

# On Course With Junior Riders Carly and Alexa Anthony

By Jan Westmark

Carly and Alexa Anthony, daughters of Grand Prix rider Cara Anthony, have spent the past several years climbing the equitation ranks. Although the sisters compete against each other, they also root for each other, and occasionally, just occasionally, argue like most siblings do.

At the end of the day, however, each sister is proud of the other. Sidelines caught up with Carly and Alexa at their family farm, Potcreek Meadow Farm, in Redmond, Washington, to talk about the success the girls have been having in the ring. Carly, 17, won the R.W. Ronnie Mutch Classic at HITS Thermal this year on her horse Vogue and says she is still in shock over the win. The Ronnie Mutch Equitation Classic has been held at the Winter Equestrian Festival since 1999, and this was the first year for it to move to HITS Thermal, making Carly the first winner on the west coast of the prestigious equitation class. Carly also earned the title of grand champion in the 16-17 equitation division at Thermal.

Alexa, 14, is just as accomplished in equitation, winning both the mid-circuit and grand championship in the 14-15 equitation on Toronto, Grasshopper and Vogue. She also won the Marshall & Sterling Medal and was third in the National Medal on Grasshopper.

The sisters grew up riding and both say they are passionate about the sport. "I was six years old when I got my



Carly Anthony (left) holds Vogue while her sister Alexa Anthony stands with Grasshopper. The sisters keep it in the family by sharing their mare Vogue. Alexa also rides Grasshopper, owned by Carissa Brock.

Photo by Ashley Collins

first pony, she was a Christmas present," Carly said. "My parents tied her up outside the house and put reindeer antlers on her and at first I thought she was a reindeer. When my mom told me she was my new pony I wouldn't stop hugging the pony."

Carly shares Vogue, an 11-year-old Westphalian mare, with



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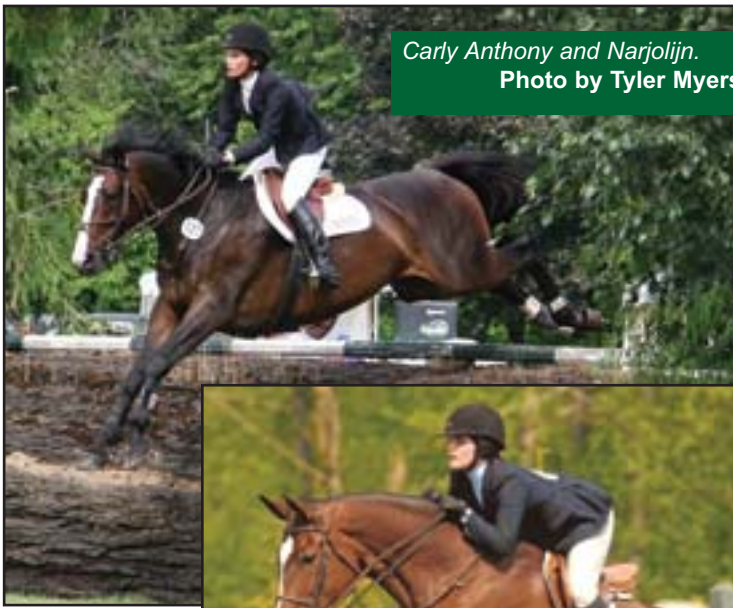
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Carly Anthony and Narjolijn.  
Photo by Tyler Myers



Alexa Anthony competing Vogue.  
Photo by Darren Reeves/Peter Llewellyn

her sister and also has a high junior jumper named Afonya. "I am so fortunate to have two amazing horses that I am able to compete at a national level with," she said.

Carly said when she was younger one of her goals was to win a medal class. "I would dream of walking into the ring and picking up the blue ribbon," she said. "I have gone to the HITS shows since I was a little kid and throughout the years it has given me the opportunity to achieve that goal and experience the dream."

Alexa shows in the equitation and hunters on their mare Vogue and rides her mother's old grand prix horse, Castaway Ladd, in the children's jumpers. "When I was 11 years old I was 8th in the Maclay Regionals and last September I was 2nd in them and I won the Zone 9 USEF Final and the Zone 9 Regional Final," Alexa said.

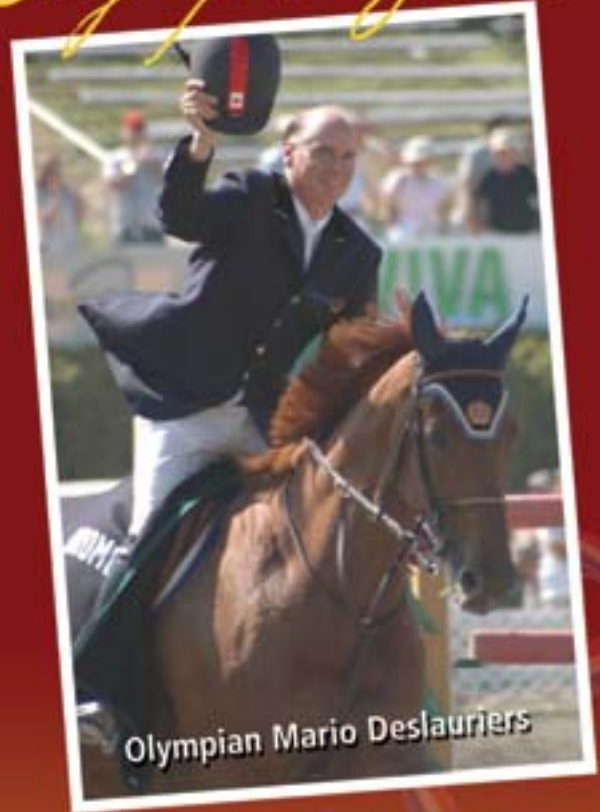
Alexa said watching her sister, as well as other junior riders succeed, pushes her to the next level. "But my mom has been my greatest inspiration in pursuing my riding career," she said. "She always pushes me to ride better until I achieve my goals."

Both girls train with their mom, although Carly trains with Karen Healey in the equitation when she is in California and at medal finals. "I love training with my mom because I can always trust that she will put that 110 percent in to help me so that I can become the best rider that I can be and achieve my goals," Carly said. "I have been riding with Karen since I was 14 and since then I have accomplished so many goals of mine in the equitation. I am honored to have her as my trainer."

Alexa hopes to continue following in her mom and sister's footsteps and her goals include placing in the top four in the USET Finals, the Maclay and the Pessoa Finals by the time she is her sister's age.

"I am very lucky to have Carly as my sister to look up to. She sets a good example for me as well as other junior riders at the barn," Alexa said. "She is really fun to be around, though we do argue, but most siblings do as well. She and I are good friends and we continue to learn new things from each other every day."

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