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North American League Riders Take the Lead

Riders begin to earn points early in the season

January 23, 2013 - The 2013 winter circuits are underway! From the East Coast to the West riders and horses in the North American League are turning up the heat and are gaining valuable points towards the series standings as well as setting the path towards year-end finals.

The North American League (NAL) offers a wonderful opportunity for competitors across the country to compete in six divisions including Children's Hunters and Jumpers, Adult Hunters and Jumpers, Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumpers, and Pony Jumpers (east coast only). Competitors ride hard all year in order to qualify for National Finals at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show and the West Coast Finals at the Las Vegas National Horse Show.

As competitors are beginning to turn their focus towards the winter circuits, there is increased opportunity for riders to earn points. The NAL runs the qualifying period September 1 through August 31. NAL competitions are open to all who wish to compete, however total points will only count for current members. It is important to renew memberships and pay yearly dues in order for points to be counted! Joining the NAL today is the best way to assure that you get the points you need to reach the Finals.

Mindy Wurzburg of Memphis, TN and *Overseas* are currently leading the Adult Hunter Division, presented by Practical Horseman. Wurzburg has 1166 points and a lengthy lead over the competition. In second place, also from Memphis, TN, is Cheryl Rubenstein and *Riesling* with 650 points. Laura Karet of Pittsburgh, PA and *Caliber* finish out the top three places with 570 points.

The Children's Hunter division is filled with excitement, as it is the largest division thus far. Out of 100 riders, Megan Taylor Rosenthal of Charlotte, NC has piloted her mount *Cool Music* to first place with 2262 points. Lilli Power of Crestwood, KY and *Uptown Girl* has 1530 points, putting her in second place. Lindsey Bland of Gloucester, VA and *Tribute* stand in third place with 1146 points.

The NAL Jumper Divisions are action packed as always. The Adult Jumpers are currently being led by Leigh Cofer of Canton, GA and *Camera Ready* with 1075 points. Alexandra Cherubini of Boston, MA and *Equifit Carlos* stand in second with 875 points. In third place is Heather Crespo of Aiken, SC and *Good Carma* with 801 points.

In the Children's Jumpers, Wimberly Debono of Birmingham, AL and *Tusker* are leading the way with 1183 points. Grace Knox of N. Barrington, IL is in second place with 1094 points aboard with *Rapidash*. In third place is Kimberle Paige Burton of Huntersville, NC and *Kolette* with 810 points.

In the Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper Division, presented by SmartPak, Kady Abrahamson of Loveland, OH and *Basco H2* are in first place with 975 points. Spencer Smith of Wellington, FL and *Lord Spezi* in second with 741 points. In third place is Deiderique Van Der Knaap of New York, NY and *Clive* with 692 points

Competition on the West Coast is gaining intensity as riders look to make it to next November's Finals at Las Vegas. Greg Novak of Delano, MN is currently leading the Adult Hunter standings aboard *Free Agent* with 451 points. Lexi Mulkey of Broken Arrow, OK and *Shadow Box* leads the Children's Hunter division with 465 points.

Ashley Marshal of Villa Ridge, MO and *Vivaldi* has 475 points to lead the West Coast Adult Jumpers standings. Leading the Children's Jumpers is Bailey Paige Tims of Tulsa, OK and *Ntec Sigo* with 230 points. Finally, Ruth Foley of Tucson, AZ and *Ahu Akivi* lead the Low Junior/Amateur Owner jumpers with a total of 169 points.

For more information regarding the North American League series please call (717) 867-5643, email to NAL@Ryegate.com or visit www.ryegate.com. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NALFinals.