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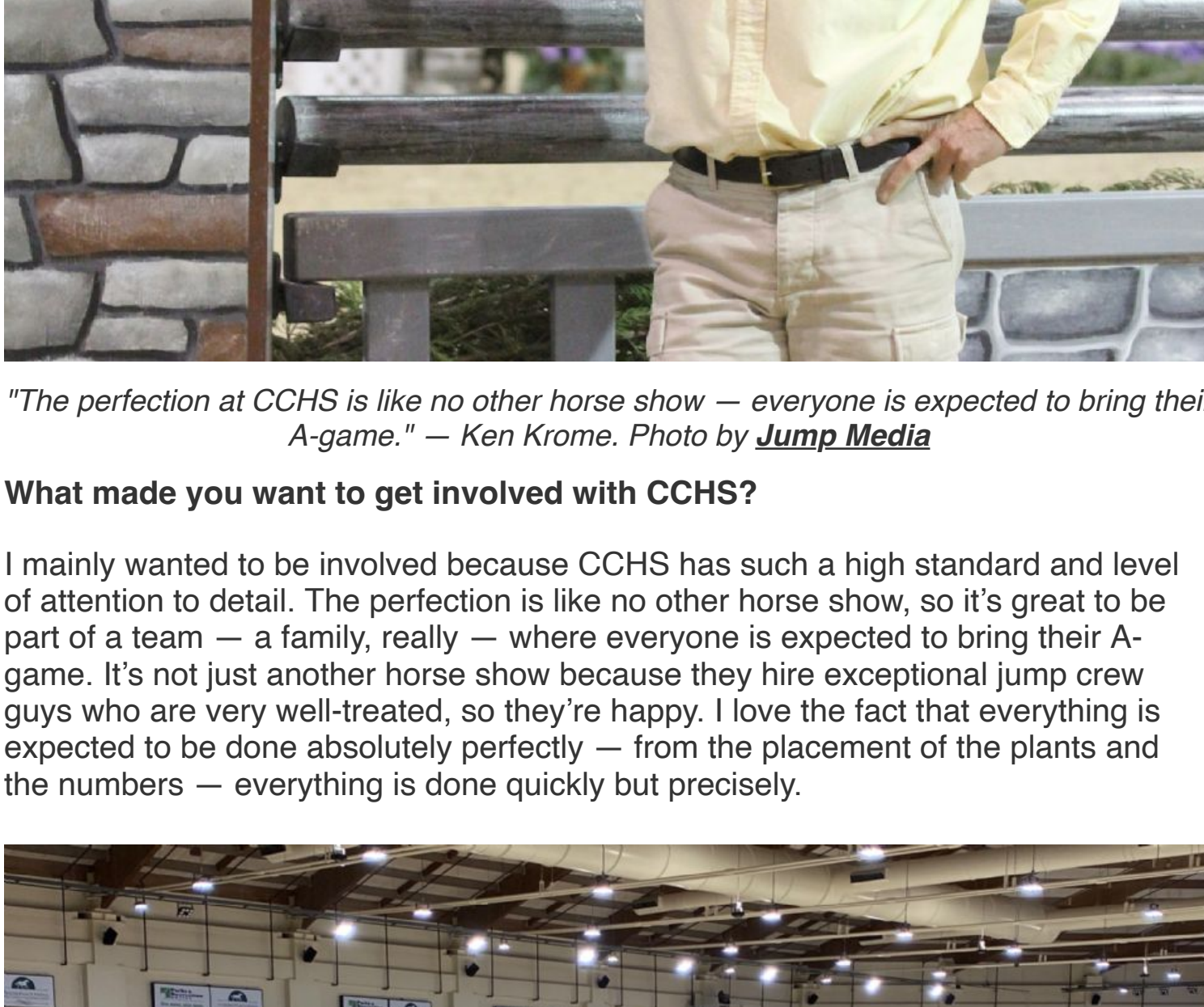
Meet Ken Krome, Veteran Course Designer at CCHS

The multi-talented course designer on perfection, lightning-fast “power builds,” bringing your A-game, and the time he built a whole course upside-down.

What is your history with CCHS and your current role and responsibilities?

I am the course designer for everything: hunter, jumper, equitation classes, and finals. We are currently a team of three because the show has grown and gotten so much busier that it's now a three-person job.

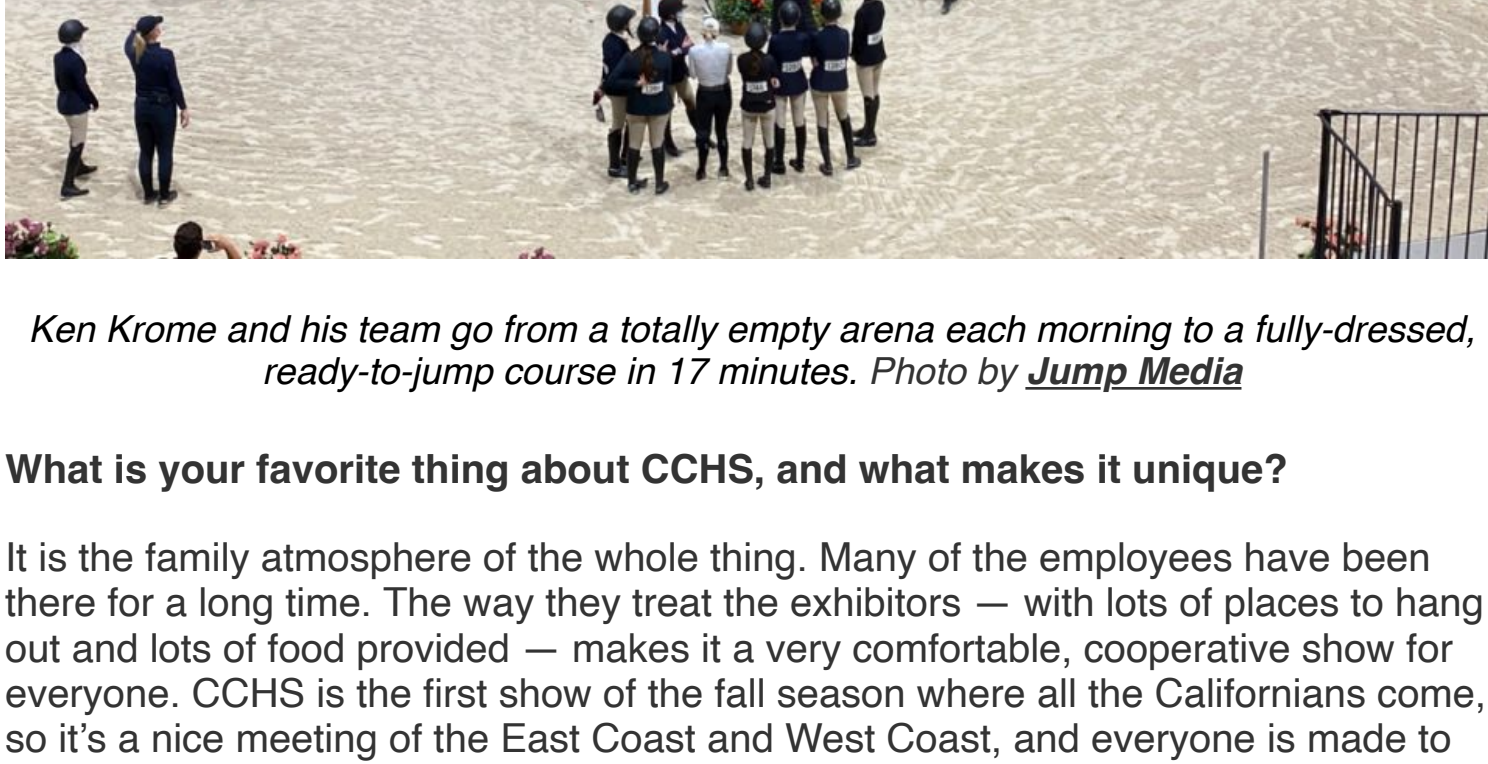
I started at Capital Challenge (CCHS) about 15 years ago. Back in the day, there was just one course designer, Mike Rheinheimer. Mike had done everything since the horse show's inception, but it grew and grew, and they added more and more jumper classes. Initially, I came in just for the jumper classes, but when Mike moved on, I filled in, and I've done it every year since.



“The perfection at CCHS is like no other horse show — everyone is expected to bring their A-game.” — Ken Krome. Photo by [Jump Media](#)

What made you want to get involved with CCHS?

I mainly wanted to be involved because CCHS has such a high standard and level of attention to detail. The perfection is like no other horse show, so it's great to be part of a team — a family, really — where everyone is expected to bring their A-game. It's not just another horse show because they hire exceptional jump crew guys who are very well-treated, so they're happy. I love the fact that everything is expected to be done absolutely perfectly — from the placement of the plants and the numbers — everything is done quickly but precisely.



Ken Krome and his team go from a totally empty arena each morning to a fully-dressed, ready-to-jump course in 17 minutes. Photo by [Jump Media](#)

What is your favorite thing about CCHS, and what makes it unique?

It is the family atmosphere of the whole thing. Many of the employees have been there for a long time. The way they treat the exhibitors — with lots of places to hang out and lots of food provided — makes it a very comfortable, cooperative show for everyone. CCHS is the first show of the fall season where all the Californians come, so it's a nice meeting of the East Coast and West Coast, and everyone is made to feel special. The management are horse folk too, so there is a lot of thought that goes into how to make the horses happy and comfortable.

I love all the neat finals. There are equitation finals for children of different ages, plus finals for adults. There is so much high-level equitation, it's like no place else. Top that with the pre-green hunter divisions, where it's unique how they divide it by horse genders and ages. It's the best collection of young hunters anywhere in the country, and the high-level hunters are the best of the best. It's not just the employees who bring their A-game; the riders do, too.

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Q&A With Seasoned CCHS Competitor Sophie Gochman



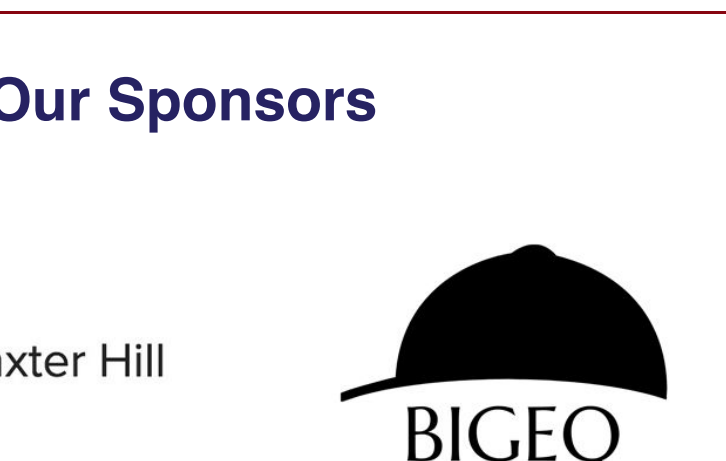
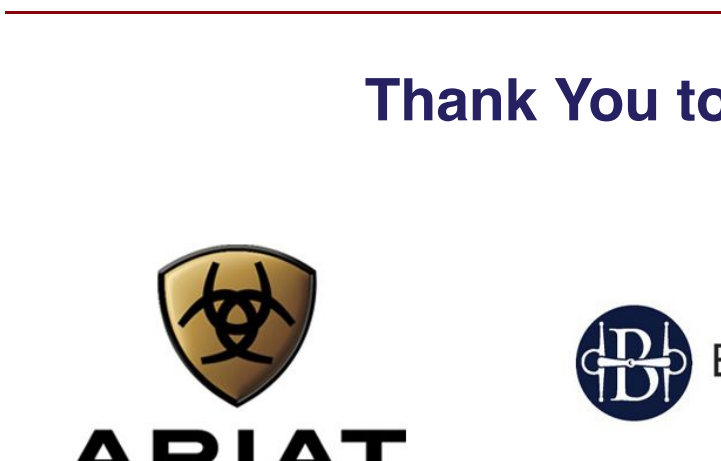
Sophie Gochman and Truly Noble winning at CCHS in 2014. Photo by [Jennifer Wood Media](#)

When did you start attending CCHS?

I've been showing at CCHS and on off since I was six years old. I stopped doing the hunters when I was around 16, and so this will be my first time back since then.

What is your horsey background?

My mom rode horses when she was little, so she bought a pony for me when she found out she was pregnant! I have been riding since before I could walk. My family has a private barn called Baxter Hill where my mom, my sister, and I ride. I also ride with Rivers Edge (Scott Stewart and Ken Berkeley) and Oakland (Darragh Kenny).



Left: Sophie Gochman and Brian Moggie celebrate as they leave the ring at the 2017 CCHS. Right: Gochman and Dominik were Small Junior Hunter 15 & Under champions in 2017. Photo by [Shawn McMullen Photography](#). Photo by [Jennifer Wood Media](#).

What is your favorite thing about the show?

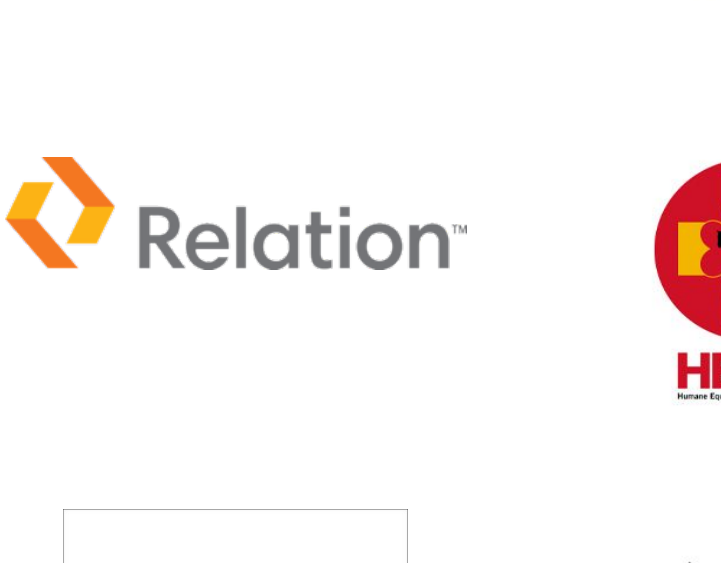
I love how CCHS highlights the hunters. I think that at most shows, the jumpers have the most exciting classes, so it is fun to have a show that really appreciates the hunters.

What are your earliest memories of CCHS?

I think CCHS was my first indoor show, so it has definitely been a place where I have learned a lot and experienced a lot of ups and downs. Some of my earliest memories were cheering on my trainer, Scott Stewart, in the WCHR Professional Final class where the finalists switch horses.

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Book a VIP Table and Make the Most of Your 2024 Capital Challenge Experience



By reserving a private VIP table at the Taylor Harris Club, you and up to five others can watch every class, every day, while enjoying all-day amenities, a place to spread out, and refuge from the hustle and bustle when things get busy.

New for 2024, the expanded VIP Club will host 2024 Parties on selected finals nights, with dinner and a full bar while you watch the action. Tables are limited, and reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, so book your table today.

[Reserve Your Table Now](#)

The all-day amenities at the Taylor Harris Club include:

- Spacious and private table seating for six, or high-top tables for four
- Watch the indoor action from the best seats at the horse show
- *NEW* Watch Parties during selected evenings with dinner and open bar
- Keep tabs on the outdoor action with big-screen monitors
- Enjoy espresso coffee, tea, and hot and cold beverages all day
- Breakfast options every day starting bright and early
- Light choices at lunch, small bites in the evenings, and all-day snacks
- Evening beer and wine from 5-7 p.m.
- Wi-Fi internet access

Reserve your table entering online or from the “Ringside Tables” tab at www.CapitalChallenge.org. For further information or to reserve directly, call or text Lisa Rossi at 202-255-8805 or email LisaRossi@CapitalChallenge.org.

Stay in Style With CCHS Lodging Partners

Find the perfect hotel for your stay at Capital Challenge Horse Show, many of which are offering 2024 CCHS special pricing. Click the button below for details.

[Explore Hotel Options](#)

About the Capital Challenge Horse Show

The Capital Challenge Horse Show, an official USEF Heritage Competition, has a distinct and unique focus on preeminent hunter and equitation competition. The 2024 edition of the Capital Challenge Horse Show will take place from September 26-October 6. The 11 days of competition include prestigious equitation events, jumper divisions, the World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) Finals, the Green Hunter North American Championships, and more, with many of the country's best horses and riders competing in junior, amateur, and professional divisions. Follow the 2024 show on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [TikTok](#). For winning rounds and rider interviews, check out the Capital Challenge Horse Show [YouTube](#) channel.

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