



North American Riders Group Annual Meeting

February 23, 2016



Together, we can improve our sport



Agenda

- Welcome/Election – Chris Kappler
- NARG – How far we have come – Murray Kessler
- The “New” USEF Sports Department – Will Connell
- NARG Top 25 – Tiffany Foster & Lauren Hough
- NARG Riders Grant Award – Beezie Madden
- NARG – Going forward – Norman Dello Joio
- Election Results – Chris Kappler
- Q&A - All



NARG 2015 Board of Directors



Chris Kappler
President



Norman
Dello Joio



Beezie
Madden



Missy
Clark



Jimmy
Torano



Kent
Farrington



Murray
Kessler



Will
Simpson



Enrique
Gonzalez



Mark
Samuel



Lauren
Hough



Tiffany
Foster

2016 Board of Directors Election

Mark Leone



- Mark has more than 30 years of experience as both a winning international show jumping rider and leading trainer.
- He won the Agiber finals in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and went on to become a member of the USET in 1987.
- Mark has competed in 29 nations cups for the US. He represented the US in 9 World Cup finals, and won the Grand Prix in Toronto. He also brought home the President's Cup from Washington D.C.
- His grand prix wins include Hollywood, Phoenix, Chicago, Palm Beach, and Culpeper, Virginia. Additionally, he won the Sussex County Grand Prix.

Will Simpson



- Will was a member of the Gold Medal winning 2008 Olympic Show Jumping Team.
- He has represented the U.S in five World Cup finals and won more than seventy five Grand Prix events over the course of his career.
- From 1998 through 2008, he served as president of the West Coast Active Riders. He is a current board member of the North American Riders Group, and also acts as chairman of the High Performance committee of the USEF.
- A big believer in giving back, Will sits on the board of the Compton Junior Posse, and plays an integral part in coaching underprivileged, inner city children.

**Any members who haven't
voted may do so now.**





Mission Statement

The mission of the North American Riders Group is to unite professional riders, trainers and owners to use their collective strength to make show jumping in North America the best in the world.

In Memory of Ronald D. Southern



Over the last 40 years, Spruce Meadows, as a result of the leadership and vision of Ron Southern, has become an iconic sports venue and is today recognized as the leading venue in the world for international show jumping.

The Founder's simple recipe of "Good Friendship, Good Commerce and Good Sport" has provided valuable guidance and a wonderful platform for Spruce Meadows through the decades. So too has his genuine lifelong commitment to excellence, which he brought to everything in his life.

EXCELLENCE

"Going far beyond the call of duty. Doing more than others expect. This is what excellence is all about.

It comes from striving for and maintaining the highest standards, looking after the smallest detail and going the extra mile.

Excellence means caring. It means making a special effort to do more."

- R.D. Southern



We have come so far, together!

Initially NARG gave a voice to individual rider issues

- Mclain Ward and Sapphire at the 2010 World Cup Finals
- Tiffany Foster and Victor at the 2012 Olympics
- Bruce Burr suspension





Then made major impact through the NARG Top 25 Evaluations

- The NARG Top 25 has instigated major change in our sport
- It has effected the way exhibitors and management think about competition standards
- It has proven that comparing events via “competitive ranking” and suggesting solutions really works





Then made major impact through the NARG Top 25 Evaluations

- Footing Improved at 26 Venues
- Stabling Improved at 13 Venues
- Increased Number of World Ranking Classes and Prize Money at 19 events
- Eight European style events added
- Three NEW Nations Cup Events
- Improved Event Production and VIP experience at 14 events





And influenced a dramatic increase in 5 * Events in North America

In 2010, there were **Four** **5 *** in North America

- One in the USA (WEF)
- Three in Canada (Spruce Meadows)
- Zero in Mexico

In 2016, there will be **Seventeen** **5 *** in North America

- Twelve in the USA
 - WEF 4
 - GCT Miami FL
 - Tryon 2
 - HITS Saugerties
 - American Gold Cup
 - LA Masters
 - Del Mar
 - HITS Thermal
- Four in Canada (Spruce Meadows)
- One in Mexico City



In 2010, there were only 4 FEI events in the United States between April and August, now there are **27!**

- 2016 FEI Events between April and August in the United States
 - 2* **Seven**
 - 3* **Thirteen**
 - 4* **Four**
 - 5* **Three**
- Bottom line you now have an opportunity for higher world ranking even if Europe is not an option for you



Together, we can improve our sport



NARG also made infiltrating governing bodies a priority to have a “seat at the table”

- Chris Kappler, Beezie Madden, and Murray Kessler on the USEF Board of Directors
- Murray Kessler Chair - USEF Governance Committee & Mileage Committee member
- Mark Samuel FEI Group IV Chair
- Will Simpson Chair - USEF High Performance Show Jumping Committee
- Beezie Madden, Vice Chair – USEF High Performance Show Jumping Eligible Athletes Committee
- Beezie Madden & Chris Kappler -USEF Athlete’s Advisory Board members



Including NARG Board members Representing North America to the IJRC and the FEI as IJRC Board members

Lauren Hough



Kent Farrington



Tiffany Foster



NARG Supported the new Longines FEI World Cup Jumping North American League

- Launched in the summer of 2015 to standardize the level of FEI World Cup™ competition in North America, with the luxury Swiss watchmaker Longines as title partner.
- The capping of entry fees for qualifiers
- Over \$1.8 million in prize money in the North American League's qualifiers, and over \$3 million when including the additional classes for each leg of the series.



NARG influenced changes to the Vaccination Rules



- The USEF Board of Directors has approved an addition to the rule book regarding vaccination requirements at federation-licensed events.
- Beginning December 1, 2015, all horses entering the grounds of a USEF-licensed competition must possess documentation of both Equine Influenza Virus and Equine Herpes Virus (Rhinopneumonitis) vaccinations. Vaccinations must have occurred within six months prior to entering the facility.

NARG influenced changes to the Pan Am Games rules

- The Pan Ams switched to the Olympic format while the European Championships are still using the Continental Format – NARG opposes new format.
 - Jumping Committee has agreed to Re-evaluate.
- Inequitable structure of the Longines Ranking Points system when comparing the Pan Am Games and the European Championships. A much higher ranking is given to the winning athletes at the European Championships...Team and Individuals...than to the athletes at the Pan Am games.
 - FEI has agreed to change prospectively.
- Only three individuals per NF being currently permitted by PASO statute to go forward to the Individual Final. In 2015 this meant that top athletes such as Tiffany Foster and Kent Farrington, with 7 faults and 5 faults, respectively, were forced to the spectators box while other athletes with 20-30 faults from the Team events went forward to the Individual Final.
 - No progress



NARG is influencing change to the US Ranking List

- Old System also used to encourage riders to show in USA (1 bonus multiplier per event versus European events)
- But is any bonus warranted if this is a selection vehicle and there are now many FEI shows in the USA?
- USEF just modified this but did they go far enough?
 - 5* - +1 multiplier
 - 4* - +.75 multiplier
 - 3* - +.50 multiplier
 - 2* - +.25 multiplier

And, most importantly, NARG influenced New Mileage Rules

USEF Board approved New Exemption Process and Chapter 3 rewrite – Competition Licensing

- Competition Licenses – Changed to One-Year Term Only allowing the Federation flexibility. Made it Clear the Federation “Owns” the License.
- Special Competitions – Competitions classified as “Special Competitions” (ie: Pan Am Games) are exempt from Mileage rules for the classes and divisions approved by the Board of Directors. The Board approved adding CSI5* events to special competitions.

Exemption Rationale Criteria Defined. Approved if:

- **Competition Standards**
 - Alleviates concerns over safety and welfare of horses, competitors and/or spectators
 - Relieves overcrowding in a given geography at a given venue
 - Helps the priority date holder better adhere to Federation Standards
- **Competition and Calendar Factors**
 - Provides access to competitors that may need a choice based on a Priority Date Holder's costs to competitors
 - Serves a need that the Priority Date Holder does not serve as to the schedule of classes, sections, and divisions, which may be too limited
 - Gives an opportunity to enter the marketplace where a Priority Date Holder seemingly dominates the calendar in a given geographical area, which may create unilateral competition effects (unconstrained pricing)
- **Sport Growth and Visibility**
 - Competition is warranted due to community support and/or involvement;
 - Competition may broaden access to competitors at all levels of the sport;
 - Competition is unique and provides exceptional promotional benefits to the sport



Wellington Masters was a good example of a much needed exemption



Bottom Line....

- Show Jumping in North America has improved dramatically over the past 7 years
- NARG has significantly influenced change and in some cases was the catalyst
- There is much work still to be done, but the opportunity is there
- Your help is crucial!



Top 25 of 2015



Over 45 Major Events Were Evaluated

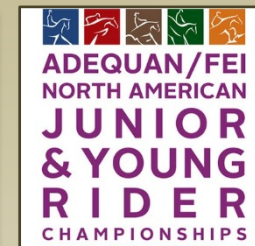
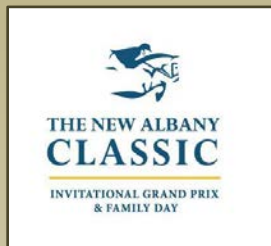
- Winter Equestrian Festival
- HITS Thermal/Sunshine Series
- HITS Ocala
- Pin Oak
- Del Mar National
- Del Mar International
- Kentucky Spring
- Old Salem Farm
- HITS Saugerties
- Devon
- Blenheim
- Showpark
- Upperville
- Pennsylvania National Horse Show
- Lake Placid
- Travers City
- Hampton Classic
- International Bromont
- LA Masters
- NAJYRC
- American Gold Cup
- Royal Agricultural Winter Fair
- Silver Oak Jumper Tournament
- Otomi-Mex
- Rocky Mountain
- Tryon International
- Royal West
- Spruce Meadows
- Xalapa
- Sacramento International
- National Horse Show
- Las Vegas
- Thunderbird Tournament
- New Albany Classic
- Angelstone Tournaments
- Live Oak International
- WIHS
- Trump Invitational
- Split Rock Jumping Tour
- Central Park
- Miami GCT
- Caledon Equestrian Park

Adjustments in 2015 Mean Lower Scores Overall

- Our original 1–5 point scale didn't leave enough room for one event's strength or weakness to be clearly delineated in a score
- In 2015, we went to a more difficult 1–10 point scale
- Our highest score at 88% and our lowest top 25 shows at 66%, the new scale introduced a new playing field
- We also expanded to include criteria that we had not scored specifically in previous years
 - “Quality of Competitors” score, which used the Multiplier as defined by the Rolex/USEF Ranking list
 - Size and shape of competitive ring and schooling ring ‘as conducive to good sport’
 - Use of Audio/Visual equipment, video boards and Wifi
 - Bonus points for shows that offer FEI-sanctioned events, as well as to shows that offer a grand prix with \$500,000 or more in prize money, were adjusted from 10 bonus points to 15 and 12 respectively.

Specialty Equestrian Events

1. The New Albany Classic 84%
2. Trump Invitational 73%
3. Central Park 69%
4. NAJYRC 68%



These specialty shows main focus is quality

The NARG Top 25 of 2015

Rank	Event	% Score	Total Score
25	Otomi	66%	656
25	Bromont	66%	656
25	Old Salem	66%	658
25	Live Oak International	66%	661
24	HITS Saugerties	66%	664
23	HITS Thermal	67%	669
22	HITS Ocala	67%	672
21	Upperville	69%	685
20	Sacramento International	69%	692
19	Split Rock Jumping Tour	69%	693
18	Pennsylvania National Horse Show	69%	694
17	Kentucky Spring	71%	707
16	Del Mar International	71%	715
15	Winter Equestrian Festival	72%	718
14	The Devon Horse Show	74%	739
13	Royal West	74%	742
12	Las Vegas	75%	750
11	Tryon International	75%	752





The NARG Top 25 of 2015

Rank	Event	% Score	Total Score
10	National Horse Show	75%	755
9	Hampton Classic	77%	773
8	American Gold Cup	78%	777
7	Washington International Horse Show	78%	783
6	Xalapa	79%	788



Together, we can improve our sport

The NARG Top 25 of 2015

5

Miami Global Champions Tour

Score 79%

Total Score 793



The NARG Top 25 of 2015

4

Longines Los Angeles Masters

Score 80%
Total Score 800



Together, we can improve our sport

The NARG Top 25 of 2015

3

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

Score 81%

Total Score 805



The NARG Top 25 of 2015

2

Thunderbird Tournament

Score 81%

Total Score 809

tbird.



**And the #1 Event in
North America Was Again...**



Spruce Meadows Summer Series and the Masters

Score 88%

Total Score 883



Congratulations!

Why Spruce Wins A Continuous Improvement Story

- Massive Geotextile Warm-up Ring Initiative
 - Following an immensely successful 40th Anniversary Season, Spruce Meadows is already hard at work preparing for the 2016 season of sport. A major element of that preparation includes installing new drainage, subsurface infrastructure and Geotextile all weather style footing in each of the North American, Chinook, All Canada (main), Rocky Mountain and All Alberta warm up rings.
- Increased prize money and four CSI 5* Tournaments during the Summer Series in 2016.





\$15,000 NARG Riders Grant



Rider's Grant Criteria

Designed to enable a rider dedicated to the sport of show jumping, an opportunity to achieve levels of performance they otherwise may not have been able to attain.

- Applicant must be a citizen of North America.
- The applicant should have demonstrated outstanding skill in show jumping and the intention to be a lifelong participant in the sport.
- The applicant must have financial need.
- Applicants must provide AT LEAST one signed recommendation from a trainer/professional who knows the applicant personally.

Thank you to the Southern-Heathcott family for their support

And the Winner is: ZAZOU HOFFMAN



- 2009 ASPCA Maclay Finals Winner
- Meadow Grove Farm assistant trainer
- 6th place finish in the \$42,000 1.45m Grand Prix (3*) at Thunderbird in 2015
- U25 Qualifier win at the Oaks

Congratulations Zazou!



NARG Going Forward

Some changes at NARG going Forward

- Murray Kessler and Beezie Madden rotate off Board



Thank you Murray and Beezie for your service!



The Next Generation of NARG

- Chris Kappler remains President for one more year
- Election in 2017 for New President
- Hiatus in the Top 25
- NARG remains issue focused and here for you



2016 Board of Directors Election Results

*All of the candidates
received over 95% yes votes!*

Mark Leone



Will Simpson



Congratulations Mark and Will!

Thank You to Our Sponsors



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Q & A



Together, we can improve our sport