

HORSE SHOW

The Cost of Day Dreams

By Melody Taylor-Scott

Ever wonder what it would cost to send you and your horse to compete in the National Horse Show at the Palm Beach Polo and Equestrian Club in Wellington, Florida? Provided you could qualify and be invited to show that is. During my stay to cover the 121st National, running from Nov.30th to Dec.5th, I

compiled a list of the current costs from the prize list, the feed supplier on the show grounds, and interviews with riders and trainers that shipped in for the show and the permanent trainers that call Wellington home.

Starting with the entry form, there is a \$100 non-refundable processing fee. Next are the \$20.00 drugs and meds fee, and stall fees of \$200 per canvas stall or \$350 for a permanent stall for a total of \$300 - \$450 before division entries.

The price for each of the Working, Conformation, Junior, and Amateur Owner Hunters division is \$1,000 with no individual class entry allowed. The

division entry fee for Adult Amateur and Children's Hunters is \$600 or \$150 per class, Ponies are \$500 per pony and the only Equitation is the 3 phase, Victor Hugo-Vidal Medal which is by invitation only with no entry fee. So, Hunters can expect to pay between \$1000 and \$1450 to complete the entry form.

Jumpers must pay \$2,500 per rider for the Open Division and may compete a maximum of 2 to 3 horses in the open classes offered, and again are by invitation only from various national ranking lists. Junior and Amateur Owner Jumpers pay \$1000 per rider and may compete with a maximum of 2 horses. Adult Amateur

Jumpers pay \$750 per horse and Children's Jumpers pay \$500 per horse with no individual class entry permitted. So, Jumper riders can expect to pay a total of \$2950 for Open horses, \$1400 for Junior and AO horses and approximately \$1100 for Children's and AA Jumpers. That gets the entry form paper work covered.

Next are the stabling and maintenance costs.

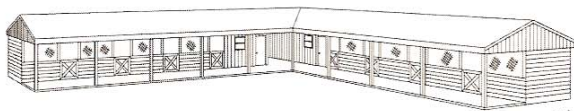
According to the current prices from Gold Coast Feed & Supply, the feed supplier located on the Palm Beach Polo and Equestrian grounds, you can expect to pay about \$5.00 per bag of shavings, times 10 bags to bed your stall and make it though the week of competition, total \$50. Add one 50 lb. bag of pellets for \$10, and hay, which is very expensive, ranging from \$12 to \$17.25 per bale (yep, per bale!) for average Timothy/Alfalfa mix. Figure on five bales to get through the show totaling, \$75 for hay. An additional Tack Stall for \$200 and that brings it up to approximately \$335 for feed and bedding.

Then there are trainer, groom, and braiding fees for the show. Some of these fees can vary in price depending on how much of the work you can do yourself.

Braiding is \$45 a mane and \$35 for a tail, total for three days of showing is \$240. Coaching fees average \$75 per day, total of \$225 and groom services for a week average \$450 for the week. If you have a trainer school your horse, \$45 per ride is the norm.

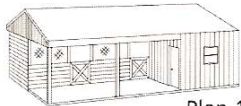
Transportation for your horse from, say, Springfield, MA to Wellington is \$950 ONE WAY

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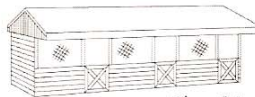


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Plan 11



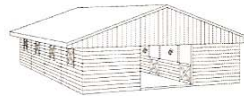
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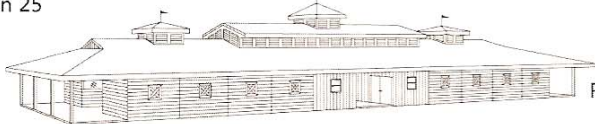
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Accommodations for you at the "Official Inn" of the National, the Hampton Inn are \$169 per night times six nights, \$1015.

Ok. That adds up to approximately \$5,500 to \$5,800 for the Hunter and Jumper divisions to \$7,360 for an Open Jumper. There's more of course, rental car, golf cart, vet, food for you, that new jacket you just have to have, etc. The bottom line: about a grand a day to play.

Thinking of prize money offsetting the costs? Here's a quick synopsis of how much you could win if you placed first in every class in the division.

Working and Junior Hunters, 3 classes at \$900, and 1 at \$200, total, \$2,900.00, with a chance at an additional Championship award of \$9,000 if you bested a combined field of horses from the working hunters or one made up of the best from the Junior/Ami Owner divisions.

Children's and AA Hunters, 2 classes at \$600, 1 at \$1,500, and 1 at \$300, total \$3,000.

Junior and Amateur Owner

Jumpers have a shot at 2 classes at \$1,500 and 1 at \$4,500 for a total of \$7,500. Adult Amateurs can go for 3 classes totaling \$6,000 and Children's jumpers vie for a 3-class total of \$3,300 if you won all three classes.

Open Jumpers are a little different. With 2 classes at \$7,500 each and 1 at \$3,000 for first place, that totals \$18,000. Plus you have a shot at two CSI-W*** classes at \$30,000 each for the win.

Those are the numbers, right out of the prize list for the National. What an amazing industry this is, there were over 500 qualified horses competing at the 121st National Horse Show. So if you're dreaming of a week in Wellington, now you know the price of dreams!

HORSE SHOW MADDEN

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Jacksonville, Kentucky and in Tampa.

Tampa had always been part of Petersen's dreams since those days on the jump crew years ago. This year, two events in Tampa helped make his dreams a reality. "I had set jumps there a few times and had always dreamed of one day riding in the Budweiser American Invitational at what was then Tampa Stadium," remembered Petersen. In order to qualify for the Invitational money won list, Petersen would need a good finish in the \$75,000 Grand Prix of Tampa. Promised Land was spectacular and the duo wound up second, taking home a prize money check of \$16,500, more than enough to make the big show at the new Raymond James Stadium.

A top twelve finish at the Budweiser American Invitational earned Petersen an additional prize money check for \$8,000 and pretty much sealed the deal on Rookie of the Year honors very early in the 2004 season.

Petersen, who sold Promised Land this summer, says he hopes that one of the seven he recently purchased in Europe will get him back to his "field of dreams."

"I credit my support staff for all of their help," said Petersen. "My wife, Anita, and my two sons, Jared and Joel, have been by my side the entire time," Petersen said, fondly. Petersen also says that he hopes to be part of the first father-son team to win rookie honors. "Jared is winning on pony hunters right now, so one day, who knows? Maybe this dream can happen again."

Newsflash

from the WEF

This year there is zero tolerance for people driving with out licenses. They or their family members can be pulled out of the show ring for a day due to the new USEF rules. Tickets (citations) will be handed out this year for loose dogs, running stop signs, speeding, or driving without a license. Fines range from \$50 to \$200. Illegally parked vehicles will be booted.

Any rental golf cart driven by an underage or unlicensed driver will be returned to the rental company.

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