



## Volker Ehlers

Visiting Verband Classifier, NZHS Hanoverian & Rheinland National Tour 2018



Volker Ehlers was born and raised in the Hartz Mountain area of Northern Germany in 1941. He began his riding career at 13 years of age at the Hanoverian State Stud of Bad Harzburg, where at that time about 80 Hanoverian stallions, several Trakehners and coldblood stallions were standing. For the next 6 years he spent every day after school with the stallions and riding horses. The late Landstallmeister, Hans Fellgiebel was

his teacher and taught him everything he knew about horses, including grooming, riding, training, driving in hand with from one to six horses. He learned how to handle the stallions, all about their pedigrees and through this association made contacts with breeders all over Germany.

At the age of 19, Volker decided to become a professional horse trainer. After two years of army service, he started his apprenticeship at Hermann Schridde's international jumping stable. At that time Schridde was the European Champion and an Olympic Gold Medal winner. As an apprentice and student, he was able to scout and find talented jumpers for his Schridde's jumper barn. After four years of apprenticeship, Volker passed the Bereiter Testing and he went to Alwin and Paul Schockemohle's stable where he trained and showed Grand Prix Jumpers for the next 8 years. The Schockemohle brothers were experts in all areas of the horse breeding industry and ran the biggest and most successful jumper stable in Europe as well as a large breeding farm which was overseen by Paul's brother Werner Schockemohle, an expert in breeding sporthorses. During that time he continued to ride and train dressage horses under the instruction of Herbert Rehbein.

An important part of Volker's work with the Schockemohle's was to evaluate foals. Each year Paul and Werner purchased 50 – 60 foals as future jumper candidates. Every fall it was Volker's job to go to the various farms to evaluate the foals, checking them for health, correctness and type. As a trainer and rider he was able to learn extensively about the rideability and temperament characteristics of many stallions and their offspring, adding to his knowledge of conformation, correctness and type.

After leaving Schockemohle's stables, Volker opened his own business, training and preparing dressage horses, jumpers and auction horses for clients and preparing stallions for their Performance Testing.

In 1984, a long-time dream to come to America was realized and Volker traveled to Canada where at Barcrest Farms he organized and prepared horses for one of the first Sporthorse auctions to be held in the America. After completing his job at Barcrest, he was invited to Washington State where he set up the breeding and training program for the Hannoverian Breeding Farm called Heritage Farms.

After coming to America, Volker meet his wife, Judy, they have been icons in the Sporthorse world, they ran Glenwood Farms in California from 1986-2010. He has been very successful competing and showing dressage horses in California from the lower levels through Prix St. Georges. In 1998 he earned his Silver Medal in Dressage. He showed the Glenwood stallion, Prinz Gaylord in Grand Prix jumping competitions throughout California.

As Vice - President he has been responsible for, selecting mares and breeding stallions for the farm, preparation of mares for inspection and for the Mare Performance Testing, training and showing numerous stallions for competition as jumpers and dressage horses, selection and training of young sporthorses for Glenwood Auctions, acting as Training Leader for 19 Glenwood Auctions, preparing stallions for the

100-Day Testing, foaling out approximately 25 mares per year, selecting and showing foals/yearlings/two-year olds for breed shows, hosting yearly inspections for mares, foals and stallions for the American Hanoverian Society and the ISR/Oldenburger NA. During these years, Volker has made many trips to Germany to select breeding stock and riding horses not only for Glenwood Farms, but for clients throughout the country. In addition, he has given clinics in both dressage and jumping as well as private instruction in both disciplines.

Volker now serves on the American Hanoverian Society mare and stallion committee, traveling throughout the country to judge mares, foals and mare performance tests. He has served as a member of the stallion judging commission for ISR/Oldenburger.



Prinz Gaylord, (Perlkoenig I/  
Goldburg/ Gotthard)  
Glenwood Farm Stallion, whom  
Volker rode to Grand Prix level in  
Jumping.