

## Press Release

Contact: Jane Cockrell 910-270-6133 or visit the website at [www.alexhartner.org](http://www.alexhartner.org)

# ***ALEX HARTNER*** ***MEMORIAL HORSE SHOW*** **TO BENEFIT LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS** **TO BE HELD IN SOUTHEASTERN NORTH CAROLINA**

*August 27, 2008*

**WHAT?** The Alex Hartner Memorial Horse Show, a new benefit equestrian event, and anticipated to be one of the biggest ever held in the Cape Fear Region. Riders of all ages and skill levels will participate. The show includes Hunter, Jumper, Dressage, Gaming, and Western Pleasure divisions. The Jumper course will be designed by Steve Stephens, one of the world's top course designers, following his return from designing the courses for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. 100% of the show's proceeds and auction proceeds will go into two separate local scholarships: the Saint Andrews Presbyterian College Equestrian Scholarship Fund and the Topsail High School Scholarship Fund both established in Alex Hartner's name.

**WHEN?** Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Events start at 9am and end at 11pm on Saturday, and from 9am until 3pm on Sunday.

**WHERE?** Lake Waccamaw Boys and Girls Exhibition Center in Lake Waccamaw, NC.

**ADMISSION:** Admission is free. Rider entries fees for the show classes vary between \$6.00 and \$10.00, depending on the event.

**INFORMATION:** Email [info@alexhartner.org](mailto:info@alexhartner.org) , call 910-270-6133, or visit [www.alexhartner.org](http://www.alexhartner.org). Additional volunteers are still needed. Please contact the above number if interested in volunteering. Participants need to reserve stalls today to ensure availability.

**SEE ATTACHED FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION.**

## ALEX HARTNER

Our area's equestrian community lost one of its own on January 13, 2008 when beautiful Alex Hartner, 18, was tragically killed in a car accident. Because her death rocked the horse world in these parts, horse lovers from all over the East Coast are coming together to celebrate the life of an extraordinary horsewoman and an amazing human being.

Alex dazzled spectators when she rode, and charmed everyone she met when she was not on the back of a horse. Those who knew her appreciate the tremendous impact she had in her short life. A spirit as bright as Alex's has to continue to shine even after her death. The show must go on.

In memory of Alex's love for horses and passion for living, many in the horse community are coming together to celebrate Alex's life and raise money for two scholarships that have been established in her honor. From Jacksonville, to Wilmington and down to Myrtle Beach, from her original home in Maryland, and beyond, over 30 large horse associations, show barns, and horse clubs are enthusiastically signing up to participate in the event.

In keeping with Alex's love of competing in virtually every show category, various disciplines will be offered: hunter, jumpers, dressage, gaming and western pleasure.

It was recently confirmed that Steve Stephens, one of the world's top jumper course designers, will be attending Alex's show and designing the jumper course and lending his famous jumps. Stephen's most recent accomplishment was designing the courses for the 2008 Beijing Olympics where the US Equestrian Team won gold.

The show proceeds will go into two separate scholarships established in Alex's name: the Saint Andrews Presbyterian College Equestrian Scholarship Fund and the Topsail High School Scholarship Fund. Alex wrote on her own St. Andrews scholarship application that her objective was "to take my passion for all things horses to the next level by being an integral part of one of the best equestrian teams at the collegiate level." Alex's opportunity to complete her own objective is no longer possible, but her wish to be "integral" in helping another person achieve theirs can be granted. The Topsail High School Scholarship will help cover costs associated with all aspects of attending college—from studying and taking SATs to completing and paying for college applications and funding tuition. To date, \$30,000 in scholarship money has been granted, giving deserving recipients an opportunity to continue their education.

An auction will be held during the show with all proceeds benefiting both scholarships. Items include 150 CDs donated by Sony Music, Virgin Mobile phones, a ski trip to Utah, a 3 day 2 night trip to Las Vegas, a Zune music player, a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame bomber jacket, and much more. Additional auction items will be available via EBay and can be accessed through [www.alexhartner.org](http://www.alexhartner.org) after October 17<sup>th</sup>. These items include a 'Celebrity' Ovation guitar signed by the Eagles at the opening of the Hard Rock Theme Park, U2 CDs that have been signed by guitarist, The Edge, and a limited edition lithograph signed by all three members of the band, Rush.

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