

Scary Fun

By Suzy Hopkins

When you ride a well-trained show horse charging over a course of eight to ten jumps, some of them over five feet high and some of them up to six feet long, you hold your breath a lot. When its front feet leave the ground you are flying through the air hanging onto the saddle and reins until its feet touch the ground on the other side of the jump. As your horse comes sailing over the jump there is an interlude where the horse could catch its foot on the top of the jump and fall, throwing you over its head onto the ground. That's where you can find yourself holding your breath. All you can hear is this 1,000 pound animal's labored breathing until its front feet hit the ground with a thud and it gallops forward to the next jump.

Scary fun.