

## Welcome to the 2008 Show Season

**Show Bits**

**Spring 2008**

In less than two weeks Baltimore County Horse Show Association will commence its thirtieth season of competition! Our association has undergone many transformations over the past thirty years; growing to a membership of over three hundred, providing a full schedule with a variety of horse shows and competition that is admired around the region. And while we could all be satisfied with the “status quo” as an association we need to strive to modernize and keep up with the ever changing technology as it relates to our industry.

Over the past year the board of directors have taken a good look at “our roots”; we have reviewed and updated the rule book, debated new rule changes and clarifications of “gray areas”, reviewed the results of the membership survey and implemented new policies. We hope that, as members, you will appreciate what we are trying to achieve: a better association, one that is able to best serve its constituency.

Some of the changes you may already be aware of, specifically the opportunity to join BCHSA on-line. This feature of our website is already proving to streamline the application process. Now, correct member information is entered directly into our data base, providing BCHSA with instant communication to our members. Going forward the BCHSA will be using e-mail and its new website as its main source of informing members of association news, therefore, when filling out your application please make sure all information is correct.

This year the BCHSA application is a two part process; the second part being a waiver of liability that must be signed by all members of the association, riders and non-riders alike. The waiver/liability release form is downloadable from the website. Please take time to read it thoroughly, sign (adults must sign for their child/children), and return to the BCHSA, there will be forms on hand at the McDonogh and St. Timothy’s horse shows. It is imperative that a waiver/liability release form be on file to complete a member’s application and allow them to compete at a BCHSA sanctioned competition.

Other changes and additions are discussed thoroughly throughout this newsletter. Some of them include:

- Adult Equitation
- Hopeful Hunter
- Merit Medals

Please take a moment to go over them, and also click on Rulebook on the website for the updated 2008 copy, all information can be found there also. Look for the face of the BCHSA to change very soon; we hope to have our new website up and running in a few

weeks. There are bound to be a few glitches so please bear with us as we iron out the bugs. If you have any suggestions on content to add to the site please let us know.

As always, the board of directors is interested in feedback from membership. You will find new e-mail addresses on the main page of the website if you would like to communicate with anyone. We hope to see everyone at our opening show at McDonogh on April 12<sup>th</sup>!

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## **LIABILITY WAIVER**

Please make sure you download the 2008 Waiver/Release of Liability form and return to the pointkeeper. An application for membership will not be considered complete until the BCHSA has a release for on file for each member of the Association. Members will be able to sign release forms at McDonogh before they school and/or compete. Junior riders please be aware that a parent/guardian must sign your release form.

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## **PONY MEASUREMENTS**

Any pony needing to be measured for the 2008 show season can be measured at the McDonogh Horse Show on April 12. Board members will be available for measuring during the morning hours. Announcements will be made throughout the morning; ponies should be brought to the south side of the barn where they will be measured. Please make sure you and the pony are 2008 members of the BCHSA or there will be a \$10 charge for measuring.

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## **Adult Equitation Division**

BCHSA is adding an Adult Equitation division this year. Any adult who is eligible to hold an amateur card as defined by the USEF is eligible to compete in this division. There will be one over fences class and on flat class that make up the division; the requirements are similar to junior equitation in its specifications. This will be a pointed division with a year end award at the Banquet of Champions. Adults are encouraged to support this division, it's inclusion into the prize list has been a result of member input via our survey of 2007. Please see the Rulebook for further information.

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## Hopeful Hunter Division

For the 2008 show season a Hopeful Hunter division will be offered at some, not all horse shows. Please check individual prize lists to verify if the division is being offered at a specific venue. This division will be open to ponies and horses; adults may ride ponies. Fence heights are 2' and 2'3", rider's choice. **Please note this division will not be pointed, and is being offered on a limited basis. It's inclusion as a permanent division will be decided at the end of the 2008 show season.**

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## Merit Medals Equitation Finals

New this year for our Short and Long Stirrup riders will be a chance for them to participate in their own Equitation Medal Finals! Riders are eligible to compete at the Merit Medal Finals, if they have received their Blue Merit in their respective Equitation Division prior to the commencement of the Benefit Show. The BCHSA Merit Medal Class will be conducted separately from the rest of the classes at the Benefit Show. Please note the following:

**Merit Medal Finals: To qualify for a Blue Merit Award in the Short & Long Stirrup divisions, riders must accumulate 45 points in that division, at which time they become eligible for the Short & the Long Stirrup Equitation Medal Finals to be held at the Benefit Show. After a rider accumulates 120 points they are no longer eligible to compete in the Short & Long Stirrup Equitation Divisions for the remainder of the Show Year, except at the Benefit Show.\*\***

*\*\*Please note the above accumulated point limit may be amended as the season progresses.*

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## **NEW SCORING SYSTEM FOR 2008**

One of the topics of the open meeting in March was the present scoring system that BCHSA has consistently used. Many attendees felt that there should be a differentiation in points awarded to an exhibitor who is pinned in larger classes/divisions according to number of entries; members discussed and voted on a new point system which would reward exhibitors that place in large class fields. The present point system will remain intact and will be used for classes with fewer entries, while those classes with 12 or more entries will be awarded more points as listed below.

<u>3 – 12 Competitors</u>	<u>13 or more Competitors</u>
First.....10 points	15 points
Second.....6 points	11 points
Third.....4 points	9 points
Fourth.....2 points	7 points
Fifth.....1 point	6 points
Sixth.....1/2 point	5 points

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## **PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED**

BCHSA is again looking for photographers to help us shoot horse show and barn candid's for various publications and our Banquet of Champions presentation. If you are interested please e-mail Julie Wright at [barnwife@verizon.net](mailto:barnwife@verizon.net) and let her know. She will forward your interest on to Lauren Moran, Chair of the BCHSA Photography Committee.

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## **VENUE UPDATES**

Please note that there have been some additions to the Show Schedule since its publication. St. John's Church will be holding its 2008 show at Garrison Forest School, and the BCHSA Anniversary/Benefit Horse Show will be held at McDonogh on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

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**2008  
BCHSA  
SHOW SCHEDULE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Show Name</b>	<b>Contact Number</b>
<b>Saturday, April 12</b>	<b>McDonogh</b>	<b>410-581-4782</b>
<b>Sat./Sun April 19/20</b>	<b>St. Tim's</b>	<b>410-486-5483</b>
<b>Saturday, May 3</b>	<b>St. James</b>	<b>410-382-7273</b>
<b>Saturday, May 10</b>	<b>McDonogh</b>	<b>410-581-4782</b>
<b>Saturday, May 17</b>	<b>Hunting Ground</b>	<b>410-879-4031</b>
<b>Sunday, June 8</b>	<b>Garrison Forest</b>	<b>410-559-3451</b>
<b>Saturday, June 14</b>	<b>McDonogh</b>	<b>410-581-4782</b>
<b>Saturday, July 12</b>	<b>Garrison Forest</b>	<b>410-559-3451</b>
<b>Saturday July 19</b>	<b>McDonogh</b>	<b>410-581-4782</b>
<b>Saturday July 26</b>	<b>Tranquillity Manor</b>	<b>410-628-6531</b>
<b>Saturday, August 2</b>	<b>Elkridge</b>	<b>410-557-9615</b>
<b>Sat./Sun, August 16/17</b>	<b>Goucher</b>	<b>410-337-6247</b>
<b>Saturday, August 23</b>	<b>Caves</b>	<b>410-998-3999</b>
<b>Saturday, September 6</b>	<b>St Johns @ Garrison Forest</b>	<b>410-486-5483</b>
<b>Saturday, September 13</b>	<b>Hunting Ground</b>	<b>410-879-4031</b>
<b>Saturday, October 4</b>	<b>BCHSA Anniversary/Benefit Show</b>	<b>410-804-8534</b>
<b>Saturday, October 11</b>	<b>Medal Finals @ Claddagh</b>	<b>410-804-8534</b>