

# Games Gazette

Vol 2 Num 1  
January, 2007  
MGAA Newsletter

## Galloping to you from Across America



I Brace, E Becker, L Mitchell Malcolm Trevor-Jones Clinic in MD

Hello and happy New Year. We are kicking off 2007 with some additions to the Board of Governors to replace those whose terms have ended. New members include Vice-President Linda Caddel, Treasurer Sharon Brown, two At-Large, Members Michelle Reilly and Diane Hickok as well as Senior Rider Rep, Jennifer McCready and Junior Rider Rep, Jake Cone.

These new members will be joining our returning board members; President Donna McCready, Secretary Anita Vassallo and At-Large Member Krista Wilson Muldoon who all have one year left of their terms. We thank our rolling off BOG members Geoff Brown (Vice-Pres), Mark Washburn (At-Large Member), Morgan Clay (At-Large Member) and Mitchell Vassallo (Senior Rider Rep).

### Calendar

1/6-7 Snowball Series - KY Horse Park -  
Lexington, KY lbcaddel@aol.com

1/12 Winter Scramble Scrimmage - TaylorMade  
Stables - Mount Airy, MD hcpc@yahoo.com

1/13-14 Southern Comfort Series #1 -  
Pendleton, SC, scmelvin@msn.com

2/10 Winter Scramble Scrimmage - TaylorMade  
Stables - Mount Airy, MD hcpc@yahoo.com

2/10-11 Snowball Series - KY Horse Park -  
Lexington, KY lbcaddel@aol.com

2/24 & 3/10 Winter Scramble Scrimmage -  
TaylorMade Stables - Mount Airy, MD  
hcpc@yahoo.com

3/17-18 American Open - Hoosier Horse Park -  
Franklin, IN bclough@earthlink.net

3/17-18 & 3/24-25 Phil Logue clinics  
hcpc@yahoo.com

3/24 & 4/7 Winter Scramble Scrimmage -  
TaylorMade Stables - Mount Airy, MD  
hcpc@yahoo.com

4/14-15 MGAA Mid Atlantic #1 - PG Equestrian  
Center - Upper Marlboro, MD dihickok@aol.com

4/21 Winter Scramble Scrimmage - TaylorMade  
Stables - Mount Airy, MD hcpc@yahoo.com

As you should have noticed 2007 membership renewal forms have been mailed out. IMGA rulebooks will be sent out to all those who renew by January 31st. Anyone who signed up for a two year renewal last year will also be sent one.

Australian games coach, Phil Logue is coming March 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> to TaylorMade Stables in MD and to NJ & NY March 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> for clinics. If you are interested in learning some new skills check the MGAA website for more details.

We are expecting 1 or 2 Aussie teams in attendance at the Mid-Atlantic #1 competition at the PG Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD. This will feature the return of the Aussies Bundaberg cup which was last seen somewhere in the Midwest.

This past year MGAA and MGAGB hosted an international exchange. If you are interested in taking part in the 2007 exchange please be sure to get your forms filled out and postmarked by March 17. Applicants must also have their 2007 membership renewed by February 17. See [www.Mountedgames.org](http://www.Mountedgames.org) forms page to print these out and for more details.

If you have not joined the MGAA Yahoo group you might be missing out on a lot of valuable information. Unfortunately MGAA is not able to automatically sign you up for this group, you have to opt in. To join go to <http://groups.yahoo.com> and search for MGAA. When you find it click the button asking to join. All current members will be approved. You will receive and have the ability to send emails to the whole group.

### Report from the Midwest



S. Kepner MA#4

The *Snowball Series* shows no signs of "melting down" going into our 5<sup>th</sup> season! We entertained a record 98 entries riding in December at the Kentucky Horse Park. We welcomed riders from Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan! We saw riders moving into new divisions, on new ponies, with new teams and a good smattering of new riders! We welcomed two of our newest members of the USPC International Mounted Games Team – Margie Niblack from Great Lakes Region and Jennifer Porter from Heartland Region! We introduced the coach of this team, Jennifer Foreman, RIC and coach extraordinaire from Great Lakes Region. We thanked a group of

experienced riders who stepped forward and coached! Greg Schmid for coaching and riding with our Beginner Novice team (Keeneland Racers) – who feel confident enough to move up to Novice in January, Hallye and Layson Griffin for coaching the Fossils team "Custom Made", and to Katey Caddel for coaching her junior USPC team "Spacecats" as they prepare for their appearance at this spring's Prince Philip Cup.

When Snowball started five winters ago, it was with the intent of offering Lexington-area riders an opportunity to develop games-playing skills through the winter. It is absolutely amazing the distances our MGAA families are willing to travel to play games and set equipment. Snowball has turned into a great training and preparation event for teams readying for regional rallies, USPC championships, next year's MGAA "big events," international tours and introduction to the sport of mounted games. Thank you to everyone who enters, rides, officiates, sets equipment, takes entries, announces, brings food and helps clean up afterwards!



I. Brennan MA #4

# Travelers Times

By Kris Markmann

*This summer MGAA and MGAGB worked together to host an exchange. We sent 2 pairs of riders to England where they competed in team and pair competitions.*

The reality of our trip finally kicked in as I stepped off the plane onto foreign soil. I had no idea what to expect but my heart pounded and I couldn't wait to meet people and start riding. My jet lag quickly set aside as Jen and I gathered our belongings and stepped off the large coach bus so that we could finally meet our host family. We quickly spotted Mrs. Leese, our host "mom," out of the crowd dressed in her brightly colored MGAGB jacket.

The Leese family is truly an inspiration to any games family, without a doubt they eat, sleep and breathe this sport! No sooner did we get into the house and drop our bags at the bottom of the steps then were we sitting in the saddle on some very fun games mounts. They had a little of everything, as many games crazy families can attest to, from the 11 hand pony who went by the name "Itty Bitty," to countless others varying in size, experience, and temperament (many of which they bred themselves for the sport). There was definitely something for everyone!

The first few days were busy with riding and an assortment of other activities from the daytime shopping and movies to nighttime activities full of dinner and dancing. There was always something going on! As a side note I do recall that in just the first few days we experienced a little taste of every season there is to offer, of course just giving us more reason to go out and shop more so that we could buy clothes to keep us warm ☺

On the Thursday before our first competition the Leese's drove us to another well known and respected games family, the Hardy's. They were kind enough to let us borrow some ponies to compete on as well as bring them along to the show. We traveled with the Hardy's in their large Winnebago Camper and trailer. We arrived at the show a day early so we could help set up the showground's. When people began to arrive the next morning it was unreal—imagine hundreds of trailers, tents, and corrals surrounding the two rings to be used for the competition. We were also lucky enough to have competitors from France as well as a few other countries to really make for a well represented competition at this years Cock of the North.

The sessions went fast and were packed with tons of great races and some incredible competition. For our ponies it was their first competition, but nonetheless everyone still had a great experience and the Hardy's were thrilled to see them go well! After the first day competition there was a "disco" as they refer to it there. Again this was yet another fun experience and opportunity to make lots of new friends.

The Cock of the North competition flew by! We stayed for a few more days with the Hardy's before heading back to the Leese's where we would head to another competition, this one more like the exhibitions we do over here such as Devon. After a 6 hour drive to get there, it was another truly incredible sight of miles and miles of horses competing in almost any discipline imaginable. At this competition we had the opportunity to ride some different mounts which was great fun! Our teammates were incredible and their ponies were flawless.

Before I knew it the trip was over—I could have cried for days about how much I just wanted to still be in England on the Leese's farm. As I reflect back on my time spent in England I have nothing but great memories of new friends and thrilling experiences that make me wish I could jump on the next plane to London and do it all over again! Jen and I were offered so many amazing opportunities throughout the exchange that I cannot begin to express my gratitude to MGAGB and MGAA for making this trip possible for us. I realize all the hard work and long hours that go into making an exchange possible and therefore I am very grateful for having been given this chance to immerse myself in another culture and share with them the sport that I am so passionate about. In closing, words cannot begin to describe what a great experience was had by all on this trip, but I definitely look forward to doing another trip in the future and encourage everyone to give it a try!



K. Huntsman MA#4

## Create a Race Contest

Keep games on the mind this winter and come up with a brand new race. Create a race, state the rules, list the equipment and write up instructions.

This year the competitions committee and BOG will pick out several entries. These entries will be given to organizers to test out for the 2007 season. At the end of the year a vote will be held and the top race will be picked.

### Races will be judged on:

1. Originality including use of new and existing games skills.
2. Easy to obtain or create equipment or use of existing equipment.
3. Easy to explain, learn and remember instructions.
4. All races need to follow the basic rules of play.

### **ALL entries due by March 1, 2007**

Send to: Krista Muldoon 261 Cavalier Way McGaheysville, VA 22840 or Kristashine@hotmail.com See [www.Mountedgames.org](http://www.Mountedgames.org) for more details.



S. Tilley MA#4

### Got Photos?

Have you checked out the MGAA smugmug photo site? You can link to it from [www.mountedgames.org](http://www.mountedgames.org) via the photo tab. If you have good games photos and would like to share them, please mail a disc to:

Sharon Brown

15710 Union Chapel Rd

Woodbine, MD 21797

[webmaster@mountaedges.org](mailto:webmaster@mountaedges.org)

She is looking for photos that feature games skills, and equipment, are in focus and will show games at its best to put on the MGAA photo site.



S. Stalter MA#4





S. Welniak Malcolm MD

### Bulletin Board

For Sale: Quiet Unraced TB Mare Willow is 15.3 hh Dark Bay, No White, Honest Jumper, Show, Foxhunt, Hunter Pace, and Lots of Trail Experience. Loves to jump, has excellent barn manners. Not Spooky or Complicated. \$3000/obo. (301)606-2253



J. Arleo MA#4

### End of the Year Awards

Here is your chance to vote for the best of the best.

1. Top Rider
2. Most Improved Rider
3. Best Pony
4. Best Team
5. Best Looking Team Gear
6. Best Trainer
7. Favorite Competition
8. Favorite Race
9. Least Favorite Race
10. Craziest Spill
11. Best Official

**All Entries Due by Feb. 31, 2007**

Think it over and pick ONE name for each category and send to:

[mgaanews@mountedgames.org](mailto:mgaanews@mountedgames.org)

Krista Muldoon 261 Cavalier Way McGaheysville, VA

### Travelers Times

By Brett Calhoun

*Here is another report from the MGAGB-MGAA games exchange this summer. Look forward to two more rider reports in the next edition of the MGAA newsletter.*

The trip to England was a great experience. I got to learn and see how other countries compete and what their world of games is like. Their games are a little different. While we in the U.S. think we take our games seriously, games in England is basically their life. They compete almost every weekend, from April to October, so you can imagine how good they all are. When we arrived in England, we met with our host family, the Leese's. Mr. Leese then took us on a tour of his house sharing all the many pictures, ribbons and trophies that his daughter, Nichola, and their son, Robert, had won in past competitions. Right then we began to realize that they did take games very seriously and that they were highly competitive. The next day Robert and Dee, a friend of theirs from New Zealand, took us out to practice on some of their ponies. They were very helpful and tried to teach us how they rode as best they could. The next few days before the competition we continued to practice on their ponies, trying to get in the swing of things. The day before the competition we drove to Newark-on-Trent, which is where the competition was held. Later that day we received our competition ponies, which we owe many thanks to the Hardy's. The ponies resembled mine and Val's ponies very closely in looks and size. We then proceeded to saddle the ponies up and started to practice on them. They seemed like honest, hard-working ponies, which they were. The next day we had the competition. It was amazing to see the amount of people that were there and all competing at a very high level, even the little mini's are very competitive. There were 48 Master's Pairs, 48 Junior Pairs and 24 Mini Pairs. Val & I rode in the Master's Division. It's very overwhelming at first to see that many people competing with such intensity, but after a couple of races we became used to the pace they were setting and figured out their moving starts. At the end of the competition, we think we wound up somewhere around 22<sup>nd</sup> place. They only give the actual results for 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> place, so it is hard to tell exactly what place we ended up in. It was a wonderful weekend and I have gained so much from it and I really hope one day I will get the chance to go back there and possibly take a pony with me!



Two long standing games players got married this year: Christine (Reilly) Mariano and Krista (Wilson) Muldoon. This photo is of them riding in a pairs competition this summer as the "Runaway Brides"



J. Stewart MA #4

If you like sporting your MGAA clothing you will be happy to know that new MGAA gear will be available soon. Be sure to keep an eye out for the newest in games fashion at the next

*Did you know that MGAA has several committees that active enthusiastic members can join? Find more information on the committee page at [www.mountedgames.org](http://www.mountedgames.org)*



D. Hickok MA#4



C. Brown MA#4

Questions, comments, something to include in the next newsletter? Please send all of it to: [mgaanews@mountedgames.org](mailto:mgaanews@mountedgames.org) or Krista Muldoon 261 Cavalier Way McGaheysville, VA 22840

Games Across

# Games Gazette

Galloping to you from Across  
Check us out at

[www.MountedGames.org](http://www.MountedGames.org)



MGAA News  
Krista Muldoon  
261 Cavalier Way  
McGaheysville, VA 22840