

David Dinkle

Knight of Sunset Spirits

Denton, Maryland

Inducted 2011

Dave Dinkle has been associated with the sport of Jousting since 1990. He was an avid bicyclist when he pedaled into the jousting tournament at the old one room school house at Queen Anne, Maryland. Dave found the sport fascinating and though he had not attempted jousting yet, he knew that would be the next sport he would compete in.

Dave began jousting on a horse that had little experience on the jousting track. The horse was a gray one named Ghost. Both he and the horse were very soon attempting the practice rides and before long they were participating in the tournaments with cheers and encouragement from his friends in jousting. Dave began riding as the Knight of Greensboro Packers. He lived in Greensboro at the time and worked his own business there. After selling the business and moving to Denton, Maryland, he changed his title to Knight of Sunset Spirits. Dave soon became a member of the Eastern Shore of Maryland Jousting Association, Inc. and was soon riding in the local weekend jousts.

The first few years of jousting Dave placed in the jousts and in 1993 he took his first win at the Chestertown Tea Party joust. He followed this win with two more in 1993, the Caroline County 4-H Fair Joust and the ESJA pre-championship joust. He continued to place and have more wins in the next few years and moved the Amateur Class in 1997 after winning in two classes at the Annual Cotter Farm Joust in Lilypons, MD. Dave has placed in numerous jousts throughout the states of Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania. Many of Dave's placings are in the State and National jousts.

Dave's camaraderie with the attendees and members of the jousts know no boundaries. All consider Dave a friend and jousting family member regardless whether he is at a local, state or national joust. He can be seen hanging rings and is well know as the announcer of many classes. Dave helped with the particulars of erecting permanent arches at the Tuckahoe Equestrian Center and was on hand to help with the opening ceremonies of the jousting track on August 13, 1995. Dave has taken his time to help promote the sport of jousting by getting sponsors for local, state and national tournaments. He has helped young riders learn to joust by helping with jousting clinics.

Dave has been an officer in the Eastern Shore of Maryland Jousting Association, Inc. as Vice President in 1996 and President in 1997. He has also served as Vice President of the Maryland Jousting Tournament Association in 2008 and 2009 and Vice President of the National Jousting Association in 2007, 2008 and 2009.



Finding a good jousting horse is always a treasure and Dave has had a few over the years. Probably the most memorable was quarter horse that was named Junior, but lovingly nicknamed J.D. or Junior Dinkle. Dave's last jousting horse came from a jousting family in Virginia.

Dave Dinkle is best described as cheerful, giving and loyal to the Sport of Jousting and the Eastern Shore of Maryland Jousting Association, Inc. is very honored to submit the name of David Dinkle for induction into the National Jousting Hall of Fame.