

## 2009 Spring/Summer News

Western Pennsylvania Eventing Association

Every two years, the WPEA holds elections for Officers and the Board according to the by-laws. That time has come again. An election committee, comprised of Joan Goswell, Sue Hershey, Denise Barry and Joan Simmons, will be preparing a list of possible officers to be presented to the general membership for consideration. Ballots will be sent to the members around the beginning of October..

Our club was founded to further educate and encourage interest among horsemen and the general public in the sport of eventing. WPEA's mission is to sponsor activities such as clinics, seminars and competitive events, provide educational material, and generally promote eventing.

The nominating committee is searching for people who are interested in helping WPEA accomplish these goals. Please contact one of the committee members if you would like to be put on the ballot. Or, if you know of anyone who would be a good addition to the Board, let one of us know.

Thanks and happy eventing!

The Nominating Committee:

Joan Goswell -- 724-898-3065h or [laughduk@gmail.com](mailto:laughduk@gmail.com)

Sue Hershey -- 412-963-6359h or [swhershey@cs.com](mailto:swhershey@cs.com)

Denise Barry -- 724-316-2332cell or [dbarry@zbzoom.net](mailto:dbarry@zbzoom.net)

Joan Simmons -- 724-625-2087h or [JLSSH@consolidated.net](mailto:JLSSH@consolidated.net)

### ***In this edition:***

***Member photos***

***Event results***

***Allergy relief article***

***Info on Prologs***

***Jack LeGoff memorial article***

***.....and more***

# WPEA Officers and Board

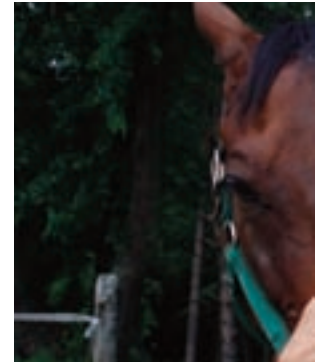
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## **EDITOR'S BLOG**

Hard to believe the year is half over with the event season well underway. Things look different out there. The economy has had an effect on the horse business, as fewer people find buyers, some events are struggling to survive, and many cash strapped owners have trouble caring for their horses. We saw the evidence of this in Florida early this year. On the other hand, some events like Ocala had 450 entries...but many of those people trailered in every day instead of stabling. Hopefully, things will turn around soon for everyone.

Lisa and I are pleased to be the new owners of a young TB that came from our friend in New Zealand. With his sarcastic sense of humor, my husband has a great time making fun of the horse's name(s): his nick name is Precious...his registered name is FIS Prince Charming! He's very cute and jumps the moon, so Joe will just have to deal with owning a male horse named Precious!

This year is one of ups and downs for our family, as usual. Our beloved pony Quizzy (Exquisite) had to be put down due to complications from melanomas. Kenzo and Lisa finally got to run Advanced, and the

horse was amazing. His muscle disease has kept him from accomplishing this feat for two seasons now, so we're glad they had the chance to move up this spring...but then he tied up again and hasn't competed yet this summer. My leg is feeling better enough to ride and I am enjoying my new young horse. I jumped him for the first time and it felt great. One of my friends has a horse just diagnosed with cancer... makes us less apt to complain about muscle issues or minor lamenesses. Our breeding program is going well. Rosie's first filly is now 3, and just moved in to her new paddock at the O'Connors' farm in Virginia. David helped Lisa break her and within a few days she was happily toting Lisa around the farm! The filly is very smart, talented and quite sensible. Our newest foal, another filly(!) has the "look of eagles" and is doing well after a little scare requiring hospitalization. CeCe, the 2 yr old who jumped out of the paddock 3 times before she was weaned, is amazing. Good thing Lisa likes mares...!

WPEA will be transitioning to a new board/officers...you'll be receiving info on the elections in the near future. Please contact one of the nominating committee members if you are interested in being on the WPEA Board.

Denise Barry

## **BITS AND PIECES**

This column will highlight interesting news, photos, announcements, etc submitted by the members. Send your info to [dbarry@zbzoom.net](mailto:dbarry@zbzoom.net).

Stephen Bradley put on a wonderful clinic at our farm on Memorial Day weekend. As seems to be his norm, Stephen gently but firmly encouraged every rider to perform their best over his challenging gymnastics and courses. The pleasing results of their efforts were that every horse got better and better as the weekend progressed and the riders were very rewarded with confident, capable rides. Overall, I think people were delighted with the clinic and eager to participate again when Stephen comes back August 29-30. We are looking for outside riders to help us fill the clinic. Interested participants can contact me, Patty Minter, at [Pat-tusanfarm@gmail.com](mailto:Pat-tusanfarm@gmail.com) or on my cell 724-388-2385.

Sydney Christman is the USEF Zone II Children's Jumper Champion for 2008.

Donna Crookston's RG Cowboy's Black Cadillac was the USEF National Champion for 2008 in Combined Driving Single Horse. Donna (Reefer) was one of the founding members and past president of USEA. Ruth Wepfer was her navigator. Congratulations to both Sydney and Donna.

Denise and Lisa Barry's new filly



## MORE BITS AND PIECES



The USEF Eventing High Performance Committee is pleased to award a Competition and Training Grant for the fall of 2009 to Karen O'Connor and Mandiba, the 10 year old Irish Sport Horse gelding owned by WPEA member, Joan Goswell. They are headed for the Burghley CCI4\* in Great Britain. Congrats and good luck!



Adriana Van Sickle new WPEA member riding Andy. Adriana is new to eventing, and hopes to see you all at some shows soon. She rides at Coventry Eq.Center and trains with Karri Guy. Andy a Morgan Quarter horse cross is also for lease.

Nathalie Pantone riding in the Robin Walker Clinic



Michael Widmer riding Jamal Shahr



# EVENT RESULTS

## Ocala Winter I

*Novice Horse* - Lisa Barry/Curtis - 1st  
Lisa Barry/State of Mind - 3rd

## Rocking Horse Winter I

*Novice Horse* - Lisa Barry/State of Mind - 1st  
*Open Novice* - Lisa Barry/Curtis - 3rd

## Ocala Winter II

*Open Intermediate* - Lisa Barry/Kenzo de la Roque- 4th  
*Training Horse* - Lisa Barry/Curtis - 4th

## Rocking Horse Winter III

*Novice Horse* - Lisa Barry/State of Mind - 4th

## Rocking Horse Spring

*Novice Horse* - Lisa Barry/Mr. Mellow - 5th  
*Training Horse* - Lisa Barry/Curtis - 7th

## The Fork HT & CIC\*\*\*

*Open Intermediate* - Lisa Barry/Kenzo de la Roque - 5th

## Plantation Fields HT

*Junior Open Training* - Michael Widmer/Jamal Shahr - 5th

## Loudoun Hunt Pony Club HT

*JYOpen Training* - Michael Widmer/Jamal Shahr - 11th

## Winona HT

*JYR Training* - Michael Widmer/Jamal Shahr - 3rd  
*Novice* - Nathalie Pantone/Flying W Farms Prince Kodiak - 4th

## Lost Hounds Pony Club HT

*Open Preliminary* - Alex Hauptmann/Tri-Seine - 3rd

## Waredaca HT

*Training Horse* - Lisa Barry/Curtis - 6th

## Morven Park HT

*Open Preliminary* - Becka Simmons/Coltrane - 9th

## Surefire HT

*Open Training* - Lisa Barry/Curtis - 1st  
Emily Morelli/Mango - 5th

## Fair Hill HT

*Open Preliminary* - Becka Simmons/Coltrane - 1st  
*Open Novice* - Becka Simmons/Free and Clear  
(owned by Colleen Hofstetter) - 1st

## Virginia HT

*Open Preliminary* - Becka Simmons/Coltrane - 3rd  
*Training Rider* - Emily Morelli/Mango - 5th  
*Open Novice* - Becka Simmons/Free and Clear - 1st

## Rubicon HT

*Junior Training Rider* - Michael Widmer/Jamal Shahr - 3rd

## Maui Jim HT & CIC\*\*\*

*Open Training* - Lisa Barry/Curtis - 6th  
*Novice Horse* - Lisa Barry/State of Mind - 4th

## Cosequin Stuart HT & CIC\*\*

*Training Rider* - Emily Morelli/Mango - 5th





## Allergy Relief For Horses

For horses that have allergies there is a nose cover available that is similar to a fly mask in texture. When I was in Ocala this February, I talked to eventer Debbie Adams who had imported a horse from the Netherlands. The horse developed an allergy after coming to the States. She had the horse looked at and tested by an allergist but nothing seemed to work until she found this Allergy Relief Muzzle Net seen in the photo. Her horse's allergy symptoms have disappeared and she swears by it. It attaches to the noseband and covers only the top and front of the muzzle. Works much better than the stocking attached to the noseband that sooner or later stretches long enough to make a horse look like an elephant.

It comes in various sizes and colours. Price is \$62.55 for a packet of 3 at:

Adams Horse and Pet Supplies. Can be ordered by phone at 1.877.322.7387 or from their website at [Adamshorsesupply.com](http://Adamshorsesupply.com) (click on the "miscellaneous" link)

Joan Goswell

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## Clinic with Sharon White at Birch Grove Farm

Throughout the snow covered weekend of January 9-10, Birch Grove Farm Equestrian Training Center of Pittsburgh, hosted a dressage and jumping clinic with Sharon White. Despite wintery conditions riders thoroughly enjoyed learning from the four star event rider.

Laura Vello riding Frenchie explained, "Sharon has single handedly improved my riding tremendously. She has helped me accomplish many goals and I am looking forward to continuing my education with Sharon."

Sharon focused on helping riders develop their balance on the flat and over fences while improving communication between horse and rider. Christa Calitoni aboard Taz To You said, "Riding with Sharon was a workout both physically and mentally, I learned so much and had a great time."

Using specialized gymnastic exercises, Sharon greatly improved the quality of each horse's jumping technique, while stabilizing and tuning the rider. Clinic participants especially enjoyed Sharon's positive and confidence building approach to riding instruction.

Dr. Gregg Fino riding Garth, felt Sharon was very informative and is an excellent instructor. Birch Grove Farm Equestrian Training Center plans to host Sharon for clinics throughout the upcoming season.

For more information regarding Birch Grove Farm ETC and upcoming events, please visit [www.birchgrovefarmequestriantrainingcenter.com](http://www.birchgrovefarmequestriantrainingcenter.com)



Competitor Lisa Barry jumps over a Prolog fence.  
Photo courtesy of FOTOGRAHAM, used with permission.

## First Use of Safety Jump Material (Prologs) at Wayne DuPage Horse Trials

by Jane Braddock

Outside Chicago Illinois, the organizers took a step towards addressing the safety issues experienced in the sport of eventing by using a new material in cross-country course construction. Dan Kowalewski, the organizer, chose to implement polystyrene logs called "Prologs."

I was competing on my horse in the Novice division, but I was able to watch competitors on the Intermediate course navigating the Prolog jumps. I encountered Dan by the first water complex, and I was amazed at how he pioneered the use of this revolutionary new jump material in a USEA recognized Horse Trials. I followed up by interviewing him the end of August, after the show was finished and we both had time to reflect on the competition.

### **Q. What is the new material, Prolog?**

A. These logs are made by Safer Building Materials, Inc. a manufacturer of frangible cross-country jump materials based on Expanded Polystyrene

Technology. ([www.saferbuildingmaterials.com](http://www.saferbuildingmaterials.com)). These logs will snap in half if they experience over 500 lbs of force, and do have some give if they are hit hard at forces less than that. With this log design, a horse may trip but is less likely to experience a dangerous rotational fall, protecting both horse and rider. Research is being done by this firm outside Atlanta on the use of this new material with cross country obstacle design.

### **Q: Where did the idea come from to use this new material at your competition?**

A: Jonathan Holling, Area IV Young Rider coach, was a guest at our home in July. He was in Wayne conducting the Young Rider camp. Jonathon told me about how friends near Atlanta, GA., were developing a polystyrene log that the Canadians used during their selection trials for the Olympics.

Jonathan put me on the phone with one of these developers, Mike Winter, who described their product. Mike and Prolog partner Kyle Carter were leaving the next day for the Olympics as riders on the Canadian team, so they put me in touch with their other developer and partner, Barton Aul. The same evening, Jonathan called up David O'Connor, who coached the Canadian Olympic team. I heard directly from David how the polymer logs were used at the Ocala Horse Park for the selection trials of the Canadian Team.



Both Mike and David recommended they be used with drops, especially into water, or large oxers and anywhere a horse might tend to hit the fence or to drag their stifles over the fence. David had just ordered 10 of these logs for his new course in Florida. Even though it was just three weeks before his horse trials, I was convinced and decided to try this new material. I ordered several 12 foot by 22 inch diameter logs for the Wayne DuPage Horse Trials.

### **Q: How did you implement Prologs on your courses and where?**

The logs arrived from the manufacturer at our house at 6:30pm the Wednesday before the show. I was a little worried, but by 8:30pm that same evening, we had 3 logs in place on the courses for the technical delegate (TD) to inspect the next day. Their relatively light weight of around 80lbs made this task far easier than using traditional logs.

For the Intermediate level course, I initially selected a hanging log on top of a hill immediately before the first water complex. This is typically where horses might hesitate and either drag their stifles on the fence or get distracted by the water and hit the fence with their front end. I replaced the large log with a Prolog and secured the ends down with moving straps and screws. The straps worked better than high tensile wire or rope because the width of the strap

Prologs, continued.

distributes the tension and leaves less minor dents to the Prolog. In case of a log breaking during the competition, I had to be sure I could mend the fence quickly. I timed it and in less than 10 minutes, I could replace a broken Prolog by myself using just one power drill – no other tractors or power tools needed.

For the competition however, the TD was concerned about using an unproven technology on such a critical fence, and so I moved it to the fence just prior in a long galloping lane.

***Q: What are the benefits of this over other ideas? What are the drawbacks?***

The advantages of Prolog are that dragged stifles and hard whacks will have some cushion and only dent the Prolog, and the horse will thank you for this. They also can be used wherever you have a hanging log type fence with very little or no change to the rest of the jump structure.

The other safety tool for cross country course construction is frangible pin technology and the Prolog is another tool to use in the course construction safety tool box. With frangible pins, these pins are used to support oxers and logs, and if hit with enough force, the log falls straight down and only the pin breaks

One drawback is that Prologs are more costly to replace when broken than are frangible pins.

I plan to attend official training in the use of frangible pins. Some fences in the Wayne Forest Preserve are implementing frangible pins on course and will be in use for next year. For both the frangible pin and the Prolog, the idea is the same ... if a horse hits it hard enough to cause a rotational fall, the jump will fall down instead. Then, the horse will have a better chance of getting his feet under him to recover and will avoid a rotational fall.

***Q: What did you learn from its use?***

The ease of installation by simply replacing existing logs in other fences. They are light and easy to maneuver. Also, use moving straps instead of high tension wire or rope to hold down the logs. Moving straps caused less indentations and less impact on the log

Most importantly, at least two horses hit the Prologs with some force and the Prolog withstood the whack well, leaving only a slight dent in the material. I was concerned that a whack of the material might uncover the whiter polymer core of the log, potentially distracting the next competitors on course, but this did not occur. However, developers are considering making the core of the log black to avoid this potential pitfall.

Authors Note: I personally saw a horse drag his stifles over this fence and saw how the fence gave just enough downward and then sprang back. At that time Dan commented "You can bet that horse will be happy about the give in that fence when he's back in his stall. If I can save just one horse or rider even a minor injury, it is all worth it". JEB

***Q: What are your plans for the future regarding "Prologs"?***

If it is up me, I will expand the use of them on all my courses, especially for drops and for fences into water to protect stifles and for safety.

More research is also expected as this new safety material gets wider use at other venues. So if you see a funny looking log on your next cross-country course, thank the organizer for trying innovative ideas with course construction to help make our sport as safe as possible.

## Minutes for WPEA meeting on March

Lisa O'Hagan brought the meeting to order.

Treasurer's report was given by Barbara Sams. Expenses and income for the Robin Walker Clinic in November 2009 were itemized; net profit was \$1276.26. Current balance in the club account is \$3137.52.

We still have to pay our affiliate membership and insurance is coming up. Someone's USEA membership number is needed to complete the renewal for the affiliate membership; Bunny Adams provided her number.

The treasurer's report was approved by Joan Goswell & Joan Simmons.

The need for a membership directory that all members can have was discussed. The treasurer said she had an Excel spreadsheet of 2009 members. Lisa said she would have Denise Berry send out the directory.

The awards dinner that was cancelled due to bad weather in January 2009 was discussed. Should it be rescheduled? It was decided that we

should have a picnic at Joan Simmons'. It will be pot luck with the club providing hotdogs, hamburgers & buns.

The Robin Walker Clinic that is scheduled for 5/16 & 17 was discussed. Questions arose as to why we were having it at Rolling Rock rather than using Joan Goswell's cross country course. Bunny explained that originally Robin gave us a date in April & Joan's ground would have been too wet. When Robin had to change the date to May there was no stabling available at Horse On Course as they were booked that weekend for a show. CMM Equestrian was not available for stabling because their stalls are now all filled with full time boarders.

Bunny said Robin was adamant that he wanted an outside course available. Rolling Rock provided the only viable alternative and was welcoming the opportunity. Also, the Rolling Rock Pony Club will operate a concession stand and include a box lunch with the participant's fee.

We discussed some activities that the club should have:

- Dressage fix-a-test (\$25 per half hour)
- Eventing pace determination (do you know your speed?)

- Mane pulling
- Proper leg wrapping
- Tail pulling

Joan Simmons said we could use her place. Hard hats and vests would be required for the pace determination and riders could have their trainer with them as long as the trainer is ICP certified.

It was decided that we could combine a day of dressage fix-a-test, pace determination, mane pulling etc. with the picnic and Joan Simmons can work out the details. July or August was suggested as the possible date. Joan Simmons can work out the insurance requirements with Barb Sams.

The meeting was adjourned.



## Jack Le Goff 1931-2009

By Joanie Morris

Lexington, KY - Jack Le Goff, the man who defined the Eventing Program in the United States passed away today, July 24, 2009, in France. The legendary horseman revolutionized the United States equestrian program and defined an era with medals and championships.

Le Goff's coaching record at international championships was exemplary. His teams won medals at four consecutive Olympic Games and three consecutive World Championships. He brought some of the biggest names in the sport over the last three decades to fruition.

"He was about creating riders and horsemen," said Derek DiGrazia, who represented the US at the 1986 World Championships and is one of the most renowned trainers and course designers in the US today. "That was a big thing with Jack. He wanted us all to know what was going on with the training and management on a daily basis. He wanted us to be aware, that was another huge part of being with Jack, being a horseman."

Jack Le Goff never missed winning a medal with any of the Eventing teams that he coached in his 14 year tenure in the United States. Eighteen medals in eight international championships is an astounding accomplishment by which the U.S. team still measures itself. His innovative, intensive training changed the U.S. Eventing program forever.

His teams won Team Gold medals at the Olympic Games in 1976 and 1984 – proving the Americans were invincible at the highest level of the sport during his reign.

top of his class "I'd say that in my run-in in the sport he's one of a very small handful of what I call genius," said George Morris, USEF Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe. "I first knew Jack in Rome as an accomplished competitor and later in the States. He's a very, very learned classical horseman in his methodology and background and intellect. He's a fantastic teacher and horse trainer. The icing on the cake is that he's a winner. You can't predict that in someone. You can't determine that. He's always been a winner. His success in the sport of eventing is unparalleled."

He started his career with horses in a racing stable; he then joined the army and graduated at the which allowed him to enter the Cadre Noir where he became one of the youngest "under-riding" masters ever. Eventually he became a "riding master", and performed with the Cadre Noir.

His accomplishments as a competitor were an enormous achievement, he was the French National Eventing Champion in 1956 and then placed sixth individually at the 1960 Rome Olympics, helping the French Team win a bronze medal. He represented his country again in Tokyo four years later.

Le Goff was sent by the French army to fight in Algeria immediately following the Tokyo Olympics. He spent two years there and returned home to retire from the army and coach the French Team. He coached his first individual gold medalist at the 1968 Mexico Olympic Games under the French flag.

He then moved to the U.S. and started an empire.

"Jack had the ideal job when he came to the USA - to create a program," said USEF President David O'Connor. "That program, not only produced an unprecedented amount of medals but set a standard that has been unequalled. He was a horseman, friend, innovator and most of all, a mentor to so many of us that had the privilege to be educated by him."

Le Goff was 78.

ENDS

The vision of the United States Equestrian Federation® is to provide leadership for equestrian sport in the United States of America by promoting the pursuit of excellence from the grassroots to the Olympic Games, based on a foundation of fair, safe competition and the welfare of its human and equine athletes.

## Classified

### Advertising Rates

#### Classifieds

\*Free to WPEA members  
\$5 per insertion for non-members

#### Display Ads

\$40--Full page  
\$20--Half page  
\$10--Quarter page  
\$5--Business card

**For Sale:** Otto Schumacher PRofi Exclusive Dressage Saddle and County Logic Girth. 32cm tree, 17" seat, 26" girth, includes stirrup leathers and irons. Both in great condition. Selling both for \$1175. Call 412-596-5696.

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#### Saddles for sale:

Antares jumping saddle, 17" ,med tree. Beautiful french saddle, super soft and comfy. \$2500.

O'Connor Classic cross country saddle. Exactly like Karen's. Made by David Stackhouse. 17.5" med/narrow tree. Incredible balance and comfort in a close contact saddle, made with the highest quality materials. Like new...only used for one season. \$3500.

'Black Country Vinici dressage saddle, 19" ,medium tree, mono flap. Go to [www.trumbullmtn.com](http://www.trumbullmtn.com) for more info on the Black Country saddle line. \$2300

Theo Sommer dressage saddle. 17.5" Medium/Wide tree...has been reflocked to fit like a medium in the wither area. Made in Germany. Theo Sommer saddles feature a flexible tree allowing for improved sensitivity, and are made to flex in all directions for very effective use of seat and leg aids. Great for keeping the horse's back happy! \$600.

For more info on these saddles, contact Denise 724-935-9371 [dbarry@zbzoom.net](mailto:dbarry@zbzoom.net).

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#### For Sale: "Bailey"

17 year old Irish TB mare, 16.1 hands bay. Bailey is a very successful Training Level Event horse and First and Second Level Dressage horse. This mare would excel with a rider looking to move up the levels in eventing. She is brave, no issues with banks, ditches, water, liverpools, and anything else you can name. Easy to load on the trailer, bathes, clips, trail rides, and very easy to work around. Great for farrier and vet. She likes being in work but if you skip a few days with her she is the same ride. Bailey would prefer an advanced beginner or intermediate rider, someone that is jumping some small courses would be a perfect fit. Asking \$7,000 OBO

Also, Amerigo Dressage Saddle for sale. The seat is 17.5" and the tree is a medium and it is in great shape. I'm not sure how old it is, and I'm asking \$2,900 OBO 724-353-2554 or [fade\\_away950@hotmail.com](mailto:fade_away950@hotmail.com). Ask for Amanda.

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#### Horses for sale:

Upper Level Prospect - Curtis - 8yr old 16h bay unraced TB gelding. Won two of four Training events. Will run Prelim next time out. Quiet, fluid mover, scopey jumper with big bascule. Perfect YR horse...

Mr. Mellow - 7yr old 16.1h chestnut unraced TB gelding. Super jumper, has evented Novice with no xc penalties, and competed at Upperville, VA in the jumpers. Was previously a lesson horse in a hunter/jumper barn. Quiet, safe family type of horse. Perfect for pony club...

Go to [www.lisabarry.com](http://www.lisabarry.com) for more info on these horses.

WPEA



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Western Pennsylvania Eventing Association

# Welcome

The WPEA was founded in 1984 to “further educate and encourage interest among horsemen and the general public in the amateur sport of eventing.”...WPEA shall sponsor activities such as clinics, seminars, and competitive events, provide educational material, and generally promote eventing in the Western Pennsylvania area.

WPEA members enjoy many benefits such as:  
participation in WPEA sponsored activities  
eligibility for year-end awards  
annual awards banquet  
regular newsletter with free classified advertising  
mounted and unmounted educational programs

### Western Pennsylvania Eventing Association Membership Application



- Individual Membership* \$20
- Family Membership* \$20 (first family member)  
\$ 5 (for each add'l. family member)
- Junior Membership* \$10 (for members until the end of the year in which they reach the age of 18)

New member or renewal? (please circle one) Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

First name(s) of family members applying for WPEA membership \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Level of Competition \_\_\_\_\_ Suggestions for the club \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail check (payable to WPEA) and application to Denise Barry, 740 Spang Rd., Baden, PA 15005.**