



MCTA Handbook

Maryland Combined Training Association

2025

Note: New information is in *red italics*.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Maryland Combined Training Association! One of the oldest local affiliates of the U.S. Eventing Association, MCTA was organized in the winter of 1972 just as the sport was beginning to grow in North America. The group organized its first horse trial at Jackson Hole Farm in Upperco that same spring.

Since its first year MCTA has grown steadily and is now a busy organization consisting of well over 100 members. Keeping in stride with the growing membership, MCTA has also expanded its activities. Not only does it host a USEA-recognized event including all the divisions from Beginner Novice through Advanced each spring, but it also holds two unrecognized events: the “Starter” and “Jenny Camp” horse trials. Throughout the year MCTA and its individual members also organize mounted clinics, cross country schooling sessions, horse management seminars, and all sorts of other educational programs for both horses and riders. Each year MCTA also offers high score awards, members-only competition trophies, financial grants, a season-end banquet, and the general camaraderie of local eventing enthusiasts.

Holding all this activity together is MCTA’s comprehensive and regularly updated [website](#), which includes a huge calendar, classified ads, breaking news, and many member resources. In addition to the website, the organization communicates with its members primarily through [Facebook](#) and frequent email blasts announcing its own and its members’ competitions, clinics, programs, etc. and providing other timely information.

Needless to say, all of this activity does not run itself. MCTA is a non-profit, 100% volunteer organization that relies on the membership to enjoy AND assist at its various functions. PLEASE freely offer your help. We NEED you to keep MCTA as successful and worthwhile as it currently is!

Again, welcome to the MCTA. We wish you an active and engaged membership!

HANDBOOK CONTENTS

MCTA Membership	page 2
USEA Membership	page 3
Grants [Scholarships]	page 4
High Score Awards	page 6
Competition Awards	page 11

MEMBERSHIP

MCTA MEMBER BENEFITS

For Everyone

HIGH SCORE AWARDS: year-end trophies and 8 championship ribbons for 1st-6th placings At all levels in 3-phase horse trials. (To be eligible members must volunteer a minimum of 8 hours, at least 4 of which must be at MCTA's own activities while the rest may be from horse trials organized by individual MCTA members.)

COMPETITION AWARDS: perpetual trophies for the best-scoring MCTA members at each level and in most divisions of the three events organized by MCTA.

FINANCIAL GRANTS: \$\$\$ for combined-training-related instruction, judge/TD/course design training, etc.

REDUCED PRICES: lower prices for events, parties, clinics, etc. organized by MCTA and sometimes by individual members and local businesses

MCTA BUCKS: certificates for further discounts in return for your volunteer hours at MCTA's own events

BREAKING NEWS: frequent email blasts and Facebook and website news about coming competitions, activities, and all things eventing

CLASSIFIED ADS: free 3-month website listings for horses, tack, apparel, boarding, instruction, training, etc.

Especially for Farm or Business Owners / Event Organizers

WEBSITE LINKS: from MCTA's website to yours

EMAIL BLASTS: free fliers with links to your prize list, website, etc. sent to our large mailing list as requested

NEWS POSTINGS: additional information about your activities posted on MCTA's homepage at your request

CALENDAR EMPHASIS: your dates listed in ***bold italics*** on our huge, much used website calendar

"NEXT 8 WEEKS" CALENDAR BLASTS: your dates included in the bi-weekly reminder of member-organized activities.

VOLUNTEER CREDIT: MCTA members' volunteer hours at your 3-phase event counted for MCTA high score awards and grants

MCTA MEMBERSHIP SPECIFICS

As of January 1, 2026:

Individual Membership—annual dues are \$60

Family Membership—annual dues are \$150 for 2-6 individuals in the same household

*Individual Life Membership**—one-time dues are \$500

Family Life Membership—one-time dues are \$750

You can access the [membership application](#) at the bottom of MCTA's homepage or by clicking on the "Join/Renew" button under the "Membership" tab on the website. After you fill in the information you can then either print it and mail it with a check OR you can join entirely online, paying via PayPal.

MCTA's membership year runs from January 1 through December 31. Anyone who joins after October 1st will continue on the roster for the following year. The renewal deadline is April 1.

*From time to time the MCTA Executive Committee and officers also bestow honorary life membership on individuals who have been members for a long time and have consistently rendered outstanding volunteer service.

USEA MEMBERSHIP

MCTA encourages all its members to support the sport of eventing by joining our national association, the United States Eventing Association or USEA. Members receive the monthly *Eventing USA* magazine and are eligible for area and national awards and grants. (USEA membership is also required to compete in recognized events like the MCTA Horse Trials at Shawan Downs.)

Please visit www.useventing.com for more information and a USEA membership application!



GRANTS [SCHOLARSHIPS]

In 1976 Dr. George Roveti, MCTA's third president, chose Sidney Brigham (head riding instructor at St. Timothy's School), Janet McBrien (head riding instructor at Goucher College), and Iva Gillet (past Green Spring Valley Hounds Pony Club D.C.) as the group's first Scholarship Committee. The basic guidelines and selection criteria were formulated, and one grant was awarded. The initial recipient was a young riding instructor, Robin Stemler, who used the funds to train with Bruce Davidson (Sr.). A second scholarship was soon added so that one could go to a junior and one to a senior if applicants warranted, and the program was later named in memory of Joan Leigh Thomas Barthel, a long-time MCTA volunteer who had served on the scholarship committee before her untimely death. In 1982 a "Youth Grant" was briefly added for members 13 and under. Then the 1984 committee developed the "Floating Grant" to be used in the event that there was more than one especially deserving applicant in a given category. The grants are funded primarily by the silent auction at MCTA's annual winter banquet.

GUIDELINES

1. Grant money may only be spent on CONTINUING EQUESTRIAN EDUCATION RELATED TO THE SPORT OF EVENTING, but this can be on the organizational/officiating side as well as on the competitive side.
2. There are three possible grants:
 - A *senior grant* of up to \$500 for an applicant over 21 years of age.
 - A *junior/young rider grant* of up to \$500 for an applicant 21 or younger.
 - A *floating grant* of an amount to be determined by the Grant Committee may be awarded in either category if it determines that there is an additional exceptionally deserving candidate.
3. If there are no qualified applicants in one category, that grant may be awarded to a second qualified applicant in the other category.
4. If there are no qualified applicants in a given year, no grants will be awarded.
5. Decisions on these awards will be made by the Grants Chair and Committee, whose choices will be final.
6. [Grant applications](#) are available on the MCTA website under the "Programs" tab. A link will also be included in an email blast to the membership each fall. Applicants can also contact the Grants Chair (via "[Contact Us](#)" under the website's "About Us" tab) to request an application.
7. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year, as long as they are sent to the Grants Chair by the December 1 deadline. **NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED IF POSTMARKED, FAXED, OR EMAILED AFTER THE DEADLINE.**

8. The grant winners will be announced at MCTA's wintertime Annual Meeting and Banquet.
9. Grant recipients obtain their funds by submitting receipts to the Grants Chair for reimbursement.
10. Recipients must be willing to describe their grant-funded experiences to the MCTA membership at a general meeting or through a website article, poster presentation, or similar method.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Applicants must be current members of the MCTA. They must have been members for a full calendar year prior to the year of application. Interruptions in membership will negate eligibility; this includes late renewal of membership.
2. Applicants must have completed a minimum of 8 volunteer hours, all of which must have been for MCTA's own events or activities.
3. Previous awardees may re-apply, but preference will be given to new applicants.
4. Applicants may be asked to appear before the Grants Committee for a mounted interview. If this request is made, the date and location of the interviews will be decided at the convenience of the Committee and announced well ahead of time. Interviews may also be conducted via telephone or email.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Grants Committee will weigh the following criteria (the first two being especially important) to make the selections as fair as possible:

- Participation in and volunteer contributions to the activities of the MCTA
- **Sustained** interest in and dedication to the sport of eventing
- Potential to share acquired knowledge and experience
- Good sportsmanship
- Potential as a competitor/instructor/official

HIGH SCORE AWARDS

MCTA offers 18 categories of high score awards which are presented each year at the Annual Meeting and Banquet during the winter. All include perpetual trophies which MCTA will engrave with the winners' names. These trophies may be kept until December 1st of the year in which they are received, but then must be returned polished and in good condition to the Awards Coordinator. Small "keeper" trophies and/or prizes and championship ribbons are also given for permanent possession. While the trophies are only for first place, ribbons and prizes are awarded to eight places.

Each high score trophy has its own page under the [Programs](#) tab on the MCTA website. These pages give details of the trophies' donors and namesakes, accompanied by photos if available, and list all previous winners. They also note eligibility requirements, but for quick reference those are also given in the following chart:

TROPHY SPECIFICATIONS

	Rider Age	Level	MCTA Member	Other
<u>RIDER</u>				
<i>Spirit of Heaven</i>	<i>Junior</i>	<i>PS</i>	<i>rider</i>	
<i>Skip To My Lou</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>PS</i>	<i>rider</i>	
Dakota Red	Jr YR	<i>S</i>	rider	
Tuckahoe Farm	Senior	<i>S</i>	rider	
Red Buzzard	Jr YR	BN	rider	
Denegri	Senior	BN	rider	
Highland Farms	Jr YR	N	rider	
Rip Van Winkle	Senior	N	rider	
Red Shutters	Jr YR	T,M	rider	unrecognized events only at M
Sunrock Ridge	Senior	T,M	rider	unrecognized events only at M
Schaurek	Jr YR	T and above	rider	recognized events only
Laubach	Senior	T and above	rider	recognized events only
<u>HORSE</u>				
<i>Love Song</i>	<i>any</i>	<i>PS</i>	<i>rider, owner</i>	
Avra	any	<i>S</i>	rider, owner	
Skippy Lou	any	BN	rider, owner	
Shriver Abell	any	N	rider, owner	
Jr YR HOY	Jr YR	T and above	rider, owner	recognized events only
Castlebar	Senior	T and above	rider, owner	recognized events only
Federal Hill	any	any	rider, owner	horse's 1 st year of HT; rider and owner in same immediate family
<u>SPECIAL</u>				
Just Jeeves	any	any	rider, owner	rider and breeder in same immediate family
Fortuna	any	N and above	rider, owner	mare; recognized events only

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. To be eligible for high score awards, riders must volunteer a minimum of eight hours, at least 4 of which must be at MCTA's own activities while the rest may be from 3-phase horse trials organized by individual MCTA members.) Information about volunteer awards and a list of available volunteer jobs is available under ["Volunteer With Us"](#) on the "Competitions and Activities" tab of the website.
2. A [Volunteer Hours Verification Form](#) is available under "Programs" on the website and should be submitted along with the Year-End Awards Registration Form (see #16 below).
3. The rider and, in the case of horse trophies, the owner of the horse must be an MCTA member in good standing at the time of the competition for which points are submitted. "In good standing" means that dues have been paid in full for the calendar year. "At the time of the competition" means the dues have been received by its original closing date. Points cannot be submitted retroactively for new members or former members whose membership has lapsed.
4. Points may be submitted only for horse trials or three-day events which have three distinct phases: dressage, cross country/endurance, and stadium jumping. The cross country phase must be conducted on natural footing outside of a ring or arena. Placings at dressage shows, combined tests, event derbies, etc. may NOT be counted.
5. Points may only be submitted for events or levels in which all MCTA members are eligible to compete. Thus placings at Pony Club rallies, inter- and intraschool competitions, or any other events limited to members of an organization other than MCTA will not be counted. (For example, if an otherwise open event restricts its Beginner Novice level to 4-H Club members placings from other levels would count but those from Beginner Novice would not. On the other hand, if the same event offered *both* a Beginner Novice division for 4-H Clubbers *and* another for anyone else, placings in either division would count.) Similarly, placings at competitions that require invitation or selection to compete may not be counted.
6. No points may be submitted for events entered as "H.C."
7. In unrecognized events points will count at the level designated by the organizer, even if the specifications do not exactly match those of the USEA for that level.
8. Points from any level with jumps lower than **2'3"** may be counted toward the trophies designated for below **Starter** level regardless of the name of the level—Introductory, Elementary, Baby Beginner Novice, Green, Chicken, Super Chicken, etc.
9. At designated mixed levels (*e.g.* PT, NBN) where dressage and stadium are conducted at the higher level but cross country at the lower, points will be awarded at the lower level.

10. Points won at the Modified level at unrecognized events may be applied to the Red Shutters/Sunrock Ridge Trophies; Modified points from recognized events or CCI*s will be applied to the Schaurek/Laubach and Jr/YR HOY/Castlebar trophies; those from either recognized or unrecognized Modified levels and CCI1*s may be applied to the Federal Hill and Just Jeeves Trophies.
11. *In order to give as many members as possible a chance to win high score trophies, whenever the same member or member-owned and -ridden horse wins a particular trophy twice in a row they will be ineligible to submit points for that trophy in the following year. After one “break year” they will again be eligible to submit points for the given trophy. Should a rider/horse win the same trophy for another two consecutive years they will again need to take a “break year” before regaining eligibility to submit points for the same trophy.*
[Exception: the Federal Hill Trophy (for first-year horses) may be won only once.]
12. No rider may place in more than one RIDER category in the same year (i.e. the same person could not win both the Laubach and Sunrock Ridge Trophies or be reserve for the Highland Farms and second reserve for the *Denegri Trophies in the same year.) Points may be submitted in more than one rider category, but after the December 1st deadline the Awards Coordinator will place each rider who has submitted points in his or her one most advantageous category—e.g. 1st for the Schaurek Trophy rather than 2nd for the Rip Van Winkle Trophy—and that decision will be final.
13. However, placing in one of the rider categories will not affect standings for horse awards.
14. Rider awards are based on rider placings so the same rider may submit points earned on multiple horses; horse awards are based on horse placings so points may be submitted for the same horse when ridden by different riders and/or owned by various owners—as long as all riders and owners are MCTA members as specified in Condition #2 and the chart above. [Exceptions: in the case of the Jr/YR HOY and Castlebar Trophies, riders must also be in the same age group since these trophies are specifically for horses ridden by junior/young riders or seniors.]
15. Leased horses are eligible for the horse trophies if the lessee is an MCTA member; riders may use any horse regardless of ownership to earn points for the rider trophies.
16. In order to receive points for placings at ANY event, including those sponsored directly by MCTA, it is the rider or owner’s responsibility to correctly and completely fill out an MCTA Year-End Awards Registration Form and get it to the Awards Coordinator by the December 1st deadline. Points will not be submitted automatically by any event, even MCTA-sponsored ones! [A Volunteer Hours Verification Form must also be submitted—see #2 above.]
17. The [Year-End Awards Registration Form](#) can be found on the MCTA website under “Programs.” *It should be submitted electronically.* No points will be accepted unless all information requested on the form is correct and complete. *Verification for each placing must also be submitted with the form. This can be a screen shot of online results, a photo of the scoreboard, etc. as long as both horse’s and rider’s names are shown—not just their number.* A separate form MUST be submitted for each different horse/rider combination.

18. ***The deadline for submitting high score award points is December 1st!!!*** Points will not be accepted if received after this date. Those submitting points are encouraged to check with the Awards Coordinator to be sure the forms have been received, especially if they are submitted just before the deadline or an email confirmation has not been received.
19. Points for events that conclude after December 1st will be applied to the next calendar year's awards.
20. The Awards Coordinator's name and contact information can be found in the ["Contact Us"](#) list in the "About the MCTA" section of the MCTA website. It will also be included on the forms and in reminder email blasts sent to the membership in late fall.
21. Decisions regarding specifications for high score awards are made by the MCTA Executive Committee before the beginning of the competition season whenever possible. If revisions are made they will be publicized in emails and highlighted in the annual late fall reminders.

THE POINT SYSTEM

1. Points for MCTA high score awards shall be awarded as follows:

All Levels through Modified (and CCI)*

Place	HT	3D		Place	HT	CCI-S**	CCI-L**	P3D
1 st	6	9		1 st	6	8	15	9
2 nd	5	7.5		2 nd	5	7	12	7.5
3 rd	4	6		3 rd	4	6	10	6
4 th	3	4.5		4 th	3	5	8	4.5
5 th	2	3		5 th	2	4	7	3
6 th	1	1.5		6 th	1	3	6	1.5
completion	0	5		completion	0	2	7	5

Preliminary

Intermediate

Place	HT	CCI-S***	CCI-L***		Place	HT	CCI-S****	CCI-L****	CCI-L*****
1 st	12	16	30		1 st	24	32	60	90
2 nd	10	14	28		2 nd	22	29	55	83
3 rd	8	12	26		3 rd	20	26	50	76
4 th	6	10	24		4 th	18	23	45	69
5 th	4	8	22		5 th	16	20	40	62
6 th	2	6	20		6 th	14	17	35	55
completion	0	3	10		completion	0	9	18	28

Advanced

2. Points are doubled for events sponsored by MCTA (MCTA Horse Trials at Shawan Downs, Starter and Jenny Camp Horse Trials).
3. No distinction will be made among Open, Young Rider, Horse, or other divisions. Thus competitors placing 3rd in OP, YROP, or Preliminary Horse divisions at a horse trial would all earn 4 MCTA points.
4. In case of a tie in points for a high score award, riders or horses achieving their score at the higher level of competition will be deemed the winner. If all points were achieved at the same level, the rider or horse having the higher placings will be the winner. (For example, 1st and 3rd placings at Training Level, totaling 10 points, would win over 2nd, 4th, and 5th placings at Training Level, even though these also total 10 points.) Additionally, if points were achieved at the same level but in both recognized and unrecognized competitions, the recognized competitions would be considered higher. (For example, a 1st and 3rd at USEA-recognized Novice events would be considered higher than a 1st and 3rd at unrecognized Novice events, even though the total would be 10 points in both cases.)
5. In any case where these rules are found to be inadequate, a final decision will be made by the Awards Coordinator and the MCTA President, in consultation with the Executive Committee if time allows.

COMPETITION AWARDS

In addition to its high score trophies, MCTA also offers perpetual trophies at the three horse trials it sponsors: the spring recognized event, starter horse trials, and Jenny Camp. With four exceptions, these trophies are for the highest placed MCTA MEMBERS at each level, regardless of where they place in the competition as a whole—although they must complete all three phases of the event. To be eligible, riders must be members by the original closing date of the competition. *They must also specify their age (junior/young rider or senior) when entering the event; those who do not will be assumed to be seniors.*

Competition trophies are displayed at the event but kept by MCTA and engraved. Winners receive “keeper” trophies and/or prizes.

Like the high score trophies, each competition trophy has its own page under the [Programs](#) tab of the MCTA website with detailed specifications, profiles of its donors and namesakes (with photos where available), and a list of all the previous winners. For quick reference, here are the specifications for MCTA’s competition trophies:

TROPHY SPECIFICATIONS

	Age	Level	MCTA Member	Other
<u>MCTA HORSE TRIALS at Shawan Downs</u>				
Meier	Jr/ YR	S	rider	
Gore	Sr	S	rider	
Redmond	Jr/ YR	BN	rider	
Octavius	Sr	BN	rider	
Capt. Andy	Jr/ YR	N	rider	
Jackson Hole	Sr	N	rider	
Special Edition	Jr/ YR	T	rider	
Distant Fire	Sr	T	rider	
Cider Is Sweet	Jr/ YR	P	rider	
Seneca	Sr	P	rider	
Tres. Motorcars/ Your Royal Maj.	any	<i>M</i>	<i>rider</i>	formerly for MCTA member I riders
Social Cat	any	A	none	only awarded when Advanced HT is held]
Barthel	any	any	rider	highest percentage in dressage

JENNY CAMP

Pollywog	any	PS	rider	
Sunpebble Point	any	S	rider	
Grandad	Jr/ YR	BN	rider	
Shootmetothemoon	Sr	BN	rider	
Welcome Doctor	Jr/ YR	N	rider	
Silver View Farms	Sr	N	rider	
Wake Up Susan	any	below N	none	rider must be U.S. Pony Club member
Mickey Skipper	any	N,T	none	rider must be U.S. Pony Club member
Aazrak	any	T	rider	

STARTER EVENT

Blackberry	any	PS	rider
Scavenger's Choice	any	S	rider
Valerie Hunt	Jr/ YR	BN	rider
Buttermilk Sky	Sr	BN	rider
Sunstone Creek	Jr/ YR	N	rider
Sunwood Spring	Sr	N	rider