



RIDER SPOTLIGHT: SYDNEY SHINN



Photo by Liz Crawley Photography

Sydney Shinn is a regular at Stable View. While she primarily events she also competes at hunter/jumper and dressage shows. She grew up with horses in her backyard as her father did combined driving and her mother evented. Sydney joked, "My mom tried to get me to get into every other sport other than riding because they are much less expensive, but that was

unsuccessful. I instead insisted on more time at the barn. I would spend hours helping with chores and grooming/ tacking horses to be able to get lessons without my mom having to pay nearly as much."

Sydney was introduced to pony club at this barn. She said, "I highly recommend Pony Club to anyone looking to learn more and practice important techniques when caring for horses. When I got older I decided I wanted to be a working student and work towards becoming a professional in the eventing community. I was fortunate enough to have a supportive mother who allowed me to switch to online high school junior year so I could also be a full-time working student for Jennie Brannigan." Sydney worked for Jennie for two-and-a-half years. She shared, "Working for Jennie was a great experience. She cares greatly about the welfare of the horses and values all of the people who work for and with her. I learned a lot about running a business of sales, training, and competition. She works hard to develop her business and I was just grateful to be a small part of her success." While Sydney was there she got the opportunity from Jennie and Alexa Lapp to own a mare named Paprika. Paprika gave her the chance to compete at Young Riders where her Area II team won Silver.

Currently, Sydney attends USC-Aiken and rides on their intercollegiate team. In 2023, Sydney was a part of the USEA Intercollegiate Eventing Championship winning team with her gelding, HSH Crypto. She said, "This was a huge victory not only for us students who had the privilege of representing our school but also for the whole Aiken community. This was a great example of how Aiken is such a wonderful equestrian enthusiast community. Being on the team with incredible horses and riders

was an exhilarating experience. Our horses won the title just as much as we as riders did, and that is the beauty of eventing. Not only does the team of riders have to work together, but the teams of horse and rider need to have trust and confidence in order to perform at their very best together." Sydney will be attending Champs in a couple of weeks with all four of her horses. It's yet to be decided which will be on the team. She'll be competing HSH Crypto in his second Intermediate, Blissful Change and Sunshine and Whiskey in the Training, and Piece of Cake in the Beginner Novice.

Regarding Stable View Sydney said, "I personally cannot thank Stable View enough for the never-ending opportunities of schooling and competitions year-round that make it easy to stay here in Aiken all year. I have a few young horses and one upper-level horse that have all equally benefited greatly from Stable View! I know the team of the University of South Carolina Eventing can agree that we are so grateful to have Stable View as a local venue to gain invaluable experience. Having a top-class facility to access daily or weekly is hard to top. My horses and I are very excited to head to Stable View for their schooling jumper show, recognized dressage show, and then the Intercollegiate Championship! Thank you Stable View for making the Aiken community a better place!"