
THIS 'N THAT

What can I say about our **38th Annual Maine ApHC State Show**? The weather was excellent and the people on the grounds [the judges, show staff & exhibitors] were fantastic! From there it kind of went downhill.

One of our judges [the double-pointed one] was grounded at an airport because of electrical storms along the east coast. She wasn't going to be able to make it to the grounds for the start of the show on Friday, and probably wouldn't show up until Saturday! This created a lot of dismay & resulted in a multitude of phone calls. In the wee hours of Friday morning, she was told to go home. Our Territory VI National Director Bill Ready worked tirelessly for us contacting area judges who might be able to serve as a replacement with no luck. In the end, he spoke directly to Steve Taylor, ApHC CEO. He explained the problem; and, in a never-before-heard-of situation arranged for both of our two judges on the grounds to be double pointed. This meant that our exhibitors who arrived at the show expecting to earn four sets of points for their efforts did in actuality receive four sets of points. Show Management & our Board Members are extremely grateful for the effort Billy put in to making a bad situation a bit better.

Our exhibitor turnout was the lowest that we have ever seen. There were only 35 horses on the grounds. Forty-two percent of our classes had zero entries! There were no classes with double-digit entries. Only one of the over-fence classes had an entry, and there were no Saddle Seat entries. The 14-18 Youth Division had no one showing. We did get two Leadline riders though! Twelve of the western performance classes at the end of the show had zero entries.

After reading this, you might be wondering if this show managed to break even and at least cover the show expenses. It didn't – we had a tremendous financial loss. We cannot continue to host shows that do not pay for themselves. Those of you who attended the show will shortly be receiving a question-naire asking for your input to aid show management in planning our 2018 shows. Obviously, we cannot continue to put on events that do not pull in the number of horses & exhibitors needed to support the event & make it a financial success.

Planning for our 2018 shows is going to be critical. We really need to be able to start working on this NOW. But we do have a problem in that we do have to work around the dates of other regional shows in the northeast & the National Show dates, and right now we're told that the dates & location for next year's National Show are undetermined. Pretty hard to make plans when so much is open to change. So, when you receive your mailing, we hope that you will take a few moments to answer the questions posed. You can call, write or email your response.

On a more upbeat note, we are looking forward to our **3rd Annual MeApHC Fall Trail Ride** at Coyote Creek in Milbridge that will be held on the 17th. The rain date will be the following weekend. You can pack your own lunch or bring items for a potluck. The trails down there are really fantastic. Check out our Facebook page for more information & a map showing the trail network. We look forward to seeing some of you there.

Margo Carter Condon
President