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Horse Show discovers artist in its back yard
Dr. Barrett Bryan of Atherton is an internist at Sequoia Hospital



By **Nan Chapman**, *Horse Show staff*

Members of the Menlo Charity Horse Show Committee have named Dr. Barrett Bryan of Atherton the official artist for the 2009 event, to be held Aug. 4-9 at the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton.

A member of the Menlo Circus Club and a practicing internist at nearby Sequoia Hospital, Dr. Bryan submitted his painting to be judged along with the works of 12 other artists, one of whom has been commissioned by the queen of England to paint portraits of Her Highness' horses.

Dr. Bryan's painting, which is still unnamed, was the unanimous choice of the committee and will be featured on the event's program, invitations, mugs, Web site, and posters, as well as in the display window of the Wilkes Bashford store at the Stanford Shopping Center.

The giclee rendition of it will be auctioned off at the Friday night Sponsors' Dinner during the horse show in August.

A novice, who has been painting for only three years, Dr. Bryan has never owned or ridden a horse. He has never taken an art lesson and, as he says, "Most of my art, with the exception of one painting on loan to the Circus Club and one piece a trainer purchased to present to a client, hangs either in my home or office for me, my family and friends to enjoy."

He is a photographer with an excellent eye who "recognized immediately the grace and the stateliness of the jumpers." Editing his pictures in Photoshop, he then uses a computer "Painter" program to add distinctive brush strokes and texture.

He has taught himself to take advantage of the early morning and late afternoon light, factors that give his work an ethereal quality.

This year's horse show will feature 700 of the West Coast's top riders and their horses, competing in three arenas, two of them on the grass of the polo field, at the Menlo Circus Club, located at 190 Park Lane in Atherton.

The show will once again benefit Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, which served 3,600 clients in San Mateo, San Benito, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties in 2008.

Last year's event raised \$500,000 for the Vista Center, a \$30,000 increase over the previous year's proceeds.

For more information, visit www.menlohorseshow.org or call (650) 701-0543.

About the author: Nan Chapman is a resident of Woodside and a former resident and council member in Atherton.