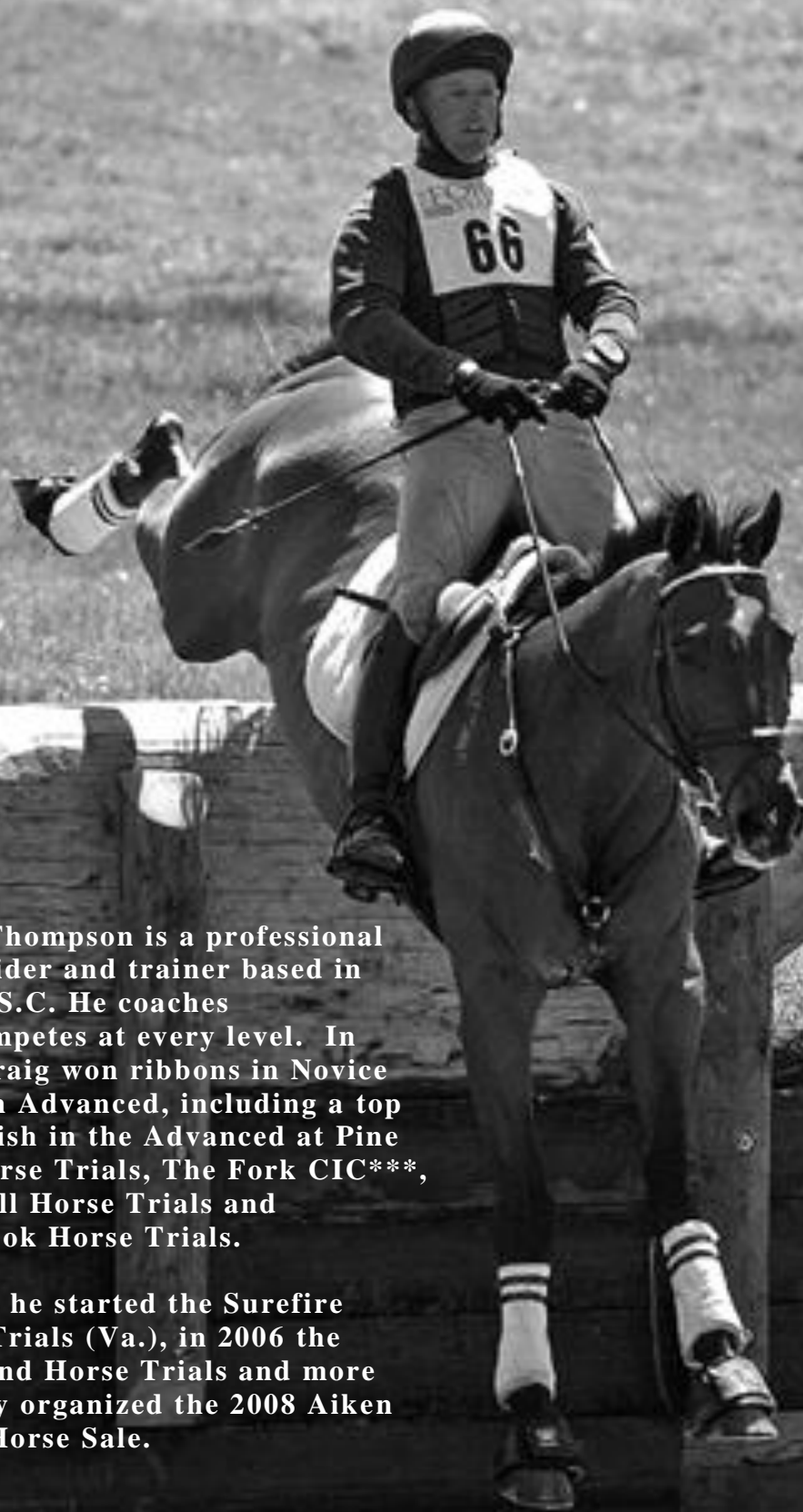


Get The Most Out Of Every Horse



Craig Thompson is a professional event rider and trainer based in Aiken, S.C. He coaches and competes at every level. In 2007 Craig won ribbons in Novice through Advanced, including a top five finish in the Advanced at Pine Top Horse Trials, The Fork CIC*, Fair Hill Horse Trials and Millbrook Horse Trials.**

In 2004 he started the Surefire Horse Trials (Va.), in 2006 the Maryland Horse Trials and more recently organized the 2008 Aiken Event Horse Sale.

For more information and clinic registration please go to www.lakevilleponyclub.org www.SureFireHorseStudio.com



“Negotiating the hardest exercises at any height requires control and accuracy, which begins in the practice arena at home. The need for increased control and increased accuracy is the biggest difference between the jumps at each level, not the height of the jumps.”

“No longer is “brave” the first criterion for a good upper-level event horse; “careful” has taken its place at the top of the list. No longer is “aggressive” an important attribute in a good rider; seeing a distance is.”

“Nothing makes horses and riders safer or more confident than consistently seeing a distance to a fence. Until a rider can consistently see a distance at the novice height and the novice speed, it’s hard to argue that they are ready to move up to the training level.”

- Changing How We Think About Cross-Country Riding” Craig Thompson, Chronicle of the Horse, Friday January 25, 2008

The question for Craig wasn't, Can they jump big?, but, Can they canter to every jump in a calm, steady rhythm? Are they consistently responsive to the aids? Can they jump tiny little jump on a twenty meter circle -- which is hard! -- or a few poles on the ground downhill on a slope and still manage to maintain a dead-steady rhythm and get their feet in the right place every time?

This was music to my ears, and I applaud Craig's mettle in insisting that each rider master A before moving on to B, no adrenaline required. The clinic was entirely without thrills or spills, but it was, I believe, an excellent example of what a clinic should do: crack the door to a world of possibility by opening riders' minds to what can be accomplished by systematic learning and diligent devotion to the most basic of the basics. In the end, it is so much more fun to be able to do it right than just to be able to do it.

- Colleen Meyer, Kingsbury Hill Farm Clinic, August 2007

For more information and clinic registration please go to www.lakevilleponyclub.org



Riga Meadow Equestrian Center

Is proud to host a clinic

with

❧ **Craig Thompson** *❧*

June 14th & 15th

To benefit Lakeville Pony Club

Craig has three principles that underpin his teaching and training:

- 1. Horses do what we tell them, sometimes we just don't realize what it is we are telling them;*
- 2. Horses and riders need to let the easy things be easy;*
- 3. Patience and repetition will teach most horses and most riders most things.*

Groups will be limited to 4 - 5 riders and will focus on Craig's three principals that underpin his teaching and training. Students will ride twice on the first day and once on the second day of the clinic. Craig will utilize both show and cross country jumps. Green/Beginner Novice welcome.

For stabling please contact Riga Meadow Equestrian Center, (860) 435-9991

- Group Size:** Four to Five riders per group
- Format:** Saturday: ride/ability exercises 1 ½ hrs AM, coursework 1 ½ hrs PM
- Sunday:** 1 ½ hrs Cross Country
- Ride Times:** 1 ½ hrs each session - Group A to start promptly at 8:30 AM both days. (*ride times will be sent by email & posted at www.lakevilleponyclub.org*)

Cost

- Riders:** \$250.00
- Auditors:** Donations gratefully accepted
- Lunch:** Included for registered participants both days, additional Lunches may be purchased in advance for \$20.00

Need More Information? Theresa Lehn sullimom@ntplx.net

Fax: (860) 435-1478

Phone (860) 435-1475

<http://www.lakevilleponyclub.org/>

