



2026 Garden Grove Horse Shows

Year-End Newsletter

As the premier destination for USEF Lite & USHJA Outreach competitions in the Tri-State Area, the Garden Grove Horse Shows would like to thank our exhibitors, staff, sponsors and spectators for another fantastic year! Congratulations to everyone who joined us in the show rings this season; we look forward to seeing you again in 2027!

Save the dates for 2027:

- April 18
- May 23
- June 27
- August 22 – Double points!
- September 5

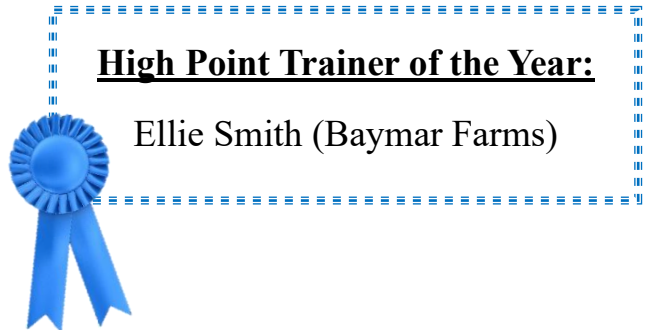
Follow the Shows online:



Thank you to our participating trainers and staff!

Trainers:

- Miranda Antonaccio
- Robin Brennan
- Madison Carlstrom
- Connie DeMaio
- Jenay Fino
- Carly Hartdon
- Amanda Hopkins
- Caroline Letts
- Jen Mackey
- Amy Metta
- Sarah Morley
- Valerie Mulero
- Adele Sessa
- Torri Siegel Dragos
- Jim and Ellie Smith
- Sandy Stylze
- Caitlin Umstetter
- Jenny Voight



Staff:

- Office – Kitt
- Announcers – Katie and Diane
- Ring starters – Lauren, Sarah and Shelby
- Jump crew – Damian, Mark, Raymond and Rocko

New Rider Equitation Champion

Isabel Hall and Sing-A-Verse

Five years ago, Isabel realized she wanted to start riding while she was watching the show “Free Rein.” This year, she completed her first full season in the show ring with guidance from trainer Miranda Nagell. When she met Sing-A-Verse in August 2025, she knew he was the right horse for her.

“‘Lyric’ is very calm and loving,” Isabel said. “This was our first year riding together, and I’m very proud of both of us. He has taught me so much, like learning how to stay calm even when I’m nervous. In the future, I hope to continue having stronger seasons with him and move into jumper classes. My ultimate goal is to own my own barn one day and do physical therapy for horses.”

Pre-show routine:

- Long spa day and bonding time the day before



Favorite advice:

“Smile; you’re so lucky to be able to ride a horse like Lyric!”

Mini Stirrup Equitation Champion

Charlotte Mackey and Espresso Bean

For Charlotte Mackey, riding is a family affair. Her mother and trainer, Jennifer, has always had horses, and Charlotte joined her at the farm to brush them and take pony rides since she was about 9 months old. Four years ago, they welcomed Espresso Bean into the family.

“Charlotte loves her boy,” Jennifer said. “She started showing him in Leadline a couple of months after getting him to help develop him into a show horse. Even though he can be hard at times, they definitely have a strong bond.”

“I feel great about this season and happy for my pony,” Charlotte said. “My future goal is to find my next pony to grow with like ‘Bean.’”



Pre-show routine:

- Prep everything the night before, including show bows

Favorite advice:

“Do your best and have fun!”

Cross Rail Hunter Champion

Danielle Gomes and Nimbus 2000

Danielle Gomes's equestrian journey started six years ago when she was invited to attend a camp at Winward Equestrian. Since then, her trainer, Carly Hartdorn, has helped make Winward her home away from home. Danielle spends plenty of quality time with her partner of nearly five years, Nimbus 2000 a.k.a. "Potter," and focuses on making him happy, comfortable, and ready for the task at hand.

"He's my best friend, and I love him so much," Danielle said. "He has such a simple but silly personality, and being around him always makes me smile. Over the years, we've built a bond that means so much to me. He's more than just the horse I ride and show — he's family. I love spending time with him, learning from him, and being able to call him mine.

"I'm so proud of the season we had together," she added. "When I think about where we started and how much we've grown together, I'm so grateful. Competing in this division was so much fun, and becoming champion is something that Potter and I will always celebrate. Moving forward, I want to keep learning and growing with him. I would love to have more successful seasons together, but most of all, I want to keep loving what we do and making memories with him."

Pre-show routine:

- Work on goals in scheduled lessons as well as free time
- Get everything together the night before to avoid rushing



Favorite advice:

"Don't overthink your ride. Have confidence and believe in all the hard work you've put in to get here."

Opportunity Hunter Champion

Madison Delorme and Captain Morgan

A student of Sarah Morley and Cedar Creek Equestrian Center, Madison Delorme has been riding for a little over three years. She and Captain Morgan have also been partners for that long, with Madison saying “Cappy” is her heart horse.

“I’ve loved horses for as long as I can remember, but my bond with Cappy is like no other!” Madison said. “He’s such a pleasure to be around. He always makes me laugh, he’s so sweet, and he’s the best teacher I ever met. I love him endlessly!”

“I feel so incredible and grateful to have had this amazing show season,” she added. “I am so proud of us both! My goals for the future are to move up to the 2’3” and 2’6” hunters and maybe even try jumpers with Cappy.”



Pre-show routine:

- Oil tack and boots
- Pack everything the night before
- Wear lucky socks

Favorite advice:

“Trust in your training!”

Low Child/Adult Equitation & Hunter Champion

Giavanna D'Ambrosio and Roosevelt

Once Giavanna D'Ambrosio started taking lessons seven years ago, there was no going back. She had always loved horses, but she fell even more in love with the sport and wanted to keep getting better. She continued to grow in confidence and, two years ago, decided to start showing. With the help of Baymar Farms, she started working with her champion mount, Roosevelt, last year.

"He's very sweet and has a big personality," Giavanna said. "He can be silly sometimes, but he's also loving and fun to be around. I love spending time with him even when I'm not riding.

"I'm really proud and excited about how this season went and how much I improved," she continued. "My favorite part was seeing how much Roosevelt and I have grown together. My goal for the future is to keep learning and become a stronger, more confident rider, especially once I move up to bigger jumps and more competitive divisions. Most of all, I want to keep having fun and making memories with every horse I ride. I'm excited to see what next season brings!"

Pre-show routine:

- Prep everything the night before to avoid rushing
- Listen to music to stay relaxed and focused before riding



Favorite advice:

"Don't worry about the ribbon; focus on having a good ride. Have confidence because your horse can feel when you don't. Keep your eyes up, look where you want to go, and don't overthink your plan."

0.65m Jumper Champion

Marissa Levine and RPS Underestimated

Marissa Levine is on her way to buying her year-long partner, RPS Underestimated, under the guidance of her trainer, Madison Carlstrom. Marissa has ridden for 11 years and continues to learn ways to make herself and “Cardi” more confident in the ring.

“She’s very sweet but can be nervous at first,” Marissa said. “She loves jumping and going fast, along with her German muffins and other cookies! I am extremely grateful for the people who made this season possible. I’m also grateful to Madison for never giving up on me and making me the best rider I have ever been.”



Pre-show routine:

- Give Cardi a pep talk and go over the plan before going into the ring

Favorite advice:

“Mind over matter — you know what to do!”

High Point Rider & Three-Time Division Champion

Emma Pagan and Delilah

Although Emma has loved horses for as long as she can remember, she didn't start riding until her family moved to New Jersey in 2024. After her first lesson at Baymar Farms, she was completely hooked.

"I've been riding Delilah since March 2025, and I felt an instant connection with her," Emma said. "Our first show was a big moment for both of us because it was my first show ever and her first show ever. We got to experience it together, and I was so proud of us. She is such a sweet mare. She's usually very calm, and she's also really smart. She loves being petted, getting groomed, and, of course, eating! One of my favorite things to do with her is just to hang out while she grazes."

(continued on next page)

Pre-show routine:

- Get lucky socks and lucky necklace ready to wear
- Pack Delilah's post-show treats
- Make Delilah extra shiny with Carr & Day & Martin Dream Coat



Favorite advice:

"Every time you enter the arena, ride like you are being judged — no bad habits. Ride for the ride, not the ribbon. Have fun, and don't forget to smile!"

Continued: Emma Pagan and Delilah

- **Short Stirrup Equitation & Hunter Champion**
- **Pleasure Horse/Pony Champion**

“I feel grateful and proud of the season Delilah and I have had this year,” Emma said. “We’ve come such a long way together, and I’m excited to keep learning and growing with her. Hopefully someday we can make it to the Low Children’s together. Either way, I feel so incredibly lucky to have had this experience with her, and I can’t wait to see how far we can go.”



Ringside Chat with Rose DeMaio, 7, Mini Stirrup Reserve Champion with Oscar The Great, 8

“My name is Rose DeMaio, and I train with Connie at DeMaio Stables and Sales. We live on the farm, so I’ve been riding since I was born. Oscar and I have been a team for two years, and he really is great, just like his name! He’s so much fun and loves to gallop cross-country. It feels amazing to be Reserve Champion, but next year, I want to be Grand Champion! My goal is to keep getting better with Oscar and make sure we’re having fun.”

Garden Grove would like to extend additional congratulations to **Lillian Botti** from Topline Show Stables, who won the 2026 **Leadline Championship!**

Thank you to our 2026 sponsors!

