the World Vaulting Championships Osborn placed eighth overall. Earlier in 2008, Osborn placed in the top five in several international vaulting competitions. Eighteen-year-old Osborn, from Menlo Park, is a 2008 graduate of Menlo-Atherton High School and attends the College of Wooster in Ohio.

Isabelle Parker Named USEF Coach of the Year

Marianne Rose

Parker is a highly accomplished vaulter as well as coach. She represented the U.S. in international competition for five years and earned her AVA Gold Medal in 1992. Parker has coached four National Champion A Teams and the U.S. team that won the Bronze medal at the 1998 FEI World Equestrian Games in Rome, Italy. She is a member of the USEF Vaulting High-Performance Committee (VHPC) and Chair of the USEF VHPC Education Training Camps. Parker lives with her husband and two daughters in Redwood City and is Chief Operating Officer of the Summit Institute, Redwood City.

Big Horse Productions/Sandou Theatrical Circus Studio and Flip For Me Gymnastics Studio present

VAULTING/CIRCUS CAMP

February 13-16, March 19-22 and each month thereafter
in Las Vegas, Nevada

Vaulting, Roman Riding, Aerobatics, Juggling, Trapeze, Wire Walking, Aerial Hoop, Silks, Trampoline and more.

In a state-of-the-art learning and training facility

For information/registration or PRIVATE LESSONS
Contact Erik Martonovich
e-mail: bighorsepro@aol.com
Phone: 303/829-6448

or Noel Martonovich
e-mail:nmartonovi@aol.com
phone:303/277-0356

www.bighorseproductions.com
Megan Grove

I invite you to join in the fun of Vaultanium (Cranium for vaulters) by challenging you to four different rounds of questions and activities.

The “paramount vaulter” knows their Rule Book backward and forward, is a great entertainer who understands how the vaulter and the horse move separately and together and has extensive knowledge about the horse’s care and wellbeing.

ROUND ONE

Fact Finder
1. Which of the following is not deducted from the horse score in an individual competition? A) small circle size, B) falls, C) lack of balance, D) impure gaits
2. Static exercises must be held for _____ canter strides. (Fill in the blank)
3. Modern day vaulting skills developed from a rich military history of war skills performed in mounted battle. True/False

Star Performer
Select one audience member from a group of friends and ask that person to whisper an animal or object into your ear. Perform for the rest of the group and have them try to guess what you are. (Tell them if you are acting out an object or an animal). Do this at least three times per performer. Examples: fishing pole, rope, window (objects); snake, butterfly, cow (animals).

Motion Master
1. Which of the following moves is most likely to make it harder for your horse to move forward? A) press on the croup, B) free kneel on the back, C) half flag on the neck
2. How many beats are in a canter stride? In what order do the feet fall if your horse is cantering on the left lead and has just finished placing the front left foot on the ground? (Try out this experiment: find a friend and together demonstrate the correct footfalls of three strides of canter.)
3. List three possible causes of this common compulsory fault in the flag: Alignment (the flag is crooked and does not follow the curve of the horse’s spine).

Horse Keeper
1. Which of the following items are not dangerous to a horse in a pasture? A) star thistle, B) salt block, C) wine bottle, D) rattlesnake
2. Choose one of the following items that does not belong on this list. Grooming our horse is a daily routine that we practice and we can use lots of grooming tools including: hoof pick, dandy brush, body brush, curry comb, mane/tail comb, clincher, sweat scraper, sponge, and dust rag/cloth.
3. Rank the following horse breeds from smallest to biggest: Arabian, Belgian, Connemara, and Warmblood.

I hope you enjoyed round one. Please email your answers and the reason you think that they are correct as well as stories and pictures of you completing the challenges to meggrove@saber.net. I will confirm the answers. If there is a good response, I will create a column for this round along with round two in the next issue of Vaulting World.

CHA Clinic

Patti Skipton/Tammi Gainer

Friday, October 31st, the second day of the Certified Horsemen’s Association International Conference, was a beautiful fall day at the Kentucky Horse Park. A perfect day for the “Hands-on Vaulting” workshop co-presented by coaches Patti Skipton from Washington and Tammi Gainer from Ohio. This workshop focused on how you can incorporate vaulting into your equestrian program with or without a horse, getting a good start, and proper planning.

Over fifty conference attendees observed the one-and-a-half hour workshop to learn the basics of barrel work, introduction to longeing and the vaulting circle. Mounting and basic exercises were demonstrated. Participants were asked to try the moves on the barrel. Over thirty persons jumped right in to try vaulting for the first time – or perhaps for the first time in a while! Enthusiasm was high so additional moves were demonstrated and many new vaulters tried to perform them. Scissors, as usual, was a favorite so many bruises were acquired.

Working the vaulting horse is always a challenge, so Tammi took a smaller group to work on longeing techniques and she answered common questions about starting a horse and what to look for in a vaulting prospect. Even though a horse was not available, the group was very creative and many role-played the part of the vaulting horse.

With all the interest shown, I’m confident that we can look for vaulting to be a new program for some camps or stables in the near future. Everyone should have the opportunity to experience the sport of vaulting. Not only does it increase one’s strength and balance it is just plain fun and anyone can do it!
Pam Lane

We have just completed two successful USEF Vaulting Training Sessions in Woodside, California. The clinic on November 8-9 focused on individual vaulters. Sixteen vaulters attended the training session, which was held one day at the Riekes Center for Human Enhancement and one day at the Frankel Equestrian Center. Instructors included: Alexander Hartl, German coach, who has won world championship individual and team medals as a coach, vaulter and longeur; Stacey Burnett, personal trainer, who focused on jumping, running and sprinting; Samantha Smith, former US international level vaulter, who shared expertise on the compulsories and ran drills; Jim Donak of the San Francisco Circus School who taught flexibility and injury prevention.

The November 15-16 clinic focused on team vaulters. Thirty-six vaulters attended this training session, which was held both days at the Riekes Center for Human Enhancement. Instructors included: Alexander Hartl, Stacey Burnett, Samantha Smith, Nancy Stevens-Brown, former AVA President who offered training in showmanship and presentation skills, XiaoHong Weng and Jennings McCown, Chinese Acrobat from the San Francisco Circus School who taught basing and flying techniques.

Rosie Brown

The vaulting clubs in Texas are popping up left and right from Midland to Corpus Christi. To support that growth, the need for proper training of horses, longeurs and vaulters has become quite apparent. Jeff Moore (FEI O) made the trek to Austin on November 22nd-23rd for a clinic with 14 vaulters, ten horses and eight longeurs from five clubs. The number of active vaulting horses did not allow for a full schedule of horse training, so with Jeff’s approval, we scheduled vaulter lessons as well.

With the help of an AVA grant of $750 we were able to offset the costs for horses participating in this event. The clinic opened a lot of eyes as to how to properly train a horse on the longe line and why that is important. The vaulters gained some in-depth technical knowledge about the compulsories and about what the judges look for. A few participants rode with Jeff and learned some great techniques to solve balance problems.

As the clinic was AVA sponsored, all participants had to be AVA members, so the money put up by the AVA was more than made back in new memberships for 2009. Thank you again to the AVA for their support of the development of vaulting in Texas, to Jeff for coming all this way to work with us, and to all those who participated.

Patti Skipton

Thanks to a scholarship from the AVA Vaulting Horse Training Committee, I was able to fly to California to participate in the wonderful Alex Hartl longeing clinic.

Approximately twelve longeurs and nine horses came to the Frankel’s lovely arena in Woodside. Alex spent an hour with each horse and longeur, identifying their needs. He offered techniques to improve each horse’s gait and the longeur’s ability to influence the horse’s way of going. In addition to making adjustments to the side reins, longeur’s hands/position and longe line attachment, Alex had a “bag of tricks” in the form of various reins and pulleys designed to teach the horse to carry himself correctly. He also had many of the horses warm up over caveletti, encouraging them to carry their heads lower, round over and engage their hind legs.

I was assigned to work Pacific Coast’s Belgian gelding, Bronson. Alex helped me keep my hands lower and quieter, even though I had to encourage Bronson frequently to maintain a constant gait. As we watched each other work our horses, we were able to identify with the other longeur’s challenges. I can’t wait to put Alex’s suggestions to work with my horses!

Outfit Africa Update

Jacqueline Lobdell
dramahorsegirl1@hotmail.com.
www.projectoutfitafrica.org

I have been collecting used vaulting clothes, uniforms, accessories and shoes to ship to Lisa Maxwell who is in Swaziland coaching a vaulting team which is in need of these items. Tom Sayles conducted a mobile collection van as he drove from Seattle to Southern California for the holidays. We will be collecting at the Tambourine and Valley View barrel fests. You may donate cash via Pay Pal through our website. Thank you everyone.

South Africa Needs Coach

If you or anyone you know is interested in coaching vaulting in South Africa contact Barbie Gertenbach atriba@wbs.co.za immediately.
Noel Martonovich

While many parts of the country were suffering under the cover of cold and snow – getting ready for a very white Christmas – Las Vegas was getting ready for an influx of vaulters who wanted to expand their skills. After three years of being a clinician at the AVA camp in Fort Robinson, Nebraska, Erik Martonovich decided that he was ready to put together a camp in his own backyard, the Big Horse Production facility in Las Vegas on December 20-23, 2008. This time, I got to be the back-up manager. It was great – no stress for me.

With eight horses to choose from and many skilled circus performers to assist, there was an abundance of activities. The camp started with experiential team building activities and moved into three hours of vaulting on Doc, Comet and Badge. In the afternoon, we went to the Flip for Me gym. Guess what we did there? The next two days were spent at the Sandou Theatrical Circus School where we worked with professional coaches and performers.

What an amazing opportunity! Have you ever practiced in a gym where the person next to you is working on doing back flips on the high wire? That makes the idea of doing back flips on the wide back of a horse seem a lot easier. Have you ever had the three guys next to you doing stand on stand three high and then falling forward until, at the last minute, they roll into somersaults. That makes coming off the back of a horse seem not so high. Those are only a few of the things that were happening at the gym. I especially enjoyed watching the father who worked with his young son: stretching him, helping him into controlled handstands, working on the trampoline, etc. That four-year-old had as much body control as many of the vaulters I’ve seen. I could go on and on, but you will have to experience this for yourself.

Evenings were not wasted. To improve focus, concentration and eye-hand coordination, a professional came to teach us to juggle. Photographer, parent and longeur, Michael Jassowski of Primo Ponies, was definitely the best of the bunch.

By the last day, one of the vaulters was able to juggle while standing on a large ball and walking it forward. We also learned body control and movement with a professional hula-hoop performer. Most of us didn’t know that the body had so many moveable parts and that you can control them! Oh, and did I mention anything about performance skills and Roman Riding? There is so much to tell that I guess you’ll just have to stay tuned for the next Camp in Las Vegas.

See page 25 for information about future Circus/Vaulting Camps.

Laura Jassowski practices Roman Riding.

Photo: Primo Ponies Photography

Mark Vernacchia tries his hand at juggling.

Photo: Primo Ponies Photography

Coach Jeremy, a performer at Circus Gatti, displays an amazing swan dive on the trampoline.

Photo: Primo Ponies Photography

www.illusionsactivewear.com
Vaulting team uniforms and practice wear measured to fit design your own or use our artists prototype and sizing kit available Made in the USA!

Let us design and produce your uniforms for the 2009 season!

USA
illusions@illusionsactivewear.com

130 Gilman Ave • Campbell • California • 95008 Telephone:408.370.3954 • Facsimile:408.370.1646
Region II Clinic

Marianne Rose

On November 22, AVA Region II held its annual Clinic/Annual Meeting/Awards/Dinner event at Flying Cloud Farm in Petaluma, California. Megan Grove, Kelley Holly and Carol Beutler organized the event. Classes included tumbling, a knowledge event (see page 28), freestyle instruction and much more. Parents and coaches had the opportunity to see “Through the Eyes of the Judge.”

The officers of Region II presided over the meeting.

The African Dance class was very popular because it was so much fun!

Photos by Primo Ponies Photography

AMERICAN VAULTING ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

National Office: 8205 Santa Monica Blvd., #1-288, West Hollywood, CA 90046-5912 • Email: nationaloffice@americanvaulting.org
Office Hours: M-F - 8am - noon PST • Phone: 323/654-0800, Fax: 323/654-4306 • www.americanvaulting.org

2009 AVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

AVA PRESIDENT - Sheri Benjamin 408/872-1562, sheribenjamin@scbi.com
EXEC. VP - Kelley Holly 707/665-9281, tambourine-farm@worldnet.att.net
VP DEVELOPMENT - Brian Kaylor 801/492-9572, kaylor@brian@gmail.com
VP MEMBERSHIP - Tom Hoge 831/336-1148, tomt Hague@scbi.com
VP COMPETITIONS - Linda Bibbler 650/851-7751, bibblier@gmail.com
VP EDUCATION - Wendy Ware 503/628-6918, wenware@gmail.com
TREASURER - Jan F. Garrod 408/741-1191, jan@garrodfarms.com
EXEC. SECTY - Robin Bowman 303/978-1084, thebowman4@msn.com
PAST PRESIDENT - Nancy Stevens-Brown 831/476-5901, ncnature@pacbell.net

REGIONAL SUPERVISORS: I - Connie Geisler 909/861-1564, conniegeisler@hotmail.com; II - Fran Hoke 707/778-8707, hokes3@scbi.com; III - Penny Maydak 503/703-9177, pennymaydak@freightliner.com; IV - Jodi Rinard 303/931-7072, chestnutvaughter@yahoo.com; IX - Alison Gieschen 856/467-4511, alison_gieschen@yahoo.com; X - Jane Egger 269/782-3206, jeger@epowere.net

BOARD MEMBERS

Jessica Ballenger, Megan Benjamin, Carol Beutler, Bill Brown, Rosie Brown, Merry Cole, Suzanne Detol, Priscilla G. Faulkner, Katie Flannagan, Sydney Frankel, Rick Hawthorne, Virginia Hawthorne, Cambry Kaylor, Devon Maitoza, Yossi Martonovich, Amy McCune, Marianne Rose, Bob Weber

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND SPECIAL PROGRAM DIRECTORS

ALUMNI: Patti Reschar 408/356-8660, fax 408/356-3435, mreschar@earthlink.net • ANNUAL MTG: Robin Bowman 303-978-1084, thebowman4@msn.com
ATHLETES COUNCIL (Co-Chairs): Megan Benjamin 408/665-8447, megan@benjamin@gmail.com; Jessica Ballenger 831/227-3855, balvaulter@yahoo.com
CHA: Noel Martonovich 303/277-0356, nmartonovici@aol.com • COACHES: Connie Geisler 909/861-1564, conniegeisler@hotmail.com
COMPETITIONS SECTY: Suzanne Detol 503/357-9651, sdetol@aol.com
CONSTITUTION/BYLAWS: Charlie Bittenbrong 703/777-1743, cbittenbrong@cox.net • EDUCATION: Wendy Ware 503/628-0918, wenware@gmail.com
FRIENDSHIP TEAM: Priscilla G. Faulkner 770/786-7283, priscilla@comcast.net • HISTORIAN: Nancy Stevens-Brown 831/476-5901, ncnature@pacbell.net
GRIEVANCE: Bill Brown 831/476-5901 onzacat@comcast.net • HORSES: Yossi Martonovich 303/476-5901, onzacat@comcast.net • INSURANCE: Kelley Holly 707/665-9281, Tambourine-farm@worldnet.att.net
MEDAL TEST SECRETARY: Suzanne Detol 303/357-9651, sdetol@aol.com • NARHA: Rachel Markels-Webber 978/952-6787, papageeno@juno.com
NATIONALS 2008: Marianne Rose 408/867-1789, marianne_rose@worldnet.att.net • NOMINATIONS: Marge Oakes 505/898-0236, oakes@swcp.com
PAST PRESIDENT - Nancy Stevenson-Brown 831/476-5901, ncnature@pacbell.net • PAST PRESIDENT - Nancy Stevens-Brown 831/476-5901, ncnature@pacbell.net
SPEED: Tim Deaver 419/354-3997, deaver@comcast.net • TECHNICAL ADVISOR: Jan Garrod 303/931-7072, chestnutvaughter@yahoo.com
TOPICS: Craig Coburn 323/654-0800, nationaloffice@americanvaulting.org
USET Foundation Executive Director: Bonnie Jenkins 908/234-1251, bjenkins@uset.org

AVA STAFF

NATIONAL OFFICE MANAGER: Craig Coburn 323/654-0800, nationaloffice@americanvaulting.org
VAULTING WORLD EDITOR: Marianne Rose 408/867-1789, marianne_rose@worldnet.att.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND SPECIAL PROGRAM DIRECTORS

ALUMNI: Patti Reschar 408/356-8660, fax 408/356-3435, mreschar@earthlink.net • ANNUAL MTG: Robin Bowman 303-978-1084, thebowman4@msn.com
AVA HIGH POINT: Toni Amoroso 805/493-2268, canyonvltr@yahoo.com • AWARDS: Carol Beutler 650/366-7527, cbeutler@scbi.com
ATHLETES COUNCIL (Co-Chairs): Megan Benjamin 408/665-8447, megan@benjamin@gmail.com; Jessica Ballenger 831/227-3855, balvaulter@yahoo.com
CHA: Noel Martonovich 303/277-0356, nmartonovici@aol.com • COACHES: Connie Geisler 909/861-1564, conniegeisler@hotmail.com
COMPETITIONS SECTY: Suzanne Detol 503/357-9651, sdetol@aol.com
CONSTITUTION/BYLAWS: Charlie Bittenbrong 703/777-1743, cbittenbrong@cox.net • EDUCATION: Wendy Ware 503/628-0918, wenware@gmail.com
FRIENDSHIP TEAM: Priscilla G. Faulkner 770/786-7283, priscilla@comcast.net • HISTORIAN: Nancy Stevens-Brown 831/476-5901, ncnature@pacbell.net
GRIEVANCE: Bill Brown 831/476-5901 onzacat@comcast.net • HORSES: Yossi Martonovich 303/476-5901, onzacat@comcast.net • INSURANCE: Kelley Holly 707/665-9281, Tambourine-farm@worldnet.att.net
MEDAL TEST SECRETARY: Suzanne Detol 303/357-9651, sdetol@aol.com • NARHA: Rachel Markels-Webber 978/952-6787, papageeno@juno.com
NATIONALS 2008: Marianne Rose 408/867-1789, marianne_rose@worldnet.att.net • NOMINATIONS: Marge Oakes 505/898-0236, oakes@swcp.com
PAST PRESIDENT - Nancy Stevenson-Brown 831/476-5901, ncnature@pacbell.net • PAST PRESIDENT - Nancy Stevens-Brown 831/476-5901, ncnature@pacbell.net
SPEED: Tim Deaver 419/354-3997, deaver@comcast.net • TECHNICAL ADVISOR: Jan Garrod 303/931-7072, chestnutvaughter@yahoo.com
TOPICS: Craig Coburn 323/654-0800, nationaloffice@americanvaulting.org
USET Foundation Executive Director: Bonnie Jenkins 908/234-1251, bjenkins@uset.org

FEI Vaulting Comm. Chair: Emma Scey 408/868-9476, emmascey@scbi.com
USEF/Dir. of Vaulting: Pam Lane 908/326-1153, plane@usef.org • USEF Vaulting High Perf. Com. Chair: Linda Bibbler 650/851-7751, bibblier@gmail.com
USEF Vaulting High Performance Committee Vice Chair: Craig Coburn 323/654-0800, nationaloffice@americanvaulting.org
USEF Board Members: Linda Bibbler 650/851-7751, bibblier@gmail.com; Jan Garrod 978/448-4193, jannweber@gmail.com
USEF Board/Elected Athlete: Devon Maitoza 818/429-2115, devomia@mac.com
USEF Youth Council Memb.: Megan Benjamin 408/605-8447, megan@scbi.com
USEF Vaulting Tech. Committee Co-Chairs: Craig Coburn 323/654-0800, nationaloffice@americanvaulting.org; Suzanne Detol 503/357-9651, sdetol@aol.com

Vaulting World 31  February 2009
## CALENDAR OF VAULTING EVENTS

### 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>AVA Annual Convention</td>
<td>Washington, D.C. area.</td>
<td>Sheri Benjamin: 408/872-1562, <a href="mailto:sheri@benjaminsci.com">sheri@benjaminsci.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>Circus/Vaulting Camp</td>
<td>Las Vegas, Nevada.</td>
<td>Erik Martonovich: <a href="mailto:bighorseproductions@aol.com">bighorseproductions@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>Mt. Rainier Vaulters Winter Warm-up Fest</td>
<td>Elma, WA.</td>
<td>Guslers: <a href="mailto:guslers@nventures.com">guslers@nventures.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>Online All-Breeds Show and Vaulting Competition</td>
<td><a href="http://www.geocities.com/aussie_vaulting/online_horse-show">www.geocities.com/aussie_vaulting/online_horse-show</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>Lompoc Vaulters Spring Kick-off Fest</td>
<td>Lompoc, CA.</td>
<td>Peggy Van Hook: <a href="mailto:peggy.vanhook@gmail.com">peggy.vanhook@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar/Apr</td>
<td>Phoenix Schooling Show</td>
<td>Orland, CA.</td>
<td>Megan Grove: <a href="mailto:meggrove@saber.net">meggrove@saber.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>Shea Rose Southern Sunshine Fest</td>
<td>Waxhaw, North Carolina.</td>
<td>Shearose: <a href="mailto:shearose@mindspring.com">shearose@mindspring.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>Region IV April Fest</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM.</td>
<td>Rosie Brown: <a href="mailto:rosie@americanvaulting.org">rosie@americanvaulting.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Root Farm Adaptive Vaulting Symposium</td>
<td>Verona, NY.</td>
<td>Kim Senn: <a href="mailto:horsesenn@aol.com">horsesenn@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Vaulters of the Northwest Spring Fest</td>
<td>Olympia, WA.</td>
<td>Tom Sayles: <a href="mailto:tom_sayles@yahoo.com">tom_sayles@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Garrod’s Spring Classic</td>
<td>Saratoga, CA.</td>
<td>Marianne Rose: <a href="mailto:marianne_rose@worldnet.att.net">marianne_rose@worldnet.att.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Falconwood Spring Fest</td>
<td>Covington, GA.</td>
<td>Lisa Zielenske: lmzie <a href="mailto:lenske@yahoo.com">lenske@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>Region IV Championships</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM.</td>
<td>Rosie Brown: <a href="mailto:rosie@americanvaulting.org">rosie@americanvaulting.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>Woodside Vaulters Spring Fest</td>
<td>Portola Valley, CA.</td>
<td>Linda Bibbler: <a href="mailto:lbibbler@gmail.com">lbibbler@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>USEF/AVA National Championships</td>
<td>Lexington, KY.</td>
<td>Linda Bibbler: <a href="mailto:lbibbler@gmail.net">lbibbler@gmail.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul/Aug</td>
<td>2 CVI Kentucky</td>
<td>Lexington, Kentucky.</td>
<td>Jan Weber: <a href="mailto:janmweber@gmail.com">janmweber@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>Region II Championships</td>
<td>Watsonville, CA.</td>
<td>Carolyn Conner: <a href="mailto:carolyn_conner@verizon.net">carolyn_conner@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>Great Falls/Topaz Fall Fest</td>
<td>Herndon, VA.</td>
<td>Carolyn Conner: <a href="mailto:carolyn_conner@verizon.net">carolyn_conner@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>Morning Star/Willow Tree Harvest Fest</td>
<td>Novato, CA.</td>
<td>Carolyn Conner: <a href="mailto:carolyn_conner@verizon.net">carolyn_conner@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>Mt. Eden’s Halloween Fest</td>
<td>Saratoga, CA.</td>
<td>Marianne Rose: <a href="mailto:marianne_rose@worldnet.att.net">marianne_rose@worldnet.att.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information on USA competitions, memberships, etc. visit [www.americanvaulting.org](http://www.americanvaulting.org)