

Dear Young Riders,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2008 JR/YR season. Gwen and I are already in the trenches working hard for this upcoming year. 2008 membership applications and eligibility forms are now up on the Area II website. We want to remind everyone that the JR/YR program is not only for those who wish to be considered for team competition but also for those who wish to get some advanced training with our fantastic coaches, David and Lauren O'Brien, and those who wish to gain comraderie with their peers. We offer 2 training clinics a year with the O'Briens that all members are invited to register.

New this year is the JR/YR mentorship program, which allows junior and young riders to apply for mentor positions during the 2008 NAJYRC with officials, FEI veterinarians, course designers, technical delegates, etc. More information about this unique program is now on the website. You will also find the current list of observation trials for the spring season. These are the horse trials where selectors for the 2008 NAJYRC JR/YR teams will most likely be present. This list is TENTATIVE and will be until we get final approval from USEF on our selection process. This approval should come some time in March so keep watching the website for updates.

We are excited and grateful to announce that both of our training clinics will be held at River Lawn Farm in Charlottesville, VA. Pan and Austin Ligon are graciously allowing us to come back in '08 and use their beautiful facility! We will have use of their covered dressage arena, spacious showjumping field, and amazing cross-country course built by Eric Bull. The cross-country course is designed with a variety of jumps from training through the intermediate level. The dates for these clinics are May 17-18 and June 14-15 and the applications have been posted on the website. We welcome all members of the JR/YR program to register, and any YRAP members who are successfully competing at the novice level or above. The clinic fee is \$250.00. Many Thanks go out to the Ligon family!

The NAJYRC in 2008 is going to be held at the Colorado Horse Park in Parker, CO July 30 – August 3rd. Gwen and I met with several of the administrators of the park at the USEA annual convention and were pleased with what we heard. It will be a long and expensive trip, and our year will be busy raising money to offset those expenses. Anyone interested in sponsoring the JR/YR program please feel free to contact either me or Gwen and we will be happy to discuss our program needs. Tax-deductible donations can also be made through us or the Area II treasurer.

I would like to take this time to introduce our team manager for the 2008 NAJYRC. Alex Curtiss was a member of the 2007 YR ** team and has volunteered to help us this year at training camp and at the summer Championships. She is also assisting us with team apparel. We are grateful for her help! Our Area II YR representative is Nate Chambers, silver medalist at last years NAJYRC YR ** CH, and he is available to answer any questions new members may have. His contact info is on our web page. We would also like to congratulate Nate on being appointed the USEA representative to the USEF Youth Council. We are very excited for him and will continue to support his efforts.

Congratulations are also in order for Nina Ligon. Nina was invited to compete for Thailand (she has dual citizenship) in the South East Asia Games on the Junior/Senior CCI* team. She crossed the pond this past December and performed flawlessly and was rewarded with a team and individual gold medal for her efforts. We are so very proud of you Nina!

We wish everyone good luck on their spring competition season and hope to see you on cross-country!

Audrey Wiggins and Gwen Dean
Area SS Young Rider Coordinators