

**2013 New England Saddle Seat Medal Finals
by Melody Taylor-Scott**

Photos by Evergreen Web and Media Services

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The NEHC Saddle Seat Medal finals are held in conjunction with the popular Octoberfest Horse Show during the week of October 24-27 at the Eastern States Coliseum in West Springfield, MA. Blue October sky and blustery winds greeted the 16 Junior qualifiers for the early morning Preliminary round consisting of rail work and riding the individual test pattern with the top ten called back for the evening performance of work on the rail.

Riders from CT, ME, NH, MA, NJ, and NY gathered to compete at this year's NEHC Saddle Seat Medal Finals and were greeted by the wonderful hospitality of the NEHC Committee members, Sheri Lampropoulos, Lillian Gillpin, Kaitlyn Alemian, Sharon Alemian, Courtney Cahill in the afternoon between the two competition rounds. The Committee hosted a delicious luncheon, catered by Latitudes Restaurant, in honor of both Saddle Seat and Western Reining competitors in the adjacent building as interested horses looked on from their stalls. A fun raffle was drawn with great prizes for parents, trainers and riders.



This year's Sportsmanship Awards were given to Shannon Lambert and Abigail Tate, and the Essay Scholarship to Bailey Shaw. Held on Saturday, The Walk/Trot Saddle Seat Finals for riders Under 10 brought 5 aspiring young equestrians into the arena with Claire Perreault and Verrill Stables being awarded Champion and Reserve Champion awarded to Courtney Kramlick and Keirson Farm.



All Saddle Seat Finalists received lovely commemorative awards and a trophy given for the High Point Rider for each New England State. Champion and Reserve winners were presented with a wonderful list of prizes ranging from a \$2000 Scholarship to William Woods University, Gift Basket donated by My Trainer's Closet, A \$500 Gift Certificate to Becker Bros, a Leather Halter donated by Rocking Horse Farm and Northgate Stables and more. Winning Trainer received The Cricket Hill Trainers Trophy and \$125 Dover Saddlery Gift Certificate, Parents of the Champion received the Parent's Bottle of Champagne and the Champion's Horse was awarded the U.C. Top Brass Trophy filled with apples donated by Bethany Godsoe.

The evening's Final Phase of work on the rail brought in the top ten scorers from the morning phase, returning to ride in elegant formal attire and creating a visually stunning presentation. This year's three Judge panel consisting of Barbe Smith, New Orleans, LA, Phillip Fountain of Praire Village, KS, and Donna Pettry-Smith of New Lenox, IL had their work cut out from them sorting through the talented riders.



Cater Stables achieved a hat trick as their riders won first and second place in the final phase of the Medal! Congratulations to **Molly Codeanne** riding 'Zagnut', owned by **Cedaredge Farm** of CT,

on achieving a unanimous score from the three Judges, riding flawlessly to the 2013 NEHC Saddle Seat Medal Championship

Reserve Champion in the class was awarded to **Cailin Bridges** of Salisbury, MA riding her 'Arabella Godiua'.



The top ten competitors were placed in the following order after the ride off; 1st Molly Codeanne, 2nd Cailin Bridges, 3rd Cassandra Bystrack, 4th Kasey Saccocia, 5th Nicole Leone, 6th Clara McCool, 7th Taylor Pszeniczny, 8th Grace Allison, 9th Ally McHugh, 10th Audrey Griffin.

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