



1896

2009

The Devon Horse Show and Country Fair, Inc.

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

BOX 865
DEVON, PA 19333

610-964-0550
FAX 610-964-1608

FOR THE BENEFIT OF BRYN MAWR HOSPITAL

**MEXICAN CHARRO JERRY DIAZ
PLUS REINING EXHIBITION AT DEVON**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 4, 2009**

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
SARA CAVANAGH – 610-793-1425**

DEVON, Pa.—Mexican Charro Jerry Diaz returns to Devon with evening exhibitions on Wednesday, May 27 through Saturday, May 30.

The Devon Horse Show and Country Fair runs Thursday, May 21 through Saturday, May 30 at the show grounds on Route 30 and benefits Bryn Mawr Hospital, to which it has donated more than \$13 million over its decades of association.

A Charro is a skilled Mexican horseman whose origins date back to the 17th century.

The Charro, who developed customs, dress, music and equestrian skills, later borrowed by the American cowboy, dress in traditional costume and are skilled in horsemanship, bull riding, horse and steer roping and trick roping.

Diaz is a fourth generation Charro, continuing the traditions that originated with his great grandfather over 150 years ago.

Recognized around the world for his expertise in horsemanship and dedication to the Charro traditions, Diaz is a director and lifetime member of the National Western Stock show, which features his productions, the Mexican Rodeo Extravaganza and the Evening of Dancing Horses.

In 2004, Diaz was inducted into the Texas Trail of Fame in Fort Worth, Texas, and he earned the Federation of Charros' Golden Spur Award, given to those who personify the strict Charro traditions and skills.

The Diaz family lives in New Braunfels, Texas, where they operate Three Mile Creek Ranch, a 50-acre horse operation.

There will be a reining exhibition by Rocky Dare, a National Reining Champion from New Jersey, following the Junior Jumper class on Friday evening, May 22.

Reining is one of the six disciplines competed at the World Equestrian Games, which are held every four years.

SHOW DATES: MAY 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

The remaining disciplines are show jumping, eventing, dressage, vaulting and combined driving.

The 2010 WEG will be held at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Ky., from Sept. 25 to Oct. 10.

Rocky Dare, who will perform in exhibition on Friday evening, May 22, is an eight time National Reining World Champion, and he will perform the same moves required in competition, including changes of lead at the gallop and the exciting sliding halt from a full out run.

Dare, who is in the Reining Hall of Fame, has also been reserve World Champion six times and twice Super stakes Champion with lifetime earnings of \$872,000.

Although it is not an exhibition, Pony Hunt Teams on Junior Weekend is one of the most fun classes for spectators to watch.

Pony Hunt Teams, in which three pony and rider combinations, going in single file, compete over a course of jumps, is the last class Saturday afternoon in the Gold Ring.

Over the years, the pony riders have built this into one of the most fun classes to watch for the Devon spectators.

Each team develops a theme, and often both the riders and the ponies are dressed in costume. Then, as the team enters the ring, the three ponies walk up to the judge's stand, where their diminutive riders deliver a "bribe" to the judges.

Definitely a "must see" for spectators at Junior Weekend, which kicks off the 10 day Horse Show with equitation classes on Thursday, May 21 and hunter and jumpers classes for juniors on Friday and Saturday.

The Country Fair features a variety of shopping for all ages, both equestrian and non-equestrian, as well as foods for every taste and midway games and rides.

Boutiques sell the latest in fashion, sporting clothes, silver and gold jewelry and beautiful hats, and the Art Gallery features paintings and prints by many local talented artists.

Vendors sell classical pieces ranging from paintings, prints and sculptures to hand-painted furniture with horses and dogs, leather goods, antiques and more.

Visit the Souvenir Shop for Devon Horse Show apparel, collectibles and the cookbook, Appetizers at Devon.

Food is available for every taste, including hamburgers, hot dogs, French fries, pizza, ice cream, pitas, tea sandwiches, specialty coffee drinks, gourmet dining in the Garden Cafe, and of course, the traditional Devon Fudge and lemon sticks.

Special events occur throughout the 10 days; Thursday, May 21 and Tuesday, May 26 are Family Days, with discounts on food and midway ride or game tickets, and Back Barn Tours; Saturday, May 23 is Children's Day, with a variety of fun craft activities; and on Wednesday, May 27, the annual Hat Contest is part of Ladies Day. Please check the website for further details.

General admission is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children under 12 and \$5 for seniors. Reserved seating is available. Call for ticket prices.

Tickets may be purchased in advance at the ticket office at the show grounds or call 610-688-2554. Visit our website at www.thedevonhorseshow.org