

# MGAA Games Gazette



Vol 2 Num 8

November, 2008

MGAA Newsletter

Editor: Krista Wilson Muldoon

## Galloping to you from Across America

### Calendar

11/1-2 Michelle Reilly Clinic & Competition  
Gladstone, NJ mymaui25@yahoo.com

11/8-9 Mid-Atlantic #4 PGEC Upper Marlboro, MD  
Hdihickok@aol.com

11/15 Chili Games, Great Meadow, VA Jackie Horn  
540-364-3081

11/22 Gobbler Games Neersville, VA  
calhouns@hotmail.com

11/29 Taylor Made Games Series, Damascus MD  
rtmade@aol.com

12/13-14 Snowball #1 KHP Lexington, KY  
lbcaddel@aol.com

12/13 Taylor Made Games Series, Damascus MD  
rtmade@aol.com

12/29 Holiday Games, Great Meadow, VA Jackie  
Horn540-364-3081

1/3 Taylor Made Games Series, Damascus MD  
rtmade@aol.com

1/3-4 Snowball #2 KHP Lexington, KY  
lbcaddel@aol.com

1/18 Taylor Made Games Series, Damascus MD  
rtmade@aol.com

2/7-8 Snowball #3 KHP Lexington, KY  
lcaddel@aol.com

2/15 Taylor Made Games Series, Damascus MD  
rtmade@aol.com

3/1 Taylor Made Games Series, Damascus MD  
rtmade@aol.com

4/18-19 Gladstone Games, USET NJ  
mymaui25@yahoo.com

5/16 Indy Games, Hoosier Horse Park  
bclough@earthlink.net

Spring TBD Blue Ridge Games #1 Timberville, VA  
kristashine@hotmail.com

May TBD Mid-Atlantic #1 Upper Marlboro, MD  
dihickok@aol.com

May TBD Mid-Atlantic #2 Ranson, WV  
antietamponyclub@yahoo.com

7/1-5 MGAA Nationals Paxton Farms Batavia, OH  
av19651@gmail.com

7/31-8/2 Can/AM International Games, Horseheads  
NY mymaui25@yahoo.com

Aug. TBD MA#3 Mullica Hills, NJ  
mwashburn1@comcast.net

Summer TBD Blue Ridge Games #2 Timberville VA  
Kristashine@hotmail.com

10/31-11/1 Gladstone Games, USET NJ  
mymaui25@yahoo.com

Fall TBD Blue Ridge Games #3 Timberville, VA  
kristashine@hotmail.com

Nov TDB MA#4 PGEC Upper Marlboro, MD  
Hdihickok@aol.com



G Arens + B Nolder Blue Ridge Games Photo: M Muldoon

### 2008 Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting was held at the Halloween Gamesfest at Paxton Farm on October 25, 2008 at 5:30pm and was called to order by Linda Caddel – Vice President.

The election results for the 2009 Board of Governors were announced:

**Vice President - Linda Caddel**

**Treasurer - Beth Lough**

**Member-at-Large - Colleen Corrigan & Diane Hickok**

**Senior Rider Representative - Rebekkah Korn**

**Junior Rider Representative - Aly Raynor**

*These new BOG members will take office January 1, 2009.*

### Other topics discussed:

-MGAA Nationals 2009 will be held July 1-5, 2009 at Paxton Farm, Batavia, Ohio. Everyone was encouraged to join committees for 2009 Nationals.

-MGAA has submitted a proposal to conduct a games exhibition at the 2010 World Equestrian Games.

-MGAA is committed to Breyerfest in July 2009. Anyone interested in competing at Breyerfest should contact Linda Caddel.

-There will be training for Officials at the Snowball competitions this winter.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

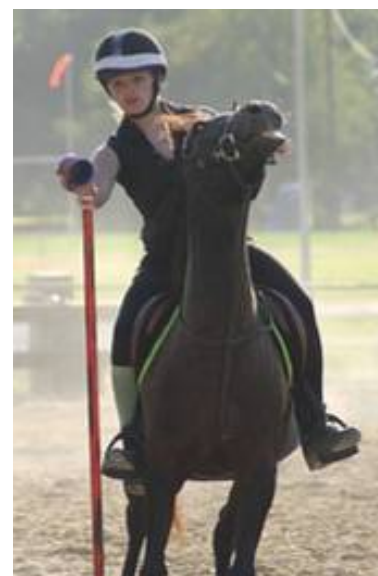
Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Melvin, Secretary

### Nationals 2009

Mark your calendars for the 2009 MGAA Nationals, which will be held July 1-5, 2009, once again at the beautiful Paxton Farm in Batavia, Ohio. Don't miss out on the fun and fellowship. Anita Vassallo has been selected as the overall organizer. Many of the 2008 Committee Chairs are returning for a second go, but there are some positions open. Keep watching for more information as details are being worked out.

In this final 2008 edition of the Games Gazette you will find the recent election results, reviews of the Halloween Games Fest and the Blue Ridge Games clinic and competition and some new stuff as well. This new stuff includes the 'News From Your Board of Governors' section starting on page 3. This section will be a permanent fixture in the newsletter and will detail what your elected BOG is doing. Another new section can be found at the bottom left hand corner of page 4 and is called 'Crazy Games Shots'. You are encouraged to send in crazy games photos you have caught with your camera for possible inclusion in a future edition.

MGAA News wishes everyone happy holidays, stay warm this winter, and enjoy the winter games events already slated for the off season including the new Taylor Made Games Series in MD and the proven popular Snowball Series in KY.



MA#3 Photo: C Corrigan

### The 2009 MGAA Nationals Committee Chairs:

If you are interested in chairing one of the committees or being a member of one of the committees, please contact Anita Vassallo at av19651@gmail.com or the Committee Chair listed herein.

**Overall Organizer:** Anita Vassallo (av19651@gmail.com)

**Secretary:**

**Pony Management:** Linda Caddel (lbcaddel@aol.com)

**Hospitality:** Susan Melvin (scmelvin@msn.com)

**PR:** Krista Muldoon (kristashine@hotmail.com)

**Officials:**

**Volunteer Cor:** Kristi Mitchell (principalkm@hotmail.com)

**Fundraising/Awards:** Stacey Calhoun (calhouns@hotmail.com)

**Operations:** Anita Vassallo (av19651@gmail.com)

**Budget:** Beth Lough (bclough@earthlink.net)

**Equipment:** Deb Bush (d.a.bush@att.net)

**Facilities:** Deb Bush (d.a.bush@att.net)



K Rodgers Halloween Gamesfest Photo: J Foreman

# Spotlight on the Riders

*This section is dedicated to presenting different riders, trainers, officials and other games supporters to their fellow enthusiasts.*



Genevieve at Blue Ridge Games on Pepper Photo: M Muldoon

Genevieve Arens has been riding for 14 years, first as an Eventer; she got her start in games in 2005 through a friend. Gen lives on 14 acres just outside of Purcellville, Virginia, with nine horses, four dogs, sheep and two cats. She is home schooled and dually in 12th grade and college, seeking a linguistics major in the future. Her family supplies four games ponies for other riders, and her mother is actively involved in Games as well. Her first games pony, Chip is a mahogany bay Arabian Gelding with a star, snip and socks. He was rescued in 2004 from a field with 9 horses on 3 acres without food or water, since then, he has successfully competed at approximately 15 Games competitions in 5 states including Nationals. Chip is now about 21 years old with allergies and asthma problems, so he is being retired to the less strenuous local one day competitions. In order for Genevieve to continue moving up, she has rescued another grey Arabian gelding named Pepper, who is being trained to continue on through Masters.

Gen has competed from Novice, when she first started, up through Masters on occasion, while residing on a very competitive Intermediate team. "I will be playing Games for a long time," she said. "It's a rare thing to see a team sport in English riding, it brings so many people together, the organization is like family to me." Gen continued, "There's no other sport that requires you to make decisions so quick or mount a horse at some unearthly speed, all while working together with a team unit to beat the clock. One year we held a camp at our house, and there was a great kid who participated that was half blind. He had never ridden before in his life, and within one day of playing Mounted Games he was cantering to make it back before the opposing team. I've never seen a sport give kids confidence so fast."

Gen is actively involved in her local Bible church, as well as 4-H, and spends her time off drawing, creating graphic designs, hanging out with friends, Eventing or training green horses. When asked for something interesting about herself, she responded, "Well, I've never been able to smell...something about my lymphatic system, I can walk over a skunk and not even notice...but yes, I can taste." she continued, "I'm about 6'1, people would always ask me growing up, if I played basketball, and I'd ask if they were a jockey. Now I just tell them I play Mounted Games, it's amazing how much nicer the reaction is."

Julia Hickok and her pony, Mini Penny, reside on a farm in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. However, for the fall 2008 semester, they are both living in Salisbury, Maryland. Julia is a sophomore at Salisbury University and Mini-Penny is discovering how pleasant it is to live near the beach and trot around in sand. Presently, they compete in the Masters division with the team Crash which placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at MGAA Nationals. Before Crash, she played with Fast N Furious. In 2005, she traveled to Great Britain to compete in the World Pairs Championships. Her USPC teams include advanced pairs Sisterly Love, senior division Wild Things, and junior division Hot Hooves. She was privileged to ride with teams that won USPC Championships twice, the Prince Philip Cup, and the President's Cup.



Julia on Mini Penny at MGAA Nationals 08

She started riding at the age of two and got hooked on games in 1999. Julia enjoys the camaraderie of a games team, meeting new people, making new friends, and challenging herself & her pony to play each game with accuracy and speed. MGAA is a family affair and she has fun practicing with her mother & being a teammate of her sister. Julia discovered her personality is suited to playing games and she can be heard encouraging her teammates while they are playing in the ring.

In addition to riding with MGAA, she is active in USPC & USEA. She has achieved her Traditional B rating in pony club and competes with her Thoroughbred in Show Jumping and at the Preliminary level in Eventing. While at college, she is a part-time cashier at the Tractor Supply Company and has joined the sailing club. She likes vacationing in Mexico during the winter and water-skiing every summer. Her professional goals are to earn a bachelors degree in nursing and then continue to graduate school to become a lawyer or become a nurse anesthetist. Her personal goals are to live on a farm, ride horses, and always be laughing and smiling at the end of each day.



# News From Your Board of Governors

**This is the first of a regular column from the Board of Governors of MGAA. We will use this space to keep our membership informed about the things we are discussing and the decisions we are making for our Organization.**

**The following is a summary of what we have been working on during 2008:**

1] Liability Insurance – After discovering a loophole in our insurance policy regarding coverage for non-MGAA members attending MGAA sponsored clinics, the BOG decided that temporary memberships would be offered to any non-members. The cost will be \$10 which will cover just the days of the clinic. Any time that an Organizer holds an MGAA-sponsored clinic, ALL participants must be MGAA members. A Temporary Membership Form is available on the website as well as in the File Section of the MGAA Yahoo Group. If there are any questions concerning this insurance decision, please contact a BOG member.

2] Advertisement in the USPC News – The BOG voted unanimously to place an ad for MGAA Nationals into the Spring 2008 USPC News magazine.

3] Phil Logue Clinics – MGAA sponsored several clinics with Australian coach Phil Logue.

4] Donations – The BOG authorized a \$500 donation to the Silver Bits Pony Club for the benefit of the victims of the tornadoes in Iowa. The BOG also authorized a \$400 donation to USPC for the benefit of the 2008 International Team. Isabelle Brace, Isabel Brennan, Carin Brown, and Kathryn Karns, all MGAA members, were competitors on the 2008 USPC International Games Team.

5] Booth at the 2008 USPC Championships -- The BOG voted unanimously to have a booth at the 2008 USPC Championships East at the Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, VA.

6] Proposal for Games Exhibition at the 2010 World Equestrian Games – The BOG authorized a proposal to conduct a games exhibition at the 2010 World Equestrian Games. We are waiting to see if our proposal has been accepted.



J Emblem MA#3 Photo: C Corrigan

7] 2007 Taxes – The 2007 Tax Returns and accompanying reports were completed by Sharon Brown, MGAA Treasurer, and submitted in early March, 2008.

8] Rider Exercise & Stretching DVD – We are planning to develop an instructional DVD focusing on rider exercises and stretches for Mounted Games Riders. This DVD will be done in conjunction with Resa Chandler, Ph.D, of Brevard College, North Carolina. Both Jennifer Foreman and Jennifer McCready will work with Dr. Chandler. We hope to have the DVD available sometime in 2009.

9] MGAA Rulebook – We have received the first draft of the first half of the MGAA Rulebook from the Rulebook Committee. We are presently reading it and making corrections, changes, and listing questions for discussion within the BOG. We are still waiting for the second half of the Rulebook Draft which will encompass the rules of the games. We hope to have an MGAA Rulebook ready for trial use by early 2009. We are very aware that there has been confusion about the Rules and we are making every effort to rectify this situation as quickly as possible.



R Whitehair + M Vassallo Can Am Pairs Photo: C Corrigan

10] Sportsmanship – The BOG has discussed good sportsmanship among MGAA members not only at competitions, but whenever we represent MGAA in any way. During 2008 we were made aware of a couple of issues involving poor sportsmanship at MGAA competitions. Rules #GR10.1 and #GR10.2 in the IMGAA Rulebook covers unsportsmanlike behavior and its consequences. We hope that all competitions will remain friendly and that all members will treat each other with respect both on and off the playing field.

11] Emergency Fund – In the last year or so, we have had a couple of unfortunate situations that have resulted in unexpected expenses for our members, whether due to injuries to a pony or to a competitor. Our membership numbers 400+ at this point and we are still growing. We are considering earmarking a certain percentage of all membership fees to be placed in a special account for use in assisting with emergency expenses for our members. We plan to have this decision made, and if passed, ready to implement starting with the 2009 calendar year

12] MGAA Nationals – By far, the most-discussed topic in 2008 was our National Competition. The BOG held a “Lessons Learned” Conference Call in late July in which the 2008 MGAA Nationals Committee members were invited to participate. We also handed out and mailed surveys to all Nationals participants. A very comprehensive list has been made so that MGAA Nationals 2009 will be even better.



D Herbick Can Am Pairs Photo: C Corrigan

Continued on next page...

# News From Your Board of Governors Continued

Since August, our discussions have focused on MGAA Nationals 2009. In 2009 we will be returning again to Paxton Farms in Batavia, OH. This decision was made after exhaustive investigations of alternate venues were conducted. Over two dozen venues were considered and none of them met our most important requirements of date availability, arena size, sufficient number of stalls, and camping availability. The full list of requirements for any venue are: Date availability of last weekend in June or first weekend in July; Arena - minimum size is 250 x 300; Warm-Up Arena; Minimum of 200 stalls; Full camping hook-ups; Tent camping allowed; PA System available; Secretary's office; Bathrooms and showers; Proximity to hotels, restaurants, and shopping; and Picnic Pavilion or Area for BBQ. We also want to keep in mind that while our goal is to rotate locations, we must also



L Honeycutt Blue Ridge Games Photo: Arens

consider driving distances for the majority of our members. Recognizing that those members who live in the extreme northeast, southeast and west will probably always have to drive a good ways to any location, we have focused on finding a "middle ground" area that is convenient to the rest of the membership. While location is not a top priority, it still must be considered when making a decision for our National Competition.

We are presently forming a Search Committee for MGAA Nationals 2010. We are hoping that by starting now we will be able to reserve a suitable venue in another location for 2010. If you are interested in serving on the Search Committee, please contact a BOG Member. See elsewhere in this Newsletter for a list of the Committees for MGAA Nationals 2009. Your help is needed AND welcomed!

Please feel free to contact any BOG member listed below if you have any questions or

concerns about anything in this News from Your BOG, or about anything else at all. We are here to serve our entire Organization and we welcome your input

## Your 2008 BOG members:

Stacey Calhoun, President  
Linda Caddel, Vice President  
Sharon Brown, Treasurer  
Susan Melvin, Secretary  
Jennifer Foreman, Member-at-Large  
Diane Hickok, Member-at-Large  
Michelle Reilly, Member-at-Large  
Jennifer McCreedy, Senior Riding Rep  
Aly Raynor, Junior Riding Rep

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scmelvin@msn.com  
jenforeman@gmail.com  
dihickok@aol.com  
reillymichell60@hotmail.com  
soccersquirrel1@aol.com  
aeraynor91@yahoo.com



MA#3 Photo: C Corrigan

## Halloween Gamesfest

MGAA returned to Paxton Farms near Batavia Ohio October 25-26 for a perfect weekend of mounted games playing. Organized by Debbie Bush and Linda Caddel, Halloween Gamesfest attracted 36 riders to compete in four divisions. We welcomed back many experienced riders from the Masters and Fossils divisions and welcomed new riders into the Novice division.

With the help of an army of arena volunteers, we stayed on schedule throughout the entire weekend. Officials for the weekend were Chief Referee Beth Lough, T.D. Jennifer Foreman, Hospitality Susan Melvin, Announcer Carol Bertilson, Chief Scorer Tori Haskell and EMTs Mirta Soler and Tara Gifford.

The MGAA Annual Meeting was held Saturday evening where members congregated to hear results from our annual election and to discuss MGAA Nationals and topics of interest to our members.



A + M Johnson Photo: J Foreman

### Masters:

Southern Explosion – 77  
Rush Hour – 64  
Sunny Delights – 53

### Novice

Skittles – 82  
Pinetree Ponies – 40  
Cheezits – Unscored

### Fossils

The Incredibles – 53  
The Zippy Chickes – 41

### Family Pair and a Spare

Dixie Divas – 109  
After Image – 101  
Got Braces – 92  
Red Riders – 88  
Skittles – 69



R Soto + A Kress Photo: J Foreman

## Ads Being Accepted

Support MGAA news by advertising your upcoming Games event, pony for sale, services, etc. in the next newsletter.

1/8 page \$10      ¼ page \$20  
½ page \$30      Full page \$40

The Games Gazette is mailed to all 400+ MGAA members and is also emailed out and posted on the MGAA website and yahoo groups for anyone who wants to read it, reaching the highest number of games supporters in the country.

Members only, please send all add inquires to Kristashine@hotmail.com well in advance of newsletter printing. This service is space and time permitting. Newsletters come out at the beginning of February, May, August and November.

## Crazy Games Shots



This photo pictures Evan Becker in Balloon race at Mid Atlantic #3 in Mullica Hill, NJ. The board did a full flip and landed back in its original position with balloons intact. Photo by Linda Becker

# Blue Ridge Games ~ Timberville, Virginia

September 20/21, 2008

The first Blue Ridge Games clinic and pairs competition was a success. Opportunities were offered in novice, intermediate, master, fossil and training divisions. Michelle Reilly held extensive novice and fossil clinics giving first time gamers the opportunity to give the sport a try before heading into the ring for their first competition. Every rider left the ring with a ribbon, a bag of pony treats and most importantly, BIG smiles!



Shemerhorn Blue Ridge Games Photo: Schemerhorn

Following suit to characteristic mounted games outgoingness, riders and supporters both made noble efforts to keep the day moving by assisting in the ring, stepping up to announce, score and handle the start flag as well as lending ponies and happily riding with people they have never met before.

This new venue also made socializing a top evening priority. Many participants camped out and took part in an evening potluck dinner followed by marshmallow roasting around a camp fire.



C Pellet Blue Ridge Games Photo: Arens

Thank yous must be offered to all who participated to make this first time event a success and helped spread the knowledge of this growing sport to a new area. You won't want to miss the continuation of this new series in 2009. 3 events are being planned throughout the year, check the MGAA calendar for dates or contact Krista Muldoon [kristashine@hotmail.com](mailto:kristashine@hotmail.com) for more information. We hope to see you there!

## 7<sup>th</sup> Season of Snowball Back by Popular Demand



L GonCharoff Snowball 2007 Photo: B Housman

If you like snow and you like mounted games, you will love the Snowball Series Mounted Games competitions held at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington. We are heading into our 7<sup>th</sup> season where we will once again compete over three weekends throughout the winter. Snowball is noted for its camaraderie among competitors, and good will among all who participate whether riding or working to make each competition run efficiently and on time. Don't think that we don't take our games playing seriously – because we do!

Dec. 13 – 14, 2008 (closing date 12/2/08), Jan. 3 – 4, 2009 (closing date 12/23/08), Feb. 7 – 8, 2009 (closing date 1/27/09)



J MCCready Snowball 2007 Photo: B Housman

## MGAA AT WEG??? MAYBE.....

Most of you probably know that the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games will be held Sept 25 through Oct 10, 2010 at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington. This will be the largest equine event ever held in the US, and MGAA hopes to be part of it.

In April 2008, Anita Vassallo, with the assistance of MGAA BOG members, drew up a proposal for a mounted games exhibition to be held as part of the WEG. The proposal was in response to an RFP put out by the World Games Federation for exhibitions and demonstrations to be held in the Equine Pavilion, and scheduled around the competitions of the 8 sports that make up the games. Our proposal highlights the exciting and spectator friendly nature of our sport, the experience our members have in executing professional exhibitions (Devon Horse Show, Maryland Million Raceday, Breyerfest) and the strong cadre of volunteers that would work to put on a MGAA exhibition.



I Brennan Blue Ridge Games Photo: Arens

A DVD, produced by Tyler Hellhake, was included with the proposal. This DVD captures the speed, teamwork and exceptional riding that are the hallmarks of our sport, all set to an exciting soundtrack. The package was submitted in May 2008, and our contact person is Linda Caddel.

The Exhibition Proposals will be reviewed by the World Games Foundation until mid-2009. Everyone keep your fingers crossed!

## Hellhake~DiLuigi Wedding

MGAA member Kyley Hellhake married high school sweetheart of 6 years, Mike DiLuigi on October 4th at Welkinweir Estate in Pottstown Pa. Among a wedding party filled with family and friends a special position was held by Chincoteague Minnow (Kyley's games pony of the past 5 years-until he was diagnosed with ringbone this year) as the "flower pony". Minnow was led down the aisle by

MGAA member Laurel Hellhake as he tossed flowers out of a basket. MGAA News would like to offers Best wishes to the new newlyweds!



Minnow, Kyley and Mike



# Games Gazette



*Galloping to you from Across America*



*Check us out at  
[www.MountedGames.org](http://www.MountedGames.org)*



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