

KING OAK FARM 30th ANNIVERSARY - SPRING HORSE TRIALS

See the sign for Southampton...I know we are here.
If it wasn't 7 in the morning, I would probably cheer!

Mother's Day Weekend, this is the place to be.
The place where my horse and I, are free.

Jump out of the truck, and whip off my jacket.
I just want to go, and pick up my packet.

The Secretary's House is full of smiles,
even though I bet, they've put on a lot of miles.

My horse is spotless, but I'm still a mess.
Boy, I hope I don't forget my test!

Ring Steward warns me it is almost my time.
When the bell rings, go down the centerline.

Rings are groomed perfectly, not a rock in sight.
Which means my horse and I will not get into a fight.

Down the centerline to X, Halt. Salute.
The judge comments right away, "Your horse is so cute!"

Back up the hill, I give him lovin'...
He is getting more excited, for what is comin'!

Time to walk my course, when the jump crew is done.
Workin' so hard, as they continue to have fun!

Warm up ring was amazing and not too crowded.
As I entered into the field, the viewers shouted.

Boy what a ride, to have showjumping so open,
None of those fences, did we leave broken.

And perfect distances every time...
Deana really knows, how to make us all shine.

Break before cross country,
which is great because I am hungry.

Lion's burgers are the best. You just have to try one...
and leave room for the shortcake, before you are done.

Back to my horse,
and focusing on the course.

Up the hill to a few jumps, then to the prudential.
This is where my man, will show his true potential.

I don't know how Course Designer Chris Miliensi
makes cross country look so damn easy.

Out of the start box, here we go...
I hope Mr. Fox is ready for this show.

I hear Howard announcing, as we gallop through the field
Over the log, into the water...I wish I could carry a shield.

Through the finish line, what a thrill,
I am so glad there has not been a spill.

Clear round for me, clear round for her.
I hope I get first, that's for sure!

It may be a long weekend, but it is worth it all.
Trailer ride home, I can't wait for the fall!

I feel like this show has been made for me,
and just yesterday it felt like 1983!

Thank you Fran and thank you Tom,
The King Oak Farm Horse Trials are the bomb!

- Anonymous Competitor

King Oak Farm Horse Trials 1983 ~ 2007...

Tom, mowing, building, digging, moving; grass, fences, dirt, and anything else that might need it

Wild New England weather, hot, cold, damp, dusty, windy, rainy, thunder, lightening, 25 years of Mother Nature's feelings

Excellent sound system, awesome announcer

Neat and tidy, well designed and built cross country course year after year, decade after decade

T. D. we started with the best; Maj. Gen. Jonathan Burton, wonderfully supportive

Yes, we can move that dressage ring after this division, (during the 30 minute break)

Fran, overseeing every detail, wanting everything perfect for our guests, finding those 4-leafed clovers

I can do it! Quench thirst and hunger of volunteers, and officials alike ~ hospitality ~ Volunteers, Amazing, Outstanding in their fields, Dedicated, Hard working, Best on Earth are found right here

Each horse & rider needs to be scheduled juuust right, not too late, not too early and certainly not too tight

Yup, veterinary services is ready and waiting, we can start x-c on time, and the farrier has already had 3 clients

Every one working together, for a great experience for each competitor, every competition

A New England eventing tradition, ~"been there got the t-shirt"

Remember penalty zones, 4 flags for each fence, color coded, oh what fun that was

Stallion loose on cross country without a bridle, we caught him in a dressage ring, while dressage was still running

Out straight, keeping everything going like clock work, doing "what ever it takes"

Fifteen thousand horses have run on these courses, ~ perhaps more

Horses used as x-c couriers, Remember, a special pony too!

On schedule in dressage, stewards, scribes, and judges working attentively

Really tight schedule, to fit as many competitors as possible in our weekend

Show jumping, fastidiously painted fences, placed just right, decorated perfectly, well thought out courses

EMT services sometimes too busy, sometimes nice and quiet, but always prepared

Twenty-five years of King Oak Farm horse trials

Right here on grounds, stabling, or off ground stabling, your choice

Intense scoring, Joni pressing those keys faster than we can get the tests and sheets to her

Always great to see our eventing friends doing what we all love

Laughing out loud any time we can, at the crazy happenings that follow our equine friends

Start box, x-c starter, and crew doing an accurate job, fence judge briefing, walkie-talkies

~Thanks Fran and Tom

For your dedication to this sport for over a quarter of a century!

For letting us share your farm and being able to experience the awesomeness of a great x-c ride. An opportunity to ride our dressage test in the flattest parts of your field. To reasonably test our riding talent and our horse's preparedness on the show jumping course. ~ljj