

TRISTATE RIDING CLUB – INSTRUCTOR BIOS

Judi Novak

Judi Novak has ridden competed, trained and taught for many years in a multitude of different venues. As a child in the 70's, Judi competed in the Junior Hunter & Equitation divisions in upstate NY, CT & NJ, training with Tina Stevenson, Kip Rosenthal & George Morris. In college she began riding event horses and in her final year of school she traveled to Ireland to train with Iris Kellett, John Hall and Mary D'Arcy. While there, Judi participated in the British Horse Society Assistant Instructor program, sat for and passed the stringent exam! After graduating from college she moved to Michigan to manage a boarding and training facility, where she stayed for 3 years. In 1982 she came to Virginia and, after spending a summer galloping racehorses for Earnie Oare, took a job with Olympic Event rider Torrance Watkins, for whom she rode and groomed for 3 years. From there Judi accepted a position teaching and riding sale horses for Trip Hoffman in Chantilly. After 3 years with Trip she struck out on her own to teach and train, until she took a job as a riding instructor at Foxcroft School where she worked for 7 years. After her daughter was born, Judi left Foxcroft and went back to freelance teaching and training, which is what she does today. Tri State Riding Club is fortunate indeed to offer Judi's wealth of knowledge and experience to its members.



Jon Sonkin



Jon Sonkin is the owner and head trainer of JAS Stables. Jon, 32, is a native of Mississippi who moved to Northern Virginia 10 years ago to advance his career as a trainer and eventing competitor. Having kicked off his career at age seven, he has been riding ever since. He is very passionate about teaching. He instructs a variety of ages from pony club kids to working adults, focusing on teaching the fundamentals of riding used in all disciplines. He specializes in helping people build confidence with not only themselves, but also their equine partners. He helps people to learn how to be proactive in their riding and be secure in riding from their seat and not just their hands. Teaching timid riders on his own competition horses has given many the confidence to compete and win. He also trains working adults, that are either recently getting back into riding or have realized a long life passion for riding and are seizing the opportunity now. Jon believes in the well-rounded rider that has the confidence to not only work in a ring, but be equally confident hacking on trails. Above all, Jon believes that riding shouldn't be a serious business all the time, and makes sure that his students have a fun and enjoyable experience doing what they love. Over the past 10 years Jon has enjoyed training and selling many different horses for different disciplines, and hopes that all his endeavors will become even more successful at his new location. Jon now bases JAS Stables out of the Lincoln Equestrian Center in Lincoln, Virginia, a beautiful 50 acre facility where he continues to compete in Area 2 events, trains and sells prospects, and teaches up and coming riders. **Website:** <http://www.jasstables.com>

Sharon White

Sharon, an established advanced level event rider, is known for her absolute dedication to her horses, her students, and Last Frontier Farm. Sharon credits her success as a rider to the years of quality training she received from the best international event riders in the world. These include Bruce and Buck Davidson, whom she worked for at their Chesterland Farm, Torrance Watkins, for whom she worked while obtaining her degree, and Mary Flood who steadfastly built the foundation Sharon needed to succeed. More recently the coaching of the inimitable Jimmy Wofford and Jules Nyssen has been instrumental in giving Sharon a competitive edge. Sharon calls Wofford and Nyssen invaluable for the guidance and support they give her. Sharon is a huge asset to the Tri-State riding training program. Ask any Tri-State member who's ever ridden with Sharon and, it's very likely you'll hear him or her say, "Sharon inspired me to try. She helped me to do things I never thought that I could!"

Website: <http://www.lastfrontierfarm.com/>

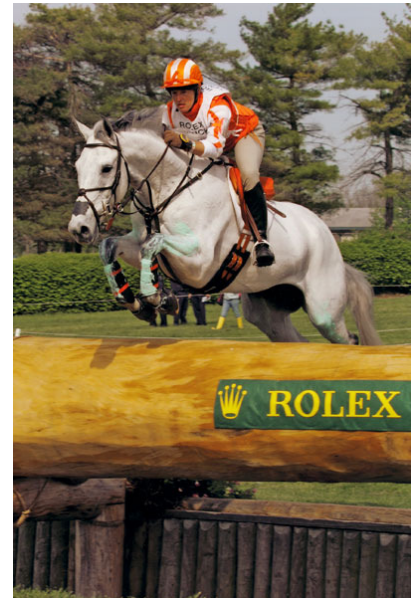


Photo by M.J. McNally

Allison Springer



Allison Springer represents the best of America's upcoming equestrian talent. A consummate athlete and compassionate rider, Allison is one of eventing's brightest young stars. Allison's classical position and strong fundamentals highlight her talent, poise, and partnership with the horse. Known for dedication and consistency, Allison has been recognized as a rider to watch by some of the biggest names in the sport. She's been named to the United States Equestrian Federation's Developing Riders squad, a proven training ground for Olympic and national team riders, four times on four different horses. A veteran four-star event rider, trainer, and coach, Allison aspires to represent the United States in Olympic and International competition. Allison actively competes across the country, trains and shows horses for clients, and teaches both professional and

amateur riders. Allison's training has helped bring along many Tri-State students. She has a dedicated following in the club. This is because Allison is not only a joy to have as an instructor; her students are also amazed by the improvements they see in themselves and their horses.

Website: <http://www.allison.springer.com/>

Pascal Martin



For the past 20 years Pascal Martin has been an instructor, trainer and clinician in the art of classical dressage. Born in France, Pascal was trained by the instructors of the French National School of Fontainebleau and Saumur and licensed to teach riding by the French National Sport Institute. He has used his expertise in Virginia to win numerous state and regional "Horse of the Year" awards at all levels. Pascal has also trained horses and instructed riders to success at all levels through Grand Prix. In addition to Pascal's extensive training in France and years of personal experience, he has also continually improved his own skills by training with other dressage experts. Among those he has studied with are John Watson of Ireland; Robert Dover of the United States; Bent Jensen and Gunnar Ostegaard of Denmark; Hans Jurgen of Germany; and more recently Michael Barisone USET and John Winnett.