

## BARN BITS

The annual MOHJO awards party was fun. Those who attended were treated to appetizers provided by Ed and Gail Schultz, good food from Liz Landes and the NEC staff, and cake generously donated courtesy of Griffin Farms and Amanda Hudspeth. Stephanie Petersen and Annie Vibbert handed out the awards, grooming totes for champion, baby pads for reserve, and USHJA hats as a surprise third place prize. Our honorary member for 2011, Chris Mautz, took loads of pictures and will put them on his website. Thanks to secretary Edwina Graham for checking in the loads of guests, and membership secretary Irene Heisler who took new memberships at the door. Thanks to Kerry Bailey and all who donated to the silent auction.

I would like to take a moment for those who are new to showing and points. You are encouraged to keep your own points during the year. Start out with your first show, make a spread sheet, or keep track on a sheet of paper. When points are posted and you think there are errors, don't hesitate to contact the point secretary, Stephanie Petersen. Have your horse name, the name of the shows you have entered, the classes entered and the placings when you email. Stephanie would rather correct during the year and not have to go back through 80 or more shows to find results. It is important to note that the owner of the horse (usually the person who nominates at the beginning of the year) is the person who will accrue points.

Selections for the USHJA Sportsmanship were announced. Junior, Elizabeth Miller, Amateur, Kerry Bailey, and Professional, Diane Young.

Mechlin Farms will hold three Hunter Derby type shows this coming summer. Based on the growing popularity of the USHJA Hunter Derbies, Ellen Baehr has come up with a great idea for us all to try our horses out in the Derby format. There will be three heights, 2'6'', 3' and 3'6''. Prize lists will be in the mail soon, and specs will be listed on the website as soon as we have them. Points are limited to local shows, and will have separate awards at the end of the year. Ribbons and prizes will be awarded to the winners, and fun for all.

That's all for now. Good luck this coming show year to all.