

**THE NAL FINALS ARE COMING!  
ARE YOU READY?**

# North American League

## ~News~

August 2008

### NAL Riders Turn Up The Competition As 2008 Series Nears Finish

Riders competing in the North American League (NAL) are turning up the level of competition as the 2008 series nears its finish.

The NAL runs season-long series in six hunter-jumper divisions — Adult Hunter, presented by *Practical Horseman*, Children's Hunter, Open Jumper Speed, Adult Jumper, Children's Jumper and Pony 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, which began September 1, 2007 runs through August 31, 2008. Riders need not be members of the NAL to compete in any qualifying classes, but only current members earn points toward year-end finals.



Classes held in the summer generated excitement for competitors and spectators alike as the season neared its end and races to qualify for the 2008 NAL finals intensified. With top spots on the line, some impressive horse-and-rider combinations held the lead in each of the six divisions following competition in July.

In the NAL Adult Hunter division, presented by *Practical Horseman*, Mindy Wurzburg of Memphis, TN, and Overseas led the standings. The Children's Hunter Division was led by Kelsey Jefferies of Catlett, VA, and Protocol.

In the jumper divisions, the battle for top spots in the Open Speed division really heated up with many of this country's top horses and riders competing for the right to ride in the NAL Finals. Points in the Open Speed division are awarded for riders only, based on their

best finish in a class regardless of the horse on which the finish was obtained. Leading the Open Speed division was Laura Chapot of Neshanic Station, NJ.

Competition also heated up as Katherine Edgell of Mendham, NJ, and Miss Kitty led the Adult Jumper division. Topping the Children's Jumper division standings were Hayley Waters of Sparr, FL, and Houston. In the Pony Jumper division, Elizabeth Solomon of Huntingdon Valley, PA, and Hip-Hop led the standings. ~~~

## Catching Up with Kelsey Jefferies Children's Hunter Division

Following is an interview with Children's Hunter rider Kelsey Jefferies of Catlett, VA, current leader in the NAL Children's Hunter standings.

**Q: When did you start riding horses?**

A: I started riding horses when I was 7 years old, but I didn't start riding in the NAL until age 16.

**Q: Who are your biggest influences?**

A: My biggest influences are my family. My parents, my older brother and my older sister are always extremely supportive and love to be involved with my riding.

**Q: What is your favorite horse show and why?**

A: My favorite horse show is Upperville. Being under the oaks makes it so much fun for both the rider and the spectator.

**Q: Who is your trainer?**

A: My trainer is Sandra Ruiz of Culpeper, Virginia

**Q: How often do you ride?**

A: I ride about five times a week.



Kelsey Jefferies and Protocol

**Q: What grade are you in at school?**

A: I am a senior in high school.

**Q: What do you like to do in your free time?**

A: I really enjoy photography and being with my family.

**Q: What are your goals in life and as a rider?**

A: Right now my goal is to finish the year successfully in the

Children's Hunter Division with Protocol and then possibly to move him up to the Juniors.

**Q: What do you consider to be your biggest accomplishment?**

A: My biggest accomplishment is the incredible bond that I have achieved with Protocol. I have never had such a strong connection with any horse as I have had with him.

## Q&A with Hayley Waters Children's Jumper Division

Following is an interview with Children's Jumper rider Hayley Waters of Sparr, FL, current leader in the NAL Children's Jumper standings.

**Q: When did you start riding horses?**

A: I've been riding for eleven years. I've been doing NAL for a year.

**Q: Who are your biggest influences?**

A: My mom and dad.

**Q: What is your favorite horse show and why?**

A: I really like the Showplace Spring Spectacular in Chicago because I get to see a lot of my friends. Also, there is a \$20,000 Children's Jumper Classic, and the show grounds are really beautiful.

**Q: Who is your trainer?**

A: My mom and my dad are my trainers.

**Q: What grade are you in at school?**

A: I am in the seventh grade.

**Q: How often do you ride?**

A: I ride every day.

**Q: What do you like to do in your free time?**

A: I like to talk on the phone, shop, and swim with friends.



Hayley Waters

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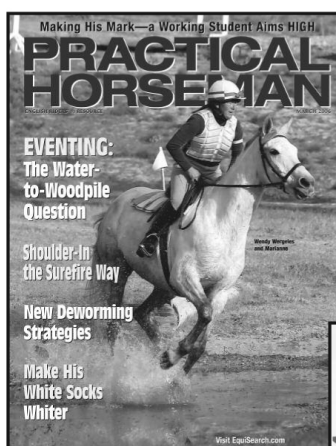
## North American League

**FEATURING:** The NAL offers year-long series in six divisions – Children’s Hunter, Adult Hunter presented by Practical Horseman, Children’s Jumper, Adult Jumper, Pony Jumper and Open Jumper. The Series includes classes held at hundreds of horse shows across the United States and Canada. Finals for all divisions are held at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show in Harrisburg, PA, in October.

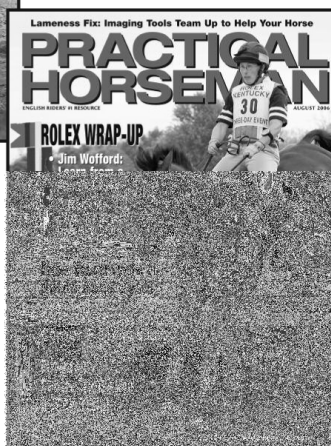
**WHEN:** All classes held at shows starting on or after September 1, 2008 through shows starting on or before August 31, 2009 will be counted toward the 2009 finals.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Riders need not be members of the NAL to compete in any qualifying classes, but only current members accrue points towards year-end finals. Annual fee is \$35 per rider. Membership must be received at the League Office, within 10 days of the completion of an event for points from that event to count. Riders may join the NAL at a horse show in order for points from that show to count. Membership forms are available from the show secretary, however exhibitors are encouraged to mail the application themselves. For more information and a list of qualifying competitions, please visit Ryegate Show Services at [www.ryegate.com](http://www.ryegate.com).

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** NAL classes may be offered by all USEF and CEF member shows who apply to the North American League, c/o Ryegate Show Services. Shows must apply at least 30 days prior to their scheduled show, on the official form, in order to offer one or more League classes.



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## Mindy Wurzburg Adult Hunter presented by *Practical Horseman*

Mindy Wurzburg of Memphis, TN, began taking riding lessons at the age of 6 and started showing in the Short Stirrup Division at 10 years-old on her small pony Snow Cone. Mindy competed in her first NAL final in 2001 on her horse Starstruck and currently leads the

Adult Hunter Division, presented by *Practical Horseman*, with Overseas.

Mindy names her trainer, Phoebe Sheets of Germantown, TN, as her biggest influence saying, “Phoebe is one of the hardest working people in the industry, an incredible rider and teacher, a great friend, and a wonderful role model. Her riding and teaching style has such a positive impact on her students and on the horses that she rides.”

Although she enjoys all the horse shows she travels to,



*Mindy Wurzburg and Overseas*  
© Flashpoint

Mindy lists the West Tennessee Hunter Jumper Association shows as her favorites. “It is nice to show at home and we only have to travel about 5 miles,” said Mindy. “The show grounds are very quaint, we have great stalls and great footing in our rings, and I can sleep in my own bed.”

Mindy spends each weekend riding or showing. She also works at her family’s industrial packaging and handling supply company, Wurzburg, Inc. Like most riders, Mindy enjoys spending any free time riding

and playing with her horses and relaxing at home with friends and family.

“I feel that I have been very fortunate to have such great support from my family and friends for my

riding. I am also very fortunate to own the horses that I do,” said Mindy.

When asked about her goals as a rider, Mindy replied, “My goals for riding are to finish the season in the top ranking of USEF Zone 4, the NAL and WIHS.”

# REMINDER:

To be considered for the  
NAL Finals at Harrisburg,  
participants **MUST** enter the  
Pennsylvania National Horse Show  
by the closing date of  
**September 3!**

Pennsylvania National Horse Show  
Applications Available on  
[www.ryegate.com](http://www.ryegate.com)



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## Katherine Edgell Leads Adult Jumper Division

Since Katherine Edgell was ten years old she knew that she wanted to spend the rest of her life riding horses. Now, all grown-up and competing in the Adult Jumper Division for the second year, Katherine and her horse

Miss Kitty are leading the standings and having a blast doing it!

“Miss Kitty has been an exquisite and phenomenal competitor since the moment we entered the show ring together,” said Edgell. “To date we have placed very highly if not won every classic we have participated in. There are the occasional rails, but as long as I stay out of Miss Kitty’s way and let her do her job, the blue ribbon is almost always in reach.”

Edgell, who has trained with Emil Spadone of Redfield Farms for nearly ten years, can be seen at the barn riding her horses six days a week. She



*Katherine Edgell and Miss Kitty*

© J.L. Parker

credits her success to a combination of her own personal drive for success and growth, as well as looking up to fellow competitors such as Michelle Spadone.

“I strive for the smoothness and cohesive flow Michelle exhibits while on course. She and her mounts are very similar to me and Miss Kitty; always one jump ahead or where you are going and looking for the blue.”

Working toward her ultimate goal of competing in the Grand Prix while holding down her full-time job at a publishing company doesn’t leave Katherine with too much free time, but she sees no glass ceiling to

where her riding can go.

“My aspirations as a competitor are realistic, but very important to me. I realize that competing in the Grand

Prix is not in the

immediate future, but is not out of the question either. I want to be the best, and do my best at whatever I am working on. Currently that means leading the NAL Adult Jumper standings.”

When away from the barn and the horse show scene, Katherine enjoys relaxing at the lake with her two dogs; Wilson, a 7-year-old Labrador and Milo, a 3-year-old Chihuahua, as well as spending time with her boyfriend and friends.

On success, Katherine says, “In order to succeed you must fail, so that you know what not to do next time.”

## Elizabeth Solomon Leads NAL's Pony Jumper division

Elizabeth Solomon has come a long way from when she began her riding career as a little girl. It all started by winning a blue ribbon at the Devon Horse Show in the Leadline division, and has since grown to her current position

leading the NAL Pony Jumpers with her pony Hip-Hop. This is the third year that Elizabeth has competed in the NAL's Pony Jumper division.

Elizabeth, who began riding at the request of her mother, Lori Solomon, trains with Judy and Terry Stephens and Kim Cousins at Timber Edge Farm in Horscham, PA. Back when Lori was a junior rider she also trained with Judy Stephens.

Citing her parents as her biggest supporters, Elizabeth adds that, "Judy also has a lot of influence on my life both as a rider and as a person. She places a lot of emphasis on being an all-around horseman and not just a



*Elizabeth Solomon and Hip-Hop*

rider."

Elizabeth, who rides upwards of five days a week, says that Pony Finals is her favorite event of the year because of the mix of competitors from all around the country and the excitement of competing on a team.

"I went to Pony Finals in 2007 and we had an awesome team. We finished in fourth place," said Elizabeth. "We even made posters and rode around together in a golf cart singing a Zone 2 cheer that we made up – 'Our eyes are up, our heels are down and this is how we jump around – go Zone 2!'"

Elizabeth, who will be entering 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Lower Moreland

High School, is looking forward to the future of her riding career. She would love to continue showing and eventually compete in the Grand Prix and one day ride in the Olympic Games.

To date Elizabeth

lists the work

she has done with two green ponies as her biggest accomplishments. "I have had two green ponies that I did the jumpers with, and at first it was an accomplishment just to jump around without a stop. But being fifth individually at Pony Finals in 2007 was a great feeling!"

When not at the barn riding Hip-Hop, Elizabeth spends time doing school work and going to the beach. She loves to boogie board and has even taken some surfing lessons with her father.

Her motto for the 2008 NAL season has been, "It's not how fast you go, but how you ride the turns."

Content in this issue of North American League News reflects standings as of July 31.  
For current North American League series standings, please click on the appropriate link below:

**NAL Adult Hunter Division, Presented by Practical Horseman**

[http://www.ryegate.com/NAL/stand/nal\\_ah.htm](http://www.ryegate.com/NAL/stand/nal_ah.htm)

**NAL Children's Hunter Division**

[http://www.ryegate.com/NAL/stand/nal\\_ch.htm](http://www.ryegate.com/NAL/stand/nal_ch.htm)

**NAL Adult Jumper Division**

[http://www.ryegate.com/NAL/stand/nal\\_aj.htm](http://www.ryegate.com/NAL/stand/nal_aj.htm)

**NAL Children's Jumper Division**

[http://www.ryegate.com/NAL/stand/nal\\_cj.htm](http://www.ryegate.com/NAL/stand/nal_cj.htm)

**NAL Pony Jumper Division**

[http://www.ryegate.com/NAL/stand/nal\\_pj.htm](http://www.ryegate.com/NAL/stand/nal_pj.htm)

**NAL Open Jumper Division**

<http://www.ryegate.com/NAL/stand/rankos.htm>

