

What's in This Newsletter:

- 2023 Facility Improvements
- Staff Spotlights
- Entry Deadlines
- Gearing Up for WIB Spectacular
- Follow Along on Social Media

Saratoga Horse Shows: What's New for 2023?

Thanks to great feedback from exhibitors, many site improvements are now in place in anticipation of the 2023 Saratoga Horse Show season. The number one request was to improve the lungeing areas, but we tackled many other competition-related projects during the off-season, including the following:

- The existing lungeing areas next to Tent 1 and near the Campground have both been resurfaced.
- The footing in the Annex Ring has been resurfaced and will be used as an additional lungeing area every morning to alleviate wait times.
- The Main Hunter Ring has been resurfaced and the Hunter Schooling Ring has been regraded with additional footing material.
- New paddocks have been added as well as a dump station for the Campground.



In addition to several other improvements, exhibitors can enjoy new lungeing areas during the 2023 Saratoga Horse Shows.
Photo courtesy of Saratoga Horse Shows

Meet Two Members of the Saratoga Horse Shows Team

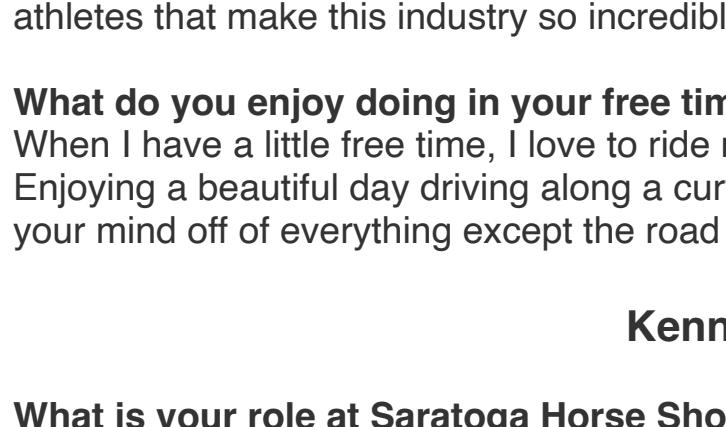
Val Garza

What is your history with the Saratoga Horse Shows?

I was first introduced to the Saratoga Horse shows about nine years ago, back when the shows were being held at the racetrack. Adele Einhorn hired me to run the in-gate at the Main Hunter Ring. Over the years it has been amazing to see how the shows have grown and what they have become today. The transformation and creation of the White Hollow Farm, which went from an old retired racetrack to an amazing horse show facility, has allowed the Saratoga Horse Shows to become more successful along the way.

What is your role at Saratoga Horse Shows, and what does a typical day look like for you?

I am the Operations Director of the summer shows. I work alongside CFO and Director Adele Einhorn, CEO and Show Manager Patrick Rodes, and Facility Director Randal Walker. A typical show day for me starts at 6:15 a.m. with a quick run through the horse barns making sure all is well, checking equipment and water levels, and organizing the daily schedule. At 7 a.m. I head to the show office to meet with the staff for a brief overview of what is expected for the daily schedule and to make sure everyone heads off in the right direction. Once the show day starts at 8 a.m., it is all a matter of keeping everything and everyone focused and on track. Troubleshooting and staying ahead of the game are my main goals each day.



Val Garza is the Operations Director at Saratoga Horse Shows.
Photo courtesy of Val Garza

What do you enjoy most about working at Saratoga Horse Shows?

My favorite thing about the Saratoga Horse Shows is the opportunity to be a part of a team that works so hard and has a vision of what a great show park should be. The show park itself is a beautiful place, from the stunning backdrop of trees to the amazing competition arenas. Not to mention, the town of Saratoga Springs is very cool and has lots of great history.

What are your background with horses?

I've been around horses my entire life. I grew up riding in a western saddle helping my grandfather move cows on the ranch from one pasture to another and occasionally bringing them in. I competed locally in Texas as a barrel racer and a roper. Although I've never competed as a hunter or jumper, I truly admire the sport and all of the talented athletes that make this industry so incredible.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

When I have a little free time, I love to ride my Honda Repsol CBR 1000rr motorcycle. Enjoying a beautiful day driving along a curvy road fast and free is the best way to take your mind off of everything except the road ahead of you.

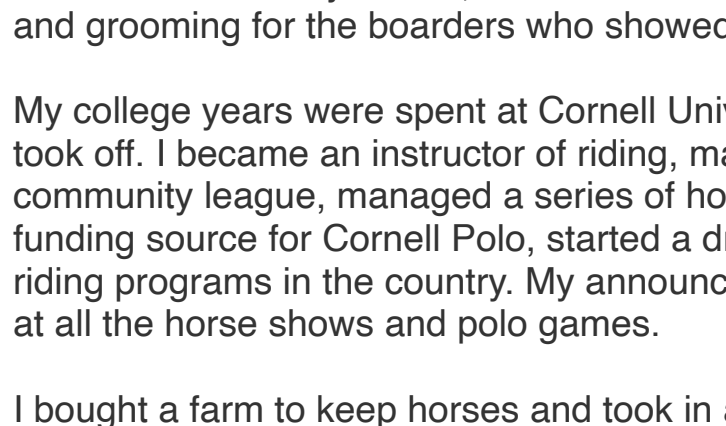
Kenn Marsh

What is your role at Saratoga Horse Shows, and how long have you worked there?

My service for Saratoga Horse Shows dates back to its beginning 25 years ago. When we showed on the Yaddo grounds of the Saratoga Race Course in town I was the announcer for both hunter rings. Since the move out to White Hollow Farm, I call classes in the Main Hunter Ring.

What makes Saratoga Horse Shows special to you?

The history of Saratoga Springs is interwoven with horses: racing thoroughbreds and standardbreds, as well as hunter and jumper show horses. Towns that have and promote such ties hold a special appeal for me, and Saratoga is a special city. A priority for Saratoga Horse Shows' management is to showcase quality performance horses in a safe, beautiful location and to have fun doing it. The variety of classes appeals to broad segments of the show world with classes a whole family can enjoy, from headline to owner-ridden classes to professionally-ridden divisions. Ponies, hunters, jumpers, equitation — all the way up to grand prix. Saratoga Horse Shows are fun to show at and very enjoyable to work at.



Kenn Marsh announces in the Main Hunter Ring during the Saratoga Horse Shows.
Photo courtesy of Kenn Marsh

What is your favorite horse show memory?

Showing horses in upstate New York in the spring can be a challenge. I remember times at the old grounds when it would snow and freeze during the first week of May. The second week would be absolutely gorgeous with crystal clear blue skies, gentle breezes fragrant with spring flowers, leaves budding on the trees thickening the views into the surrounding woods, winter jackets and heavy blankets tossed aside. The third week would be blazing hot, sweat dripping, soaking through hunt coats, horses needing cold baths after showing, trees fully leafed out. Three seasons in three weeks: that was Saratoga!

What is your background with horses?

From early childhood I was fascinated by horses in movies and TV shows. My first rides came at summer camp in Maine and I was hooked. I convinced my parents to let me take lessons at Kentucky Stable, near our home in White Plains, NY, eventually teaching there and grooming for the boarders who showed at Boulder Brook, Ox Ridge, and Fairfield.

My college years were spent at Cornell University and my involvement with horses really took off. I became an instructor of riding, managed the polo team, played polo in a community league, managed a series of horse shows and clinics that were the major funding source for Cornell Polo, started a drill team, and started one of the first therapeutic riding programs in the country. My announcing career started at Cornell as the announcer at all the horse shows and polo games.

I bought a farm to keep horses and took in all of Cornell's school and polo horses for the summers. Slowly, I picked up outside announcing jobs as people kept telling me, "You're good at that!" What started as a hobby and weekend job has turned into an amazing career that takes me to all corners of the country and into the booths of the most important and prestigious horse shows, including Devon, Capital Challenge, Harrisburg, Washington. (It still gives me goose bumps to say it) the National Horse Show, and Las Vegas. An annual highlight is announcing the draft horse portion of the New York State Fair.

Last year, for the first time in 45 years, I participated in a recognized horse show to ride a .65m jumper class at World Equestrian Center — Ocala.

What is a fun fact about you?

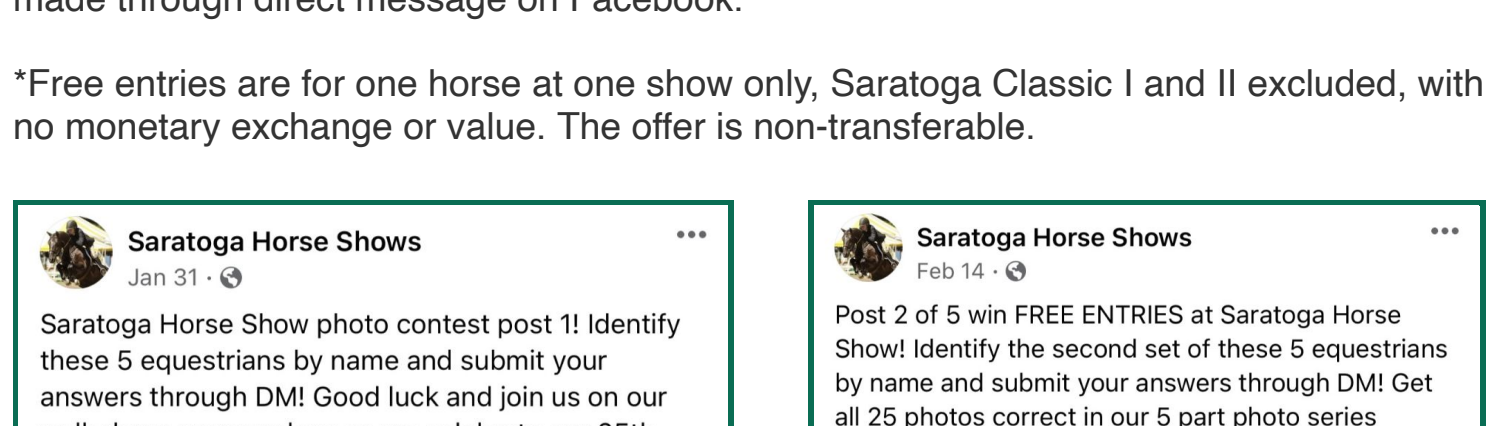
In another lifetime I logged about 400,000 miles as a local and over-the-road trucker hauling livestock feeds, flours and grains, road salt, and contract loads. Besides loving horses, I also love being in the company of dogs. Currently, I have two Dandie Dinmont Terriers — many people know Fiona (Fifi), who travels with me to most shows, including Saratoga. Last summer I got Freddie, an irrepressible pup, who Fifi is teaching to be a good horse show dog.

Entry Deadlines for the 2023 Saratoga Horse Shows

The May and June prize lists for the 25th anniversary of the Saratoga Horse Shows are available online. Entries are open for the May and June shows so mark your calendars now. Competitors can look forward to hunter, jumper, and equitation classes for all levels as well as World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) competition during the Saratoga Classic I show on June 8-11, 2023.

Make sure to submit your entries for the May shows by April 21, 2023, and for the June shows by May 19, 2023. Entry blanks for the May and June shows can be submitted through horseshowsonline.com. Entry blanks to be mailed in are available at saratogahorseshows.com.

Start planning ahead for the Saratoga Women In Business (WIB) Spectacular show which is returning for a second year on July 12-16, 2023, and includes WCHR competition. During this week, exhibitors will have learning opportunities where they can meet, discuss, and interact with equestrian women in many different types of businesses as they discuss their career paths and experiences. The Saratoga WIB Spectacular will sell out so mark it on your schedule now.



The 25th anniversary of the Saratoga Horse Shows will showcase top hunter, jumper, and equitation competition.
Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

- View May Prize List
- View June Prize List
- HorseShowsOnline Entries
- May Entry Blank
- June Saratoga Classic Pre-Show Entry Blank
- Saratoga Classic I and II Entry Blank

2023 USEF-Rated Show Dates:

- Saratoga Spring I: May 4-7, 2023
- Saratoga Spring II: May 11-14, 2023
- Saratoga Spring III: May 18-21, 2023
- Saratoga Classic Pre-Show: June 8-11, 2023
- Saratoga Classic I: June 14-18, 2023 (WCHR week)
- Saratoga Classic II: June 21-25, 2023
- Saratoga WIB Spectacular: July 12-16, 2023 (WCHR week)
- Saratoga Summer Celebration: July 20-23, 2023
- Saratoga Summer Special: August 10-13, 2023
- Saratoga Summer: August 16-20, 2023

Saratoga Horse Shows Social Media Contest: Win Free Entries

Follow Saratoga Horse Shows on social media and join in on the special 25th anniversary contest. There are five chances to enter the contest. Saratoga Horse Shows has five posts of five photos for a total of 25 photos celebrating 25 years of Saratoga Horse Shows. Correctly identify all five photos in one week for a chance to win free entries*. One lucky winner will be chosen out of the correct responses each week. Submissions must be made through direct message on Facebook.

*Free entries are for one horse at one show only, Saratoga Classic I and II excluded, with no monetary exchange or value. The offer is non-transferable.

