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**The Weather Is Heating Up And So Is The Competition In The 2011 North American League**

Anncville, PA—April 4, 2011—The 2011 North American League (NAL) Series is in full swing, and just like the weather, competition is beginning to heat up! Riders around the country are heading into the show ring with an important goal in mind: the NAL's year-end finals!

The NAL will maintain its traditional year-end Finals in six divisions – Children's Hunter, Adult Hunter, presented by *Practical Horseman*, Children's Jumper, Adult Jumper, Pony Jumper, and Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper – at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show in Harrisburg, PA, in October, while adding new West Coast Finals (in all divisions except Pony Jumpers) at the Las Vegas National Horse Show in Las Vegas, NV, in November.

"The addition of our West Coast Finals is turning our 2011 Series into one of the most competitive ever," said Lloyd Longenecker, President of Ryegate Show Services, Inc., which administers the North American League. "Riders are competing at the top of their game and giving it their all in hopes of securing a top place in the standings and the promise of attending one, or both, finals."

Riders need not be members of the NAL to compete in the qualifying classes, but only members earn points toward the year-end finals. With the annual membership fee of only \$35, most riders join in hopes of earning a trip to Harrisburg or Las Vegas. The current NAL qualifying period began on September 1, 2010 and runs through August 31, 2011.

Through March, Sydney Wilder of Chevy Chase, MD, and *Zivago* led the Children's Hunter Division, with 2,546 points. In second, with 1,824 points was Melanie Taetle of Atlanta, GA, and *Omega D'Elle*. In third was Amy Coretz of Tulsa, OK, and *Wollie* with 1,794 points.

In the Adult Hunter Division, presented by *Practical Horseman*, Charlene Graham of Fairport, NY and *Soft Spoken* led with 2,370 points. Following in second place was Linda Seay of Murfreesboro, TN

riding *Livingston* with 1,641 points. In third with 1,322 points was Mindy Wurzburg of Memphis, TN, and *Overseas*.

In the Children's Jumper Division, Christopher Johnson of Carmel, IN, and *Carmelita* led with 1,511 points. In second was Thiele Schroeder of Newtown, CT, riding *Mister Cash Van Der Veldmolen* with 1,443 points. Following closely behind in third was Kelsie Brittan of Westlake, TX, aboard *Split Second* with 1,442 points.

In the Adult Jumper Division, Alissa Kinsey from Fort Myers, FL, and *Grisset* led with 4,554.00 points and also held the second place position with *Caretina* with 2,191 points. In third was Morgan Trexler from New York, NY, and *Wimula* with 1,792 points.

In the Pony Jumper Division, Dagney MacTaggart of Old Greenwich, CT, led with *Iceman* with 304 points. In second was Brooke Gunther of Chester Springs, PA, riding *Fire Van Battenbroek* with 248.50 points. In third was Noah Buehler of Wall, NJ, and *Porsche* with 232 points.

In the Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper Division, Teri Kessler of Armonk, NY, and *Swiss Franc* led with 2,650 points. Samantha Schaefer of Westminster, MD, was in second with 2,350 points with *Sugar Ray*. In third was Alliy Moyer of Carmel, IN, and *Chelan* with 2,293 points.

The NAL is sponsored by Horse Connection and Practical Horseman.

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For more information regarding the NAL series, including series specifications, current standings and a list of upcoming events, please call (717) 867-5643, email to [NAL@Ryegate.com](mailto:NAL@Ryegate.com) or visit [www.ryegate.com](http://www.ryegate.com).