

THE NORTH TEXAS EVENTING ASSOCIATION

# CROSS COUNTRY NEWS

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1      MARCH 2009

## FROM THE TRAILER OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members, Families, Riders, and Horse Enthusiasts:

Thank you all for your support as I embark on this journey as the new NTEA President. I also appreciate your confidence in allowing an “honorary Texan” to take over the reins of this organization. We accomplished many great things in 2008 under the leadership of our past president, Karen Askew. NTEA launched a wonderful new website, obtained federal trademark protection of our beautiful new logo, and hosted an extremely successful ICP seminar. We were also thrilled with the turn-out for our joint NTEA and USEA Area V awards banquet on January 10 at Lone Star Park, and I so enjoyed seeing so many familiar faces (I apologize if I did not recognize anyone – we all look different without helmets and/or baseball caps!).

It was my perception that the overwhelming theme of the banquet and awards presentation was this: Sportsmanship. Riders congratulated their competitors, exemplary individuals were awarded the Al Smith Award, Glynis Roth Memorial Award and CL McDaniel Youth Sportsmanship Award, and Karen O'Connor spoke of the wonderful venues, horses, *and horsemen* here in Area V. As we enter the 2009 competition season, I challenge you all to uphold the values of horsemanship and sportsmanship. Smile and say hello to someone you don't know in the warm up, tell someone “congratulations” at the scoreboard, and pat your horse as he hops on the trailer to head home from an event, even if there's not a ribbon sitting on your dashboard. Our membership will be stronger for it.

2008 was a trying and difficult year for the sport of Eventing. I am optimistic

that the great minds at the top of our sport will find a solution to reduce accidents, increase safety, and take the sport forward in 2009. In the spirit of safety, we have many exciting things planned for 2009

including educational mini-clinics for riders, parents and siblings, adult rider activities, and a calendar packed full of schooling events. I also hope to see many of our USEA Instructor Certification Program (ICP) seminar participants obtain their ICP certification this year. I am enthusiastic that 2009 is going to be a great year for NTEA! If you have not renewed your membership, do so quickly so that you don't miss out on what NTEA has to offer. Please do not hesitate to contact me. Keep your prayers said and your ponies fed.

Meg Johnson, Esq.

President, NTEA

[president@nteventing.org](mailto:president@nteventing.org)

## NTEA SPRING 2009 CALENDAR

## March 2009

March 7-8	Open Schooling <i>Greenwood Farm</i>
March 14-15	<b>Meadowcreek Park</b> USEA Spring Horse Trials
March 21-22	Open Schooling/Combined Test <i>Lazy Dog Ranch</i>
March 21-22	Open Schooling/Horse Trial <i>Curragh Equestrian Center</i>
March 28-29	Open Schooling/Horse Trial <i>Quail Run Farm</i>

## April 2009

April 4	<b>Pine Hill</b> Spring USEA Horse Trials
April 4-5	Open Schooling & Ride A Test/Derby <i>Denton Creek Farms</i>
April 11-12	Good Friday April 10: Open schooling day. Saturday April 11: Combined Test. <i>Rose Hill Stables</i>
April 11 -12	Carsten Meyer Clinic <i>Lazy Dog Ranch</i>
April 18-19	<b>Holly Hill</b> USEA Horse Trials
April 25-26	Open Schooling/Horse Trial <i>Curragh Equestrian Center</i>

## May 2009

May 1-3	CIC2*/CIC1* <b>Greenwood Farms</b> & Weatherford USEA Horse Trials
May 9	<b>Jubilee</b> USEA Horse Trials
May 9	Combined Test <i>Flower Mound Equestrian Center</i>
May 16-17	Open Schooling/Combined Test <i>Lazy Dog Ranch</i>
May 16-17	Mary D'Arcy Clinic <i>Greenwood Farm</i>
May 16-17	USEA Will Coleman Clinic at <i>Whitehorse Farms</i>
May 22-24	Texas Lions Camp Charity H.T. at <b>Meadowcreek</b> Benefiting the Texas Lions Camp Training Level Three-Day Event and Horse Trials
May 30 & 31	Carsten Meyer Clinic <i>Lazy Dog Ranch</i>

Do you have an event you'd like to add to our calendar? Let us know!  
 mandyandkuma@gmail.com Calendar items are published in the newsletter and online at [www.nteventing.net](http://www.nteventing.net)

# 'Round the Ranch



## with the Lazy Dog

By Cheryl Olivier

With spring slowly showing itself in North Texas, it's a great time to start thinking about improvements around the barn. We have some terrific, easy (and low cost!) ideas to make your horses home a safer place to live.

**Anti -cast strips.** Most of us try to use banked shavings to help keep our horses from getting cast in their stalls. Shavings can be expensive and many times end up wasted or lost in the cleaning process. We are installing 1" strips of wood 12"-18" inches from the floor all the way around the stall. If a horse gets himself stuck in the prone position it will give him a solid place to give himself leverage to be able to right himself. Some barns will even place strips at more than one level to give extra traction. Cheap and easy to install!

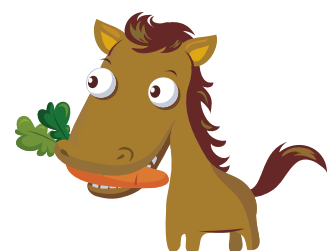
**Stall bars.** Pete has come up with a great way to install safe, great looking stall bars. The upper and lower pieces are 2"x6" planks with holes drilled into each piece. Then ½" aluminum electrical conduit is used for the bars. It looks pristine

as aluminum doesn't rust. It is quite safe if a horse manages to get a mouth or other body part stuck (really? A horse getting himself stuck??) the aluminum will bend allowing the horse to free himself. The board or rods are then easily replaced. Strong enough to hold a horse, yet designed to break if things go wrong. It also allows for fantastic ventilation. Safer, cheaper and better looking than steel!

**T Post caps.** On of the easiest things you can do to make your horses safe is to place caps on all your t posts. They are simply a smooth plastic cap to keep your animals from cutting or impaling themselves on the sharp tops. The caps are nice looking, cheap and available from Tractor Supply and many other retailers. Another safe alternative is putting tennis balls on top (like on a walker).

Hopefully these ideas will help make your barn a happier place to be. Do you have any genius ideas you have used in your barn that you would like to share? Send them to us and we will include them in a future article!

[LazyDogRanchTx@yahoo.com](mailto:LazyDogRanchTx@yahoo.com)



## The Road to Rolex: An Interview with Bonner Carpenter

By: Meg Johnson

When I arrived at Holly Hill Horse Trials last spring, I never knew I'd be stabled next to our newest local eventing superstar! Bonner Carpenter is an NTEA member, an Area V Young Rider, and won our first NTEA award for Advanced level competition in 2007. During Holly Hill, she spent the weekend taking pictures with young fans, signing autographs, and trying to contain her excitement over the week ahead of her. Over that weekend, I became acquainted with an amazing young woman about to embark on the trip of a lifetime... she would be traveling from Area V to her first Rolex Kentucky Three Day Event the following day. Now that the dust has settled from Kentucky 2008 and we're gearing up for the 2009 competition, here is some insight from Bonner about her memorable Rolex experience.

**MJ:** Tell us a little bit about yourself and your amazing horse, Acapulco Jazz.

**BC:** I have literally been riding since I was born. Both my grandparents had ranches so I grew up riding western when I was little. I started eventing when I was 11 or 12. I got into eventing because that was what my friend was doing. It looked fun to me, so I decided to do it too. I got Jazz when I was 14, right after I moved to Mike [Huber]'s barn. I remember the day we actually purchased him because we were at the Las Colinas Horse Trial in March and it snowed. Jazz is a 17 year old Mexican Quarter Horse. I think his breeding might have been the most unique at Rolex!

**MJ:** When you first got Jazz, what were your plans with him? Did you ever imagine he'd be your first 4 star horse?

**BC:** When I first got Jazz I thought we would do Intermediate if we were lucky. I never imagined he would be my first advanced horse! I started him out at training and we were not

very successful, so I figured we would go prelim and that would be it. Our flat work was awful...I couldn't keep his head down without draw reins. It was really pathetic!

**MJ:** How did your Young Riders experience help you to prepare for Rolex? What did you do to prepare for Rolex in the months leading up to the event?

**BC:** Young Riders helped me understand how to compete on a larger scale than just horse trials. Thanks to the Young Riders experience, I was able to deal with the huge amount of pressure that I was faced with at Rolex. Probably the biggest thing I did to prepare for Rolex was to take the semester off of school. I knew that if Rolex was my goal then it would be impossible to achieve from Austin. Since I was out of school I had lessons almost everyday of the week and we would do a gallop every 5 days. Jazz would only jump once a week and then do dressage 4 days a week.

**MJ:** What was going through your mind as



Bonner and Jazz  
looking very happy  
after dressage!

Image credit  
useventing.com

you drove into the Kentucky Horse Park for your first Rolex?

**BC:** Driving into the Horse Park, I was so nervous. That was probably the most nervous I was the whole week. I couldn't believe that all of it was actually coming true. I was thought I was completely out of my league. I kept thinking it was a dream.

**MJ:** What was it like to ride a dressage test in the middle of such a huge crowd?

**BC:** It was very exciting riding in front of a huge crowd. The crowd did not really add to my nerves because Jazz is such a relaxed horse so it didn't phase him and in return it didn't phase me too much. I do not think my test showed how far our dressage had progressed, so I was disappointed. The problems in the test were primarily my fault because I did not use my leg as much as I should have, so he was very behind my leg through the whole test.

**MJ:** Now, the part we all want to know about...how did it feel to ride cross country at Rolex?

**BC:** Cross-country was awesome!! The course rode almost exactly how we walked. I thought I was in a dream when I was in warm-up. Which might explain why Heather [Morris] said my warm-up was not the best! I was probably the most nervous before I got on, but my nerves slowly went away. I was oddly relaxed before I went in the start box. I knew I couldn't ask to be on a better horse and I knew that he would try his hardest for me. The faith I have in him helps me stay calm before I start cross-country. I think Mike and Heather got frustrated with me because I was cracking jokes before I left the box. They kept telling me to focus because I was about to ride the biggest course of my life!

**MJ:** Unfortunately, Sunday morning brought a huge disappointment when Jazz was spun at the final jog and you were withdrawn from competition. What happened?

**BC:** Heather was such a huge help the whole week, I would have been lost without her. She was at the barn at 5 a.m. Sunday morning to ice Jazz. Unfortunately, Jazz pulled a shoe at fence 5 on cross country and went around the rest of the course without a shoe. And having to gallop around for 9 more minutes made him overcompensate on his left leg and strain his suspensory. He was such a trooper to continue galloping and jumping as well as he did without a shoe and with a strained ligament.

**MJ:** Are you planning a return trip to Kentucky in 2009?

**BC:** This is the tough question! haha!! Right now I do not know. We have not made any definite plans or goals for Jazz right now. I would love to go back, but I will have to see if Jazz is up for it or not.

**MJ:** What lessons or memories did you take away from the experience?

**BC:** The whole week was a memory. There is nothing I will forget about that week. It was cool to see that everyone pulled together and everyone was rooting for each other...even though we were all competing against each other. I learned that things don't always turn out as you have planned or how you would like but you have to keep looking at the positive. I realized that there is always something good in light of the bad. My weekend obviously didn't end up the way I would have hoped but I was lucky to actually be able to compete at Rolex and be successful on cross-country. And most of all I am lucky that Jazz's injury is not terrible or career ending. I also learned to savor every moment of the great opportunities that I am blessed with because I never know when I may be given another chance. The whole weekend was so surreal. I still can't really believe I was really there!

Bonner trains with Mike Huber and Heather Morris at Gold Chip Stables in Argyle, Texas. She hit the ground running when she arrived back in Texas, placing 2nd the following weekend at the CCI\*\* at Greenwood Horse Trials in Weatherford on her horse, Impeccable. Bonner certainly has a bright future ahead, and on behalf of NTEA, I'd like to tell Bonner congratulations on her outstanding Rolex performance! We hope to see her at Rolex for many years to come.

**Do you have a great idea for a story, or would you like to recommend a rider or supporter for an article in an upcoming Cross Country?**

**Let us know!**

**Send an email with your idea to Mandy Kelly:**

**mandyandkuma@gmail.com**

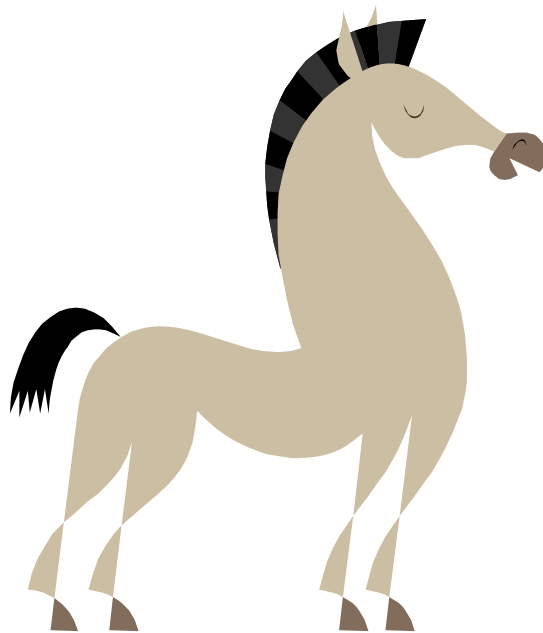
## Etiquette for Facility Use

Helping facilities provide eventing trainers and riders with a quality, well-maintained property geared toward safety, comfort and excellent amenities for horse and rider requires not only cooperation on the part of the facility, but trainers and riders, as well.

Newcomers are often not familiar with the etiquette concerning visits to a facility, and trainers need to teach these policies to all their students. Basically, consider yourself a guest just as if you were visiting someone's home (even if it's actually their farm!). Remember, landowners are shouldering large expenses and workloads besides your visit. The fee you are paying for services simply covers expenses you have incurred, and do not entitle you to extraordinary privileges, so please observe requests and signs. Always adopt the following procedures when visiting a farm, and you'll be considered intelligent, caring, and professional.

### ARRIVAL:

Riders, plan ahead so you have time to check in immediately upon arrival **BEFORE** rushing off to ride. Provide a signed release form (often available online; parents need to sign form for minors), and a copy of your negative Coggins. Trainers or riders must remit fees prior to use of facilities.



Trainers and riders should ask about any conditions, restrictions or changes to the riding course with management. Heed their requests.

Drivers, confirm where to park your horse trailer and should never park in front of another trailer, thereby blocking exit. When temporary unloading near barns, trailer should be moved as soon as possible as a courtesy to others. Never park in areas marked "Do Not Park". Be careful about ground conditions to avoid leaving tracks or getting stuck..

### SCHOOLING/HACKING:

Trainers must maintain control of riders in their group and must follow any directives from the facility regarding use of the facilities and course.

Trainers and riders may not use any jumps that have been designated "closed" by the facility.

Trainers and riders should not open locked or closed gates and should never enter a pasture containing the resident horses.

Riders, do not use water troughs in resident horse pastures to prevent spread of disease.

Trainers and riders should immediately report any problems or accidents to management.

## NTEA CLASSIFIEDS

**FACILITIES:**

Stalls and RV hookups are available for a fee. Do not use them if you have not paid for them.

Please do your part to keep the facility clean. Do not empty water buckets in stalls, which makes cleanup difficult for maintenance crews. Please dispose of trash, used shavings and manure in designated areas only. Don't clean your trailer out on the facility parking lot – would you do that at home? Before you depart, walk around your trailer and check it for safety issues, forgotten items, trash, and manure. Tidy your area up.

Never leave water running.

Never open electrical boxes.

These are the habits of a thoughtful, observant person who has a care for their surroundings. Practice them; you will become more practical and appreciated.

**Christie Tull**  
**Greenwood Farm**

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**If you have some tack, a trailer,  
or even a horse for sale/lease...  
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**Listings are published online at  
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**Email Mandy Kelly if you'd like  
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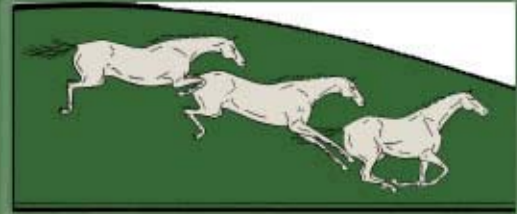


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For membership enquiries:  
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CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!  
[WWW.NTEVENTING.NET](http://WWW.NTEVENTING.NET)

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### The NTEA needs volunteers!

Have fun and help out at a local NTEA event.

Check the calendar and more upcoming events at [www.nteventing.net](http://www.nteventing.net) for ways that YOU can make an impact on the sport of eventing in North Texas!

Have a safe and successful 2009 season!



Attention all Members!  
Get involved with NTEA!

Next NTEA Board Meeting  
**Thursday March 26, 2009**  
**at 7pm in Coppell**



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All NTEA Members are welcome!