

2013 New England Equitation Championships

by Melody Taylor-Scott

Photos by Evergreen Web and Media Services

2013 NEEC Medal Finals

The five day format for the prestigious 2013 New England Equitation Finals, now in its 38th year, allows for a relaxed and enjoyable competition for all involved. Co-Chairs Amy Eidson and Cookie DeSimone, Coordinator Kelley Small, and the NEEC Committee along with an army of tireless staff and volunteers, plus a tremendous list of sponsors, produce one of the Nation's finest Medal finals.



The NEEC is the original innovator of the Volo Farm sponsored **Horsemanship Challenge** class that has become the format used nationally for this test of the written, practicum, and riding skills to determine the top All Round Horseman. This year's winner of the Katie Battison Horsemanship Award is **Abby Bertelson** also winning her Open Eq 15-17, the Written, Over Fences and Overall awards. **Caroline Johnson** won the Practicum phase, overseen by Dr. Kate Chope, who comes every year, the first ever NEEC Champion, Katrina Weing and Judge Otis Brown.

Judges this year, Hope Glynn of Penngrove, CA, Jimmy Lee of Keswick, VA, Brian Lenehan of Palm Beach Gardens, FL, Streтт Moore of Owings Mills, MD, Melanie Smith-Taylor of Memphis, TN and Geoff Teall, Wellington, FL also 2013 Course Designer. Geoff's inviting courses offered multiple lines bending across the ring, verticals set across the center, and single approach oxers to test the rider's eye.



Adult 23-45 Medal Champ, **Kristina Lyons-Kwon**, laid down the winning trip on her big bay early in the first round of 59 entrants and never looked back! With less than one point separating the top four going into the second round, Kristina, who trains with **Kathy Fletcher**, **Laurel Tinney** and **Ashley Henderson**, rode flawlessly to win the Final Medal round undefeated. Moving up from third after the first round, Reserve Champion was awarded to **Elysse Ruschmeyer** and Trainer **Armand Chenelle**.



Besting a field of 35 and moving up from third in the call back, Trainer **Olana Laffey's** student **Laura Kadane** proved older girls rock, winning the Adult Over- 46 Medal and singing the National Anthem!

Robin Harkins with Trainer **Jay Sargent** also moved up from fourth to take the Reserve Champion.





Thursday saw the 69 younger Adults compete in Open Eq and the Medal. A nail biter right to the end with the top 18 riders changing positions in the ranking even within the five that were called back to test, the hard won 2013 Adult 18-22 Medal was awarded to **Kelly Lively** and Trainer **David Oliynyk** and the Reserve awarded to Trainer **Linda Langmmeier's** student **Melissa Groher**.

Interspersed throughout the show are the special NEEC Annual awards: Adult Older Sportsmanship Award to **Kim Miller**, Scholarships awarded to Adult **Jesse Fortier** and Junior **Isabelle Eastment**, Younger Adult Sportsmanship Award to **Gareth Benschhoff**, Adult High Point Award to **Alexandra Carlton**, Judges Choice Awards, both sponsored and presented by Jimmy Lee, Adult Horse "Acovibu" owned by **Nancy Vinal** and ridden by **Haleigh Landrigan** and the JR Horse Choice- **Abby Bertelson's** 'Eclypso'. The Nicholas Award to "Margot", The Grooms Award to **Larry Oliver**, The Lifetime Achievement Award to **Richard Ulrich**, The Junior Sportsmanship Award to **Michael Janson**, and The Sue Brainard Award to **Jennifer Stiller**.

Friday brought 133 Open Eq 15-17 riders to compete, followed by the sold out Junior Celebration diner held at the Marriot Hotel featuring the fantastic, one of a kind, keep-sake video given to each graduating Junior. Sponsored by Oliynyk Show Stables, countless hours of video are filmed by Amy and Cookie throughout each show season highlighting the memorable moments of Juniors showing in their last year.

Saturday the 68 Under-15 Open Eq riders competed, the scores for the all the JR Open Eqs determining the teams for the crowd favorite performance of the **NEEC Challenge of the States sponsored by Stepping Stone Farm**. Trainers are removed from the equation, being treated to the Trainers Dinner while cheering on their students from the grandstand, as each team handles their own course strategy and warm up. CT Team 3 produced consistently high scores from **McKayla Langmeier, Rebekah Chenelle, Jack Morgan, Stephanie Moscové, Heather Flynn,** and **Wendy Collins**, to take the Gold with Team MA 1 in Silver and VT 1 took the Bronze.



Sunday was the Big Day, hosting 198 Juniors to ride the first round of the hotly contested 2013 NEHC Junior Medal, calling back the top 30+ riders and testing the top 4.



Congratulations to **John Porter** and Trainer **Shachine Belle** taking the top call in John's Open Eq, then receiving the top score in the first and second round, winning the test to claim the 2013 NEHC Junior Medal undefeated, and capping it off with the JR Individual High Score award! Reserve Champion was **Ali Tritschler** and Trainer **Tim Kees**. Please visit



www.NewEnglandEquitation.com for all the results!