



September News From the Capital Challenge Horse Show

The 30th anniversary of the Capital Challenge Horse Show is officially less than a month away. Check out the 2023 prize list and schedule below, book your hotel and travel arrangements, and reserve a table in the Taylor Harris Club today.

- [View Prize List](#)
- [View Tentative Schedule](#)
- [View Lodging and Airline Options](#)
- [Reserve Your Table](#)



The cover of the 2023 Capital Challenge Horse Show Program features Queen Celeste painted by Sharon Lynn Campbell.

Keep reading to meet our featured rider and sponsor and be sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok for all the latest updates.

What Does John French Enjoy Most About the Capital Challenge Horse Show?

John French of Wellington, FL, is one of the top hunter riders in the country and no stranger to the winner's circle at the Capital Challenge Horse Show. French has won the World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) Professional Challenge five times, including wins in 2021 and 2022 aboard Babylon, owned by Marnell Sport Horses.



John French and Babylon in their winning presentation for the 2021 \$25,000 WCHR Professional Challenge. Photo by Jump Media

What makes Capital Challenge special? Capital Challenge is a competition that really showcases the hunters — not just the horses, but also the owners and the riders — through the special classes they offer and the awards they give.

What do you enjoy about showing at Capital Challenge year after year? Capital Challenge is probably the most competitive horse show of the year for hunters. Since there is no qualification requirement, everyone can bring their horses, which raises the level for everyone.

I grew up in Maryland, so every year I also get to see friends and individuals that I grew up riding with.



John French won the WCHR Professional Finals at the 2016 Capital Challenge Horse Show. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

What is one of your first memories from showing at Capital Challenge? I'll never forget winning the WCHR Professional Finals for the first time in 2000.

What is one of your favorite memories from Capital Challenge? Capital Challenge was always the horse show that my mother attended. She taught me how to ride, and when I lived and worked in California, she never got to see me ride except for when I was at Capital Challenge. Those memories are my favorite.

Sponsor Spotlights

The Capital Challenge Horse Show is supported by many dedicated sponsors, including businesses that have partnered with the competition from the start. Ariat and Peter Pletcher of PJP Farm have both been sponsors of the Capital Challenge Horse Show for 30 years.



Ariat was the very first corporate sponsor of the Capital Challenge Horse Show. Today, the 30-year partnership is most recognized through the popularity of the Ariat National Adult Medal Finals, which will take place on Friday, October 6, 2023.

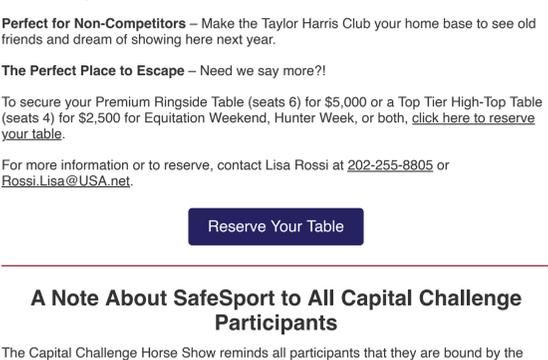
The team at Ariat is committed to innovation, quality, integrity, partnership, and respect. These values are what has set Ariat apart and helped build the company into the one of the top equestrian, outdoor, and work brands in the world. Product quality is non-negotiable, and so is Ariat's collaborative culture and giving back to the communities they serve.



Hear from Tracey Gorin-Byrne, winner of the 2022 Ariat National Adult Medal Finals at the Capital Challenge Horse Show.

[Learn More About Ariat](#)

Peter Pletcher and PJP Farm Peter Pletcher's PJP Farm of Magnolia, TX, was the first patron/donor to sponsor the Capital Challenge Horse Show and has continued to support the show since its inception in 1993. Pletcher's support has been an influential component in the growth of Capital Challenge through the years.



Peter Pletcher rode Sambalino to victory in the \$25,000 WCHR Professional Challenge during the 2012 Capital Challenge Horse Show. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

Pletcher is a very successful hunter/jumper rider and trainer. He has ridden and trained some of the country's top horses and has received many notable awards and titles throughout his career. Pletcher earned the honor of World Champion Hunter Rider of the Year in 2002, 2004, and 2007, and in 2002 he was awarded with the United States Equestrian Federation's Emerson Burr Trophy.

PJP Farm is a premier training facility that caters to clientele competing in all levels of hunters, jumpers, and equitation, from pony hunters to grand prix-level jumpers. PJP Farm also offers a variety of quality sales horses.

[Learn More About Peter Pletcher and PJP Farm](#)

Taylor Harris Club Reimagined for 2023 Capital Challenge Horse Show

Make your 2023 Capital Challenge extraordinary by assuring the best seating in the house. Every day. Every class.

By reserving a private table, VIP Members at the Taylor Harris Club enjoy all-day amenities, a place to spread out, and refuge when things get hectic.



Secure a perfect spot to cheer on your favorite horse-and-rider combinations by reserving a private table at the Taylor Harris Club. Photo by Jump Media

Reimagined for 2023, the Taylor Harris Club

- Spacious and private table seating for six or high tops for four
- Watch the Indoor action from the best seats at the horse show
- Keep tabs on the outdoor action with TV monitors
- Enjoy espresso in the morning and tea in the afternoon
- All-day hot and cold beverages
- Light choices at lunch, small bites in the evenings, and all-day snacks
- Evening beer and wine from 5:00 - 7:00 pm
- Extra amenities

Perfect for Families – Spacious tables with WiFi access for homework or business catch-ups while keeping tabs on the competition.

Perfect for Barns – A serene gathering place to catch up with friends and barnmates while watching the horse show.

Perfect for Non-Competitors – Make the Taylor Harris Club your home base to see old friends and dream of showing here next year.

The Perfect Place to Escape – Need we say more?!

To secure your Premium Ringside Table (seats 6) for \$5,000 or a Top Tier High-Top Table (seats 4) for \$2,500 for Equitation Weekend, Hunter Week, or both, [click here to reserve your table](#).

For more information or to reserve, contact Lisa Rossi at 202-255-8805 or Rossi.Lisa@USA.net.

[Reserve Your Table](#)

A Note About SafeSport to All Capital Challenge Participants

The Capital Challenge Horse Show reminds all participants that they are bound by the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, USEF Safe Sport Policy, and Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies, also known as the MAAPP. This includes the SafeSport Training requirement for adult members and participants who have regular contact with or authority over minor athletes. Additionally, please remember reporting obligations. Any concerns that are non-sexual in nature, please use the USEF Safe Sport Incident Reporting Form available on the USEF website. Concerns or suspensions regarding sexual misconduct must be reported to <https://safesport.i-sight.com/portals> and the authorities if a minor is involved. All of this information can be found in the USEF Safe Sport Policy.

Please take a moment to review the new USEF Safe Sport web pages on the USEF website to find comprehensive resources regarding USEF Safe Sport efforts. You can also contact Sarah Gilbert, USEF Safe Sport Program Coordinator, at sgilbert@usef.org for any questions or concerns relating to the USEF Safe Sport program.

Thank you for your support and for helping Capital Challenge and USEF bring the joy of horse sports to as many people as possible!

Join the CCHS Conversation



Follow Capital Challenge on social media, and share your own Capital Challenge Horse Show photos or videos on Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok using #CCHS2023 for a chance to be featured here or on the official Capital Challenge social media pages!

Plus, keep up with the latest news, results, interviews, and more via the show's social channels once competition is under way.

- [Follow CCHS on Instagram](#)
- [Like CCHS on Facebook](#)
- [Follow CCHS on TikTok](#)

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 2023 edition of the Capital Challenge Horse Show will take place from September 28-October 8. The 11 days of competition will include prestigious equitation events, jumper divisions, the World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) Finals, the \$25,000 3' and 3'3" Green Hunter North American Championships, and more, with many of the country's best horses and riders competing in junior, amateur, and professional divisions.

Thank You to Our Sponsors



Platinum and Gold Sponsors

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