

North American League News

Summer 2025

The North American League (NAL) offers year-long series in six divisions – Adult Hunter Presented by R & R Hunter Horses, Children's Hunter, 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper Presented by SmartEquine, 1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper, 1.20/1.25m Junior/Amateur Jumper and 1.30/1.35m Junior/Amateur Jumper Presented by Parlanti. The series includes classes held at hundreds of horse shows across the United States and Canada, giving riders in these divisions a chance to ride in year-end finals at two major shows – the West Coast Finals at the Sunshine 1 Horse Show in Thermal, California, in October, and the National Finals at the Capital Challenge Horse Show at the Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD, September 25-October 5.

The NAL qualifying season runs from September 1 through August 31. NAL qualifying classes are open to all competitors, but only current members are awarded points. Annual memberships are only \$45 per rider. Further information on the NAL series is available by calling 717-867-5643, emailing NAL@Ryegate.com or online at www.ryegate.com. Follow the NAL on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/NALFinals.

Good luck to all competitors through the final weeks of the NAL qualifying period, and congratulations to the division leaders as follows:

PARLANTI













Adult Hunter Presented by R&R Hunter Horses

National Standings

Reilly Canard and Carry On, 4,424 points

Charlotte Rossetter and Pamela Wright's *Carry On* is a competitive force for the team at Spring Hollow LLC. With Reilly Canard of Bluemont, VA, in the irons, the 15-year-old Holsteiner gelding has earned multiple top placings in the Adult Amateur Hunter 18-35 divisions at Wellington International, the Lexington Spring Premiere and Encore shows, Upperville Colt & Horse Show, and both weeks of the Lake Placid Horse Shows this year. Among their victories were the \$500 NAL/WIHS Amateur Hunter classics during both Lexington Spring shows in April and the Lake Placid Horse Show in June. The pair has also competed in several USHJA National Hunter derbies this season, adding to their consistent, successful partnership each time they step into the ring together.



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Children's Hunter

National Standings

Anne Moody and MTM Gift of Gab, 2,502 points

Horses have always been a part of Anne Moody's life. Her father grew up in the sport, and when he met her mother, it became a family affair. Anne first started riding during summer camp at six years old and never looked back. She and her partner of the last 1.5 years, *MTM Gift of Gab*, currently train at Winterview Farm with Patti Shoemaker, close to her home in Flora, MS.

"His name comes from him being talkative, so that's why he's called *Gift of Gab*, with 'chatty Chappy' as his nickname," Anne said of her 18-year-old Warmblood gelding. "Chappy is a really kind-hearted, loyal, considerate, and reliable horse in and out of the show ring. He's the one that I know has my back every time I make a mistake, and he's unfazed at every jump, no matter how big or impressive. He's by far the coolest hunter I have ever gotten to ride.

"This is definitely my best show year yet," she added. "I feel really good about how the season's gone. Working with mental skills coach Nancy Dye has also extremely helped my anxiety at shows, and it has really improved my riding. My goals for the future include Junior Hunter Finals, Devon, and Jumper Finals!"



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PARLANTI

1.30/1.35m Junior/Amateur Jumper Presented by Parlanti

National Standings

Stella Propp and Chakalaka 8, 5,317 points

Generally a busy rider in all three rings, Stella Propp of New York, NY, has been on top of her game for much of the season. After taking third place in the \$10,000 NAL 1.30/1.35m Junior/Amateur Jumper National Final presented by Parlanti last year, she and *Chakalaka 8*, Aquitaine Equine's 15-year-old Oldenburg mare, claimed their first victory of 2025 in the \$10,000 NAL 1.35m Amateur Jumper Classic at the WEF Premier. They followed that with multiple top 15 finishes throughout the Wellington International circuit, including a return to the winner's circle during Weeks 4 and 8. They have since had strong showings at the Old Salem Farm Spring Horse Shows, Princeton Show Jumping, and HITS on the Hudson and aim to keep up their momentum heading into the fall.



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1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper Presented by SmartEquine



National Standings

Jeanne Reid and Atalante D' Uhart, 5,967 points

Now a student of Lindsey Knight and Michel Feitosa of Halcyon Show Stables, Jeanne Reid has been riding for as long as she can remember. She started riding at a summer camp as a child, and after taking a break from riding to go to college and start a family, she found her way back to the saddle when her children began taking riding lessons. About a year ago, Lindsey helped the Washington, CT, resident find *Atalante D' Uhart*, a 15-year-old Selle Français mare who has quickly become Jeanne's horse of a lifetime.

"Attie' is talented, brave, careful, and very forgiving when I make mistakes," Jeanne said. "She is also very smart and knows how to solve problems. I absolutely love her! At Halcyon, she gets lots of spa treatments and time to roll and doze in the paddock. She loves her groom, Hernan, who treats her like a princess, and she is very particular about her treats. She gets a little offended if you offer peppermints to her, but she loves dried banana chips, so we always have a bag of those for her at the ingate.

"We've had such an incredible year!" she continued. "Last summer, I asked Michel if he would help me learn how to go faster in jump-offs while still going clear, and he has taught me so much. He really understands Attie and is very patient with my amateur riding! It has been really fun to improve my skills while riding a horse who tries so hard for me. I am very lucky to have this amazing mare and the best trainers to guide us."



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1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper

National Standings

Anika Spaeth and Tic Tac De La Pomme Z, 4,046 points

Since they claimed an early victory in the \$3,500 The League/NAL/WIHS 1.10m Junior/Amateur Jumper Classic at Post Time Premier 1 in Florida, Anika Spaeth of Aiken, SC, and *Tic Tac De La Pomme Z* have routinely finished in the top 10 each time they entered the ring this year. They earned 10th place at Post Time Premier 2 before continuing their consistent performances at HITS Ocala, where they secured several more victories throughout the winter circuit. Anika and her 11-year-old Zangersheide gelding then returned to the podium during the Kentucky Spring show and Great Lakes Equestrian Festival 1 and 2, which helped them take over the lead in the NAL National Standings as they prepare for the second half of the season.



© Kaitlyn Miller Photography

1.20/1.25m Junior/Amateur Jumper

National Standings

Kylie Wilson and Here I Am Z, 4,830 points

About 10 years ago, Kylie Wilson joined a friend at summer camp and was instantly hooked on horses. She started riding competitively just over three years ago and quickly carved a place for herself in the Pony Hunter divisions. With her sights now on the NAL Finals, Young Rider divisions, and eventual U25 classes and grand prix, the resident of Pinecrest, FL, focuses on staying consistent every time she steps into the show ring.

Kylie and her partner, *Here I Am Z*, train under the watchful eyes of Vivianne Kassin, Jen Markee, and Daniela Cordero at Elysian Stables. "I've been riding 'Hero' for about a year now, and he's just incredible," she said of the 12-year-old Zangersheide gelding. "He has a huge personality and always wants attention. He knows when it's time to show, and he never lets me down when we step into the ring. He truly is the best partner. I feel great about this season so far and look forward to the Finals later this year!"



© ES Equine Photography

Adult Hunter Presented by R&R Hunter Horses



West Coast Standings

Cathy Morris-Schmitt and Hobbs, 3,705 points

A familiar name atop the NAL Adult Hunter Standings, Cathy Morris-Schmitt has been the West Coast Champion for four years of her longtime partnership with *Andover*, her 17-year-old Oldenburg gelding who surged into third place in the 2025 NAL West Coast Standings before his recent retirement. After finding a new partnership in *Hobbs* about a year ago, Cathy, of La Quinta, CA, says the 9-year-old Hanoverian gelding has stepped up and filled *Andover's* shoes more than she could have ever imagined. *Hobbs* currently sits second in the National Standings and leads for the West Coast.

"It has been a very successful season for us," Cathy said. "I did not expect to be in this position with such a new partnership. We were so fortunate to have Nick Haness and Ashley Weiman offer *Hobbs* to us for purchase; he is just perfect in every way! We hope to compete in the National Finals at Capital Challenge this year."

Cathy started riding with a group of childhood friends in Chicago, then restarted as an amateur in her mid-30s after taking a break from the sport. She currently trains with Joie Gatlin, who has been not only her coach but also a dear friend for more than 15 years.



Cathy and Hobbs

Children's Hunter

West Coast Standings

Evie Becky and Twain, 2,332 points

Evie Becky of Pacific Palisades, CA, has two horses atop the leaderboard in the NAL Children's Hunter Standings: the 10-year-old Hanoverian gelding *Twain*, who sits second in the National Standings and leads for the West Coast, and the 13-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding *Avante*, who holds third in the West Coast Standings. Both mounts, owned by Becky Equestrian LLC, are relatively new rides for Evie, who trains with John Bragg and Lee Flick of Bridgeport Farms.

"I've had *Twain* or 'Finn' for a little over a year," she said. "He's a gentle soul, and he loves people. As soon as he sees someone he knows, he comes up to the front of his stall looking for attention and treats. He knows his job really well. We were lucky enough to buy him from Ceil and Kenneth Wheeler through Hunt and Maddie Tosh, so he came to us perfectly trained and with amazing manners. He always tries his best and aims to please!

"My partnership with *Avante* began as an impromptu schooling ride during the Desert International Horse Park circuit this year," she added. "It was clear from our first jump that we were a match, and my trainer let me show him that weekend. I fell in love immediately and then couldn't part with him. He's super sweet, and he looks like he could be Finn's brother! I'm so lucky to have such special horses that try so hard."

Evie fell in love with the sport seven years ago after taking lessons on a pony who belonged to some family friends. She is just coming back from a recent injury and, with her eyes on indoors this fall and the 3'3" Juniors next year, is thrilled to be back in the saddle and the show ring.



Evie and Twain © Holly Casner



1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper Presented by SmartEquine

West Coast Standings

Jorge Hidalgo Duran and Montana, 2,158 points

Jorge Hidalgo Duran of West Hollywood, CA, and Talacho Sales' 8-year-old Warmblood mare *Montana* claimed an early lead in the 2025 NAL 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper West Coast Standings by putting in consistent performances at the Desert Circuit and Nilforushan Equisport Events. Among their top placings were two wins in the \$5,000 NAL 1.15m Amateur Jumper classics at Desert Holiday 2 and Desert Circuit 9, as well as an eighth-place finish in the Classic at Desert Circuit 7 and 11th place during Week 10. Since then, they have been familiar faces in the jumper ring at The Oaks and Temecula Valley National, working on their connection with every stride.



1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper

West Coast Standings

Ashlin Goodwin and MTM Emilia Air Heart, 2,735 points

Riding has always been part of Ashlin Goodwin's life. She and her 13-year-old Holsteiner mare, *MTM Emilia Air Heart*, train at High Flying Farm in Santa Barbara, CA, with her mother, Natalie, who is an accomplished rider alongside Ashlin's grandmother and great-grandfather.

"I have been riding 'Emilia' for almost two years," Ashlin said. "She's the most amazing, laidback, hardworking, silly horse. We have a very special bond. When I feel nervous or a little unsettled, she rises to the occasion every single time; when she isn't sure about a big wall on course, I give her that extra reassurance, and together we fly. We really put in the work at home to do well at the shows, but I also ride her bareback or have fun under the sprinklers together. She reminds me that riding isn't all work; playing is important as well. She makes me so happy!"

Recently, Ashlin has undergone peanut exposure therapy to help with her severe allergy, so the 2025 season has been "tough but amazing. The dose makes me feel very weak and sick, but over the last few months, my body has accepted it, and Emilia and I have had great success stepping up to the 1.30m," she said. "My goal is to continue to work hard in and out of the show ring and at school, stay healthy, and enjoy the process of reaching our full potential."



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1.20/1.25m Junior/Amateur Jumper

West Coast Standings

Mackenzie Hudson and Ekvra Fortuna, 2,260 points

With both a mother and sister who started riding early in their childhoods, Mackenzie Hudson of Austin, TX, was no exception to the family hobby and started lessons at just four years old. She now trains with Mark Kinsella of MK Equestrian, focusing on both competition and horsemanship with her partner of the last 10 years: *Ekyra Fortuna*, a 16-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare who has come up the ranks with her.

"She's so easy to be around – sweet, personable, and loves attention from her people," Mackenzie said. "At home, she's more like a pet; she loves going on trail rides and getting pampered. But at shows, it's like she has an alter ego – focused, competitive, and totally dialed in. She knows when it's time to switch gears and always shows up as a dependable partner in the ring. She made sure the first half of this season was great, and she's had a lighter summer with our focus on the NAL Finals this fall. My long-term goals with her extend beyond all the showing, with plans of breeding her in the future."



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