

On Saturday and Sunday, April 17-18, 2004, the FIRC sponsored its first show. The event was part of a clinic conducted by Magnus Larusson. It was held at Suzi and Sandy's farm in West Virginia. The clinic and show were well attended. Everyone seemed to enjoy the event and got a lot out of it. Suzi and Sandy were excellent hosts and did a great job running the clinic.

The weekend was intended to be both an introduction to showing for those who had never done so and a chance to compete in a relaxed atmosphere for those who had shown in the past. On Friday, Magnus gave private lessons. On Saturday, the first day of the clinic, he started by giving a lecture on what events would be conducted, explained what had to be done, and what judges looked for. The riders were then divided into groups and rode in the morning and the afternoon under Magnus' attention. Magnus is an experienced clinician and judge. He did a great job explaining to riders how they could get more out of themselves and their horses.

On Sunday, the show began. The first event was a Tolt ride for riders who had never shown. Four riders competed. At the end, there was only 1.5 points between them. My horse, Vindur, came in first despite having to put up with me on his back. My granddaughter, Megan Milloy, who just turned 11, came in second followed closely by Eric and Nancy Nystrom. After the ride, Magnus explained to each of us why we had gotten the scores we did, and what we needed to do improve our riding.

The next three events were Tolt 1 (T1), Tolt Rider test, and a Beer Tolt. Sverrir won all three followed closely by Jo Ann Brown. In the afternoon, we had a four-gait open, a four-gait rider test, and a judged trail ride. Sverrir won the four-gait open, Jo Ann took the four-gait rider test, and Suzi won the judged trail ride. For the final results, please see the attachment. After each event, Magnus would gather the riders and give them feedback on their performances.

One of the highlights of the show was the great job done by youth riders. Devan Economides, Kelsey Knight, Megan Milloy, and John Schumacher all rode well and were among the top finishers. We hope more of our young riders will join us in future events.

In my opinion, the clinic and schooling show went very well. We had 14 riders for the clinic on Saturday, 10 for the show (four had to scratch), and about 10 auditors. I hope in the future that more club members will attend such events. I know I learned a lot and had a lot of fun. Thanks again to Suzi and Sandy for all their hard work in putting the event together. Thanks also to Hedy Sladovich for spending the day being the official score keeper.

Submitted by Rich Moore