

Maryland Competitions

Need to Know News for the 2021 Competition Season

Maryland 5 Star Set to Run!

As of press, the inaugural Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill is a go! “We don’t know for sure what the spectator options will be at this point, but we are moving ahead with the event for 2021,” said Maryland 5 Star Media and Communications Director Chris

Daley. The addition of the Maryland 5 Star to the FEI calendar creates a spring and fall five-star opportunity here in the U.S.

In December 2020, the FEI officially granted the five-star status to the Fair Hill event after evaluating the facility during its test event in August 2020. The test event, and now the five-star, is held at the facility’s new Fair Hill Special Event Zone. “The five-star designation is the top level of our sport and in turn, there is an extensive evaluation process that takes place in order to host such an event,” said Catrin Norinder, Director FEI Olympic Games and Eventing. “Despite the challenges 2020 has presented, the organizers have made tremendous strides and met the necessary requirements to date, and the FEI Eventing Committee supported its inclusion in the FEI calendar.”

The process to become a five-star is long indeed, and for Fair Hill started back in 2017. That is when the USEF selected Fair Hill as a potential host site for the world’s newest CCI5*-L competition. Construction for Phase One of the project was completed last year with the new cross-country course designed by Ian Stark of Great Britain. The event was supposed to run last fall but due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, organizers decided to defer for one year.

The Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill is scheduled for October 14-17 and will benefit the Maryland Food Bank. The Maryland Food Bank is a nonprofit, hunger-relief organization dedicated to feeding people, strengthening communities and ending hunger for Marylanders.

In preparation for the big event, the Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill has added a few team members with event industry veteran Dan Laufer and equestrian industry veteran Connie Sawyer. Laufer will serve as the event’s Director of Operations with Sawyer as its Broadcast Production Director.

In addition, Kaityln Mc Nerney has been promoted to Event Director-Partnerships & Experiential, Kaleigh Collett has been promoted to Event Manager-Marketing, Promotion & Competition Management, and Marissa Melzer has been promoted to Event Manager-Operations, Tickets & Hospitality.

Keep checking equiery.com and future *Equi-*

ery issues for updates and announcements as we get closer to the big event!

Carroll Co Western Circuit Changes Venue

The Carroll County Western Circuit will run all its 2021 competitions out of the Carroll County Agriculture Center and Shipley Arena in Westminster. CCWC offers shows for all levels and ages of riders, from April through September. The club also offers clinics and seminars year-round.

PVDA Creates Schooling Show Championship Competition

The Potomac Valley Dressage Association is piloting a Schooling Show Championship for Second Level and below this year. The championship show will be held in conjunction with the Chapter Challenge in November.

In order to qualify, riders must be PVDA members with scores from the Intro B/C and Tests 2/3 (for Training through Second levels) to count. Scores must be earned at PVDA schooling shows or PVDA Chapter shows.

At championships, riders will compete riding the Intro B test or Test 2 for the other levels. There will also be a Freestyle Championship class. More information can be found at pvda.org.

Area II Honors Packy McGaughan



With the 2020 eventing season coming to a crashing halt last March, the United States Eventing Association’s Area II Chair, Melissa Stubenberg, consulted with the Area II awards committee to come up with a new plan for the 2020 awards program. “We thought we’d have to cancel the whole program for the year,” said Area II Awards Coordinator Holly Covey. Instead, they came up with a new plan.

“Essentially, we took the riders’ ending scores and averaged them,” Covey explained. “We felt this would help those who could not travel to compete or were unable to ride due to barn shutdowns early in the season.” Covey said the new point system wasn’t perfect but the committee felt it was the fairest way to handle the shortened season and encourage people to get

back out and compete. “It also eliminated the point chasing – encouraging riders to ride better, rather more often,” she added.

This idea of riding better, not just more often, was a concept at the core of the late Packy McGaughan’s training program. “What we were basically asking was for individual rider excellence in performance – something Packy McGaughan was all about,” Covey said. She then reached out to his mother Judy and asked if they could name the new awards program in his honor to remember his legacy to eventing. “A trophy was not enough in our view – Packy was more than that to us,” Covey added.

Thus, the Area II Patrick McGaughan Memorial Excellence Awards was launched. This past February, the Area II Council voted to continue with the new “best score” system. “No more point chasing, thanks to Packy and his commitment to excellence,” Covey stated.

The USEA has followed suit and starting with the 2021 competition season, will also be implementing a new year-end awards point system that emphasizes quality over quantity. See equiery.com later this month for a full breakdown of the new USEA point system.

Coexist Launches Colonial Classic Qualifying Series

Coexist Stables in Mt. Airy is hosting a series this year specifically pointed towards the Colonial Classic. The owners of Coexist stated that they created the series because there were no venues offering qualifying classes that were within a reasonable drive to their area. “We wanted to accommodate the people who would like to qualify, and help the people at the lower levels gain the show experience they need in order to be competitive at this level,” Elizabeth Tonti of Coexist said.

To qualify to attend the Colonial Classic, riders must attend three of the series shows to earn points. The shows at Coexist will offer 16 divisions, including jumper classes.

New Kathy Easter-Knott Scholarship

The Southern Maryland Quarter Horse Association has created a new scholarship in memory of member Kathy Easter-Knott, who died in December 2020. According to SMQHA, “the scholarship will be for a deserving youth member who has an undeniable passion for the horse world and serves their community.” The scholarship is to be used to aid in the cost of college or the expense of horse related activities.

SMQHA will select one youth member based on the following criteria:

1. Must be a current youth member of SMQHA;
2. Obtain one letter of recommendation from