

## Program Description: Texas Rider Development Program with Ralph Hill

Program Mission: To provide a comprehensive and continuous education program for event riders in the Texas area, that aids riders in achieving both training and competitive goals under the consistent eye of a proven upper level rider and coach.

Format: The 2011-2012 series will consist of 3-two day, weekend clinics with Ralph Hill, plus coaching from Ralph at a recognized show. The clinics will rotate in location between northern and central Texas to provide equal opportunity and ease of access for participants from different regions of the state. We have already completed two weekend clinics with Ralph at Pine Hill. These were well received and successful events. The first three TRDP clinics will be a similar clinic format. The final “coaching clinic” will be held in conjunction with a USEA Horse Trial, where Ralph will coach TRDP participants throughout the event. This includes course walks and warm-ups as well as follow-up discussion after rides.

Additional education provided in the TRDP will include lectures on horse management, fitness and conditioning and strategy in moving horses up the levels.

Cost: Costs include stabling, grounds fees as well as lessons. It does not include any meals or housing. Our goal is to seek out host venues whose cost does not increase rider fees significantly. The mission of TRDP is not to make money, just to cover expenses and to keep the program at a reasonable price for the average adult rider.

Application Process: Applicants are required to commit to the program series. Priority will be given to riders who have already participated in the Texas Ralph clinics so far, with riders who attended both clinics having priority over those who attended one. Applicants will have to answer a series of questions related to riding/personal goals, competitive history and competitive goals. Selection emphasis will be on expression of genuine desire to fully benefit from the comprehensive nature of this program.

Additional Notes: Eventers pride themselves on a sense of camaraderie between riders and the supportive atmosphere of the sport. This series is intended to protect and foster that atmosphere. Participants will be assigned jump crew duties during lessons they are not riding in. Ralph has as much to offer auditors as he does riders, and being within earshot of him, with front row seats to the action, is highly beneficial to every rider. It also promotes team work and friendships between riders. We all work very hard at this and give blood, sweat and tears to get better and reach our goals, no matter what they are or how far we have to go. We want to unite riders in a fun, friendly, extraordinarily educational atmosphere.