

For Immediate Release

**Massachusetts Horsemen's Council
2011 Days of Champions Medal Finals**

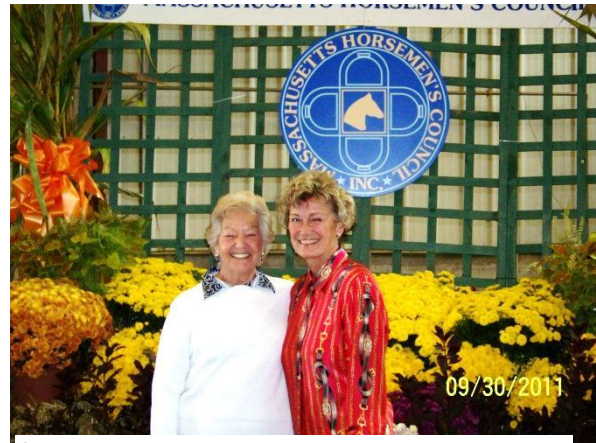
By Melody Taylor-Scott

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and Melody Taylor-Scott

The prestigious 2011 Massachusetts Horseman's Council Days of Champions Medal finals held, September 30th through October 2nd at the Three County Fairgrounds in Northampton, MA, was the 30th anniversary of the Junior Medal and the 19th for the Adult and Mini Medal finals. Show Manager Debby Tate and Chairman Felicia Knowles instituted some new changes this year, moving the exhibitor buffet to the indoor arena after the Adult

Medal. Catered by Spoleto Restaurant of Northampton, the food was excellent and plentiful.



1 Show manager Debby Tate and Chairman Felicia Knowles
Photo by Melody Taylor-Scott



2 Photo by Melody Taylor-Scott

Also new is a four judge format, sitting in two locations around the ring with scores being averaged. Leo Conroy, Scott Fitton, Jim Giblin, and Rob Gage officiated this year.

All exhibitors were entered into a free drawing each day, one each of the older and younger Adults received a free stall and one Junior each day received a \$300 gift certificate from Dover Saddlery, also all who competed received a MHC emblem keepsake box. First to go in each class received a bracelet from Show Stable Artisans.



3 "Partly Cloudy" MHC Pony of the Year

The 2011 MHC Sportsmanship Award went to Nicole Stamm, the Pony of the Year was awarded to "Partly Cloudy" of Stoneymead Farm in Concord, MA,.



4 MHC Person of Year Award Katie Schaaf

The 2011 Person of Year Award went to Katie Schaaf.

The weather was typical of New England, thunder and lightning on warm up day, sunny for the Adults on Friday, bands of pouring rain and chilly wind for the Juniors, finishing with cool and cloudy on Sunday for the Mini Medal.

However the 3 brand new permanent barns located adjacent to the indoor arena entrance and built to house 300 stalls stayed high and dry! A new addition to the fairground this year, the beautiful 100' x 200' red metal buildings with 100 stalls each, were light and airy offering built in stall mats, roomy canvas over aluminum pipe frame box stalls, outside paved wash racks and plenty of electrical outlets. All agreed it is a vast improvement and made for a pleasurable and convenient showing experience.

Entries were comparable to last year with 96 in the Adults 37 Older and 59 Younger, 133 Juniors, and 90 Mini Medalists. There were two flights each of Older and Younger Open Adult Equitation along with the two Adult medals held on Friday. Saturday brought two flights of 14 and under and three flights of 15 to 17 Open Equitation and the Junior Medal and 2 flights of 11 and Under and 2 of the 12 to 14 Open Eq. plus 90 in the Mini Medal on Sunday.

Trainer Jacqueline White pulled a hat trick when daughters Emily White won Reserve Champion in the Younger Adults and Haley White won the Junior Championship!



5 OLDER ADULT OPEN EQ-A winner ANNE C. ROBERTS

In the OLDER ADULT OPEN EQ-A the winner was ANNE C. ROBERTS riding CHA-CHING with KAREN SALON aboard SCHOLAR second.



OLDER ADULT OPEN-B winner was MELISSA G. HAMLET riding WILTORD D and LAURA KADANE riding UPPER TEN placing second.



The 2011 M.H.C. AMATEUR ADULT HUNT SEAT MEDAL CHAMPION 30 YEARS and OVER was awarded to CAROLYN LACKEY riding OKE TAG and Reserve Champion is DEBORAH E. MARX riding BILLY RUFFIAN.



Completing the day, the YOUNGER ADULT OPEN EQ – A was awarded to HALEIGH LANDRIGAN on KENNEBEC and second went to TESS RENKER on BOB MARLEY.



YOUNGER ADULT OPEN –B going to QUINN M. TRAENDLY riding CARICKAN SHORE and second to ANNA R. PAVLOV on FADE TO BLACK.



The 2011 M.H.C. AMATEUR ADULT 18 - 30 YEARS HUNT SEAT MEDAL CHAMPION is ABBY COOK aboard USA and the Reserve Champion is EMILY R. WHITE on CENTOLYS Z.

Saturday brought the hotly contested

Junior Medal over a challenging course with multiple roll backs and bending lines requiring a good rider's 'eye' and the ability to shorten and lengthen their horse's stride. A one stride in and out, approached off a short diagonal roll back turn and set on the short side and spanning the in-gate, proved to be the nemesis of many riders.



OPEN EQ. UNDER 14 -A was won by EMMA MERRITT and second went to LAUREN HENRY.



OPEN UNDER 14-B first went to ADDISON GIERKINK and second to COLBY WOOD.



OPEN EQ. 15 TO 17 -A was awarded to MICHAEL JANSON with second to HOLLY FRENCH.



OPEN EQ 15-17 -B was won by HALEY WHITE and second to REBECCA CLAWSON, and the



OPEN EQ. 15-17-C was won by ALEXANDRA CARLTON with second to SYDNEY SMITH.



With a final round score of 89.12 and making it a clean sweep, the **2011 M.H.C. JUNIOR HUNT SEAT MEDAL CHAMPIONSHIP** is **HALEY WHITE** riding **PATRIOT** and Reserve Champion is **DEVON WOOD** on **CARSON 7**.

Sunday was again a full day with 90 young riders competing over a flowing course of bending lines, roll back turns, options to take the inside cut, and a jump set up across the center line. Two flights each of Open Eq 11 and under and 9 to 14 years preceded the MHC Mini Medal final.

The Medal second round course consisted of 6 individual jumping efforts to a side line ending with a jump on the short side next to the in gate. The winning riders kept their horses mind on the job and demonstrated a good eye to find their fences.



OPEN EQUITATION 11 YEARS AND UNDER -A- was won by MADELINE STOWELL riding FOXCROFT VERONSKY and second place to JORDAN STILLER on BLUE HIGHWAY.



OPEN EQUITATION 11 YEARS AND UNDER –B- win went to ABIGAIL HOPKINS on ONE HOT PEPPER and second to ANNABEL REVERS aboard SCOUT'S HONOR.



OPEN EQUITATION / 9 -14 YEARS – A- the win went to MICHELLE ROBIDOUX riding OASIS and second to ANNA ZYGADLO on SOUTHERN GENTLEMAN.



OPEN EQUITATION / 9 -14 YEARS – B- the winner was SAMANTHA HAWLEY riding WISH UPON A STAR, second to KELLY O`BRIEN on IVAR.



**The 2011 M.H.C.
HUNT SEAT MINI MEDAL
CHAMPION
KENDRA GIERKINK**
riding **LIMERICK** and
Reserve Champion is
JORDAN STILLER
aboard **BLUE HIGHWAY**