

GEORGE H. MORRIS

HORSEMASTERSHIP

Training Session

Meet the Clinicians



George Morris is considered one of the most influential riders and trainers in equestrian sport. His career began as a precocious junior rider winning both the AHSA Hunter Seat Medal Final and the ASPCA Maclay Final at the tender age of 14, the youngest rider ever to do so. In international competition, he represented the US on the Gold medal-winning Pan American Games team in 1959 and on the Silver medal-winning team at the 1960 Rome Olympic Games. Between 1958 and 1960, he rode on eight winning Nations Cup teams.

In 2005, Morris took over the Chef d'Equipe duties of the US Show Jumping Team. He has served in this role for numerous Nations Cup as well as guiding US Teams to Team and Individual Silver medals at the 2006 FEI World Equestrian Games and Team Gold and Individual Bronze Medals at the 2008 Olympic Games in Hong Kong, as well as Team Gold and Individual Gold & Silver Medals at the 2011 Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico.

His attention to detail and meticulous preparation of his teams is legendary. Morris' individual training successes include a "Who's Who" of the US' top show jumping riders.

Laurie Pitts has worked for some of the top professionals in the country, including Joan Boyce, Frances Rowe, Rodney Jenkins, Joe Fargis and Conrad Homfeld. She traveled with the U.S. Equestrian Team to the 1978 World Championships in Aachen, Germany, and the first World Cup in 1979 in Sweden. Her favorite charge, Balbuco (ridden by Conrad Homfeld), was also selected for the 1980 Moscow Olympics. Laurie is currently the barn manager, business partner and assistant of Junior Johnson, a top trainer/handler of young horse prospects. She also runs a mobile horse-care business, "Horse a la Carte," and helps her local Pony Clubbers with their horse care. In addition, she was stable manager for the 2007 and 2008 George Morris Horsemastership Training Sessions.



Dr. Tim Ober has served as the US Show Jumping Team Veterinarian for more than ten years. Dr. Ober's first trip with a US Team was in 1999, when he traveled to Europe with the Developing Riders Tour. He has accompanied US Show Jumping Teams to many Championships including Olympic Games and FEI World Equestrian Games.

Dr. Ober also treats a number of clients from all around the country. Helping to get horses as best prepared as possible so they are able to compete at the highest level, Dr. Ober notes as one of the best parts of his profession.



Anne Kursinski is a five-time Olympian, two-time Olympic Silver Medalist, author, clinician and international competitor and is one of the United States' most accomplished and respected show jumping athletes. She is known for her fluid, classical, American riding style and world-class horsemanship.

Anne has been representing the U.S. for over 30 years. She started her international career while still in high school, competing on the U.S. Nation's Cup Team at Spruce Meadows.

In 1983 she won individual & team gold medals in the Caracas, Venezuela Pan-American Games. Anne became the first woman to win the Grand Prix of Rome, Italy. She has been a member or alternate member of 5 U.S. Olympic teams, she has ridden on 47 U.S. Nations' Cups teams, has been a member of 3 U.S. World Equestrian Games Teams and she has competed in 10 World Cup Finals.



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Tonya Johnston, MA., is a Mental Skills Coach with a master's degree in applied Sport Psychology. She is author of "Inside Your Ride: Mental Skills for Being Happy and Successful with Your Horse". Tonya helps equestrian athletes of all ages and levels develop their mental strength and performance skills. Clients have included World Equestrian Games Para-dressage riders, international grand-prix riders, national medal finals winners, top junior and amateur competitors, NCAA Division I athletes, and the Stanford, USC, and Smith College equestrian teams. She has also been actively involved in the Riders4Helmets campaign, which promotes worldwide helmet safety for all equestrian disciplines.

Tonya travels to give mental skills clinics and works individually with clients throughout the country via Skype and phone. She contributes to national equestrian publications and websites, and has presented at the US Eventing Association, US Dressage Federation, and Association of Applied Sport Psychology annual conferences. In her spare time, she competes in the amateur medals in California and enjoys adventures with her family.