

For the Area IV Newsletter

MAUI JIM HORSE TRIALS and USEA/WELLPRIDE AMERICAN EVENTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Maui Jim Horse Trials will run this summer on July 10-13 and will once again feature a full complement of FEI endorsed CIC divisions, One, Two and Three Star, along with four National divisions, Advanced, Intermediate, Preliminary and Training. For the fourth year, the competition has also been designated by the USEA as a part of the USEA/Adequan Gold Cup Series, thus spotlighting its presence as an American “destination event.” The locations are Lamplight Equestrian Center and the DuPage County Forest Preserve’s Pratt Wayne Equestrian Area on North Dunham Road in Wayne, Illinois, venues which will also play host to another Gold Cup event on September 10-14, the USEA/Wellpride American Eventing Championships.

Last year, both competitions attracted many of the top names in the eventing discipline. Two time World Eventing Champion, Bruce Davidson, made the long trek to Wayne for the first time in July at the urging of his son, Buck, and successfully competed his mare, Jam in the Three Star division. This combination went on to be named the highest placed mare two months later at the famed Burghley Horse Trials in England. Last year’s Three Star winner, Becky Douglas, is also expected to defend her title which ultimately led to her winning the overall 2007 Gold Cup honors at the Advanced level. In 2007, the American Eventing Championships, (the “AECs”) saw a record breaking 517 horses tackling the courses at Pratt Wayne and Lamplight in all six recognized National levels of competition, from Advanced to Beginner Novice.

Both competitions will additionally feature USEA/Spalding Labs Young Event Horse divisions. The culmination of the nationwide Young Event Horse series will take place at the AEC’s where the 2008 Championships will be held for Four and Five Year Olds on Tuesday, September 9.

Maui Jim, Inc. of Peoria, Illinois, the maker of high end sunglasses, is the title sponsor of the Maui Jim Horse Trials. The company is known for its generous support of equestrian sports, and its product can be seen on virtually every “big name” eventer in the country. Wellpride, the title sponsor of the AEC’s, manufactures the Omega 3 fish oil supplement which has proven beneficial to horses, humans, cats, dogs and even birds. The support of these two companies along with numerous other generous sponsors ensures the continued cutting edge quality of both events.

Two long time beneficiaries of the Maui Jim Horse Trials, the Illinois Wisconsin Search Dogs Organization and the programs participating in the Illinois Special Olympics Equestrian Competition, will again have a presence at Maui Jim in July. A new beneficiary has been named for the AEC’s, Riding for a Cure. The goal of this program which supports the University of Chicago Cancer Research Center, is to “bring together the equestrian community to celebrate, contribute to the cause, and remember all those that have been affected by cancer.”

Further information about both the Maui Jim and the AEC competitions can be obtained on their (respective) websites, www.mauijimhorsetrials.org and www.aecatlamplight.org, Additional questions can be addressed to organizer@mauijimhorsetrials.org and competitiondirector@aecatlamplight.org,

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