

Claudia Cojocar

Jump Canada Symposium, Langley, BC (2011) and Blenheim Stables (2016)

Claudia Cojocar started riding in California, and achieved her 'A' with USPC, making her the first person west of the Rockies to achieve that level. Claudia won multiple national championships in dressage, hunted twice a week, and rode with the USET in eventing, later switching to hunters and jumpers when she married H/J trainer Jay Campf. Now married to veterinarian Ron Cojocar, Claudia is semi-retired to Hope, BC, where she is very involved in both the US and Canada as a H/J clinician, and in restructuring the Canadian coaching program and helping to establish a US-based program.

Jump Canada Symposium (2011)

Claudia talked about horse care and horsemanship.

She noted that, in spite of improved diagnostics and medication, today our horses continue to be subjected to the same degree of unsoundnesses as were seen in the past, if not more. Technological and medical advancements should have created a situation where we see fewer problems, but instead we see more.

She urged clinic attendees to look at Pony Club and what is taught in the program as a way of educating riders and coaches to be better horse people.

She recalled the days when she rode with the USET, and horses were taken out every Monday for a trot up. Legs were felt for heat. She felt that this regular scrutinizing was what helped to keep their horses so sound.

Jumping Clinic, 2016

Blenheim Stables, Langley, BC

- Warm up is very important
- If your horse is hot, you should try and stay in one pace
- If your horse needs to be energized, you need to do a lot of transitions

She discussed the different seats that can be used, and noted that you do need different seats for the different parts of the course. As well, different types of horse will require one type of seat to be used more, to be more effective.

The rider's job:

- Position - use a 1/2 seat ideally
- Give aids and their application, maintain
- Track - choose the track
- Make sure you get there
- Pace - choose the appropriate pace for the horse/course/fence type
- Execute this
- Balance

Horse's job

- Jump the fences
- Develop the eye and use it

She reminded riders that it was their job to establish the rhythm and track, and let the horse do its job

The rider can make adjustments when they are more qualified

Riders need to school their canters

- Need to have at least three canters at their fingertips
- Short/collected
- Regular
- Forward

Horsemanship

- Riders need to develop their horsemanship
- They need to understand their horse
- They need to think like a horse
- Watch the horse's eyes and ears to anticipate what the horse will do
- Notice when the horse puts his radar on the jump, see it, focus on it
- A horse that is '*looky*' is good
- He will be careful
- A horse that is '*spooky*' is bad

- That horse is chicken
- The rider will have to sit and add the aids (cluck, stick)
- You may have to chase it
- This will result in the horse hitting the fence, rails, the horse jumping poorly

Today's practices of:

- Showing the horse the fence
- Multiple, progressive height schooling rounds
- Drugs and other medications
- Trainers riding
- *All serve to make the horses too dull*
The rider and horse must work together

The rider handles the:

- Track
- Rhythm and straightness
- Maintain the position

Do not micromanage the horse

The horse develops the eye and uses it

- Let your horse help you
- Don't do it all for them