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Competition Intensifies In 2009 North American League

Annville, PA—March 19, 2009—With competition in the 2009 North American League (NAL) passing the half-way mark on March 1, the race for top spots in the standings is beginning to intensify!

The NAL runs season-long series in seven hunter-jumper divisions — Adult Hunter, Children's Hunter, Open Jumper Speed, Adult Jumper, Children's Jumper, Pony Jumper and its new Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper. Each division's series culminates with a championship final at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show in Harrisburg, PA, in October. All horses competing in the NAL finals earn U.S. Equestrian Federation Horse-of-the-Year points.

The current NAL qualifying period runs from September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009. Riders need not be members of the NAL to compete in any qualifying classes, but only current members earn points toward year-end finals.

In the NAL Adult Hunter division, Mindy Wurzburg of Memphis, TN, and Overseas led with 1,255 points. In second with 1,161 points was Patricia Schindler of Cockeysville, MD, piloting Luv Bug. Following Schindler in third place with 1,078 points was Cara Garito of Colts Neck, NJ, riding Abundance.

With 1,731 points, Bianca Buschor of Solon, OH, and Manhattan led the Children's Hunter division. Cara Dodson of Christiana, TN, and Don Callisto follow in the standings with 1,598 points. With 1,284 points, Haley Elizabeth Funger of Potomac, MD, sat in third with her mount, Wallstreet.

Alissa Kinsey of Fort Meyers, FL, and Grisset led the Adult Jumper division with 3,020 points. Following Kinsey in second place with 2,693 points was MacKenzie Donovan of River Hills, WI and Max, and in third were Kathryn Fogarty of Chardon, OH, and Tucker's Town with 2,610 points.

Topping the Children's Jumper division standings were Hayley Waters of Sparr, FL, and Rocky, who had 3,830 points and Houston with 1,643 points. Rounding out the top three was Samantha Pyle of Street, MD, with 1,520 points riding Pia.

In the Pony Jumper division, Christina Firestone of Wellington, FL, and I Told You So sat atop the standings with 236 points. Ashley Bent of Phoenixville, PA, was in second with 233 points aboard Chase The Rainbow, and Madeline Thatcher of South Jordan, UT, sat in third aboard Bally Mac with 197.5 points.

In the Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper division, Ellie Morris of Hinsdale, IL, and High Rustler sat atop the standings with 501 points. Tiffany Hammack of Hawthorn Woods, IL, was in second with 465 points aboard Carrera Z, and Natalie Horween of Barrington, IL, sat in third aboard Tally It Up with 414 points.

For more information on the North American League and a list of qualifying competitions for the 2009 season, please visit the Ryegate Show Services website at www.Ryegate.com.

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