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January
2014

VRPC News

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2014 VRPC Calendar

The 2014 VRPC
Calendar is available
on the
[VRPC Website](#).

Greetings from the RS

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday season and that you are looking forward to a fantastic 2014 Pony Club year!

I'd like to give a big hug and thank you to our friends at Misty Brae Farm Pony Club Riding Center that set up and hosted a very special opportunity for our members to participate in a horse euthanasia and autopsy at Rectortown Equine. See article below for more details on this unique event.

Thank you also to Vicki Fox for coordinating an educational upper level mounted prep at Morven Park the first weekend of the new year! Thank you to Mary Schwentker and Karen Nutt, USPC National Examiners, for helping our upper level candidates prepare for their national certifications. The clinicians helped our candidates identify opportunities for improvement before heading into upper level tests this year.

We are very fortunate that once again the region will offer H-B Preps to prepare our candidates and potential candidates for this national certification. Participating in the Preps, and subsequent mock test, gives candidates a "leg-up" because they know what to expect in the testing process and can help them identify their opportunities for improvement. Read on for more information.

Our first rally in 2014 is around the corner!! Quiz Rally is scheduled for Sunday, February 23 at the Hill School in Middleburg. Be on the look out for the invite and details in the very near future!

I have one more bit of very exciting news to share! I'm pleased to announce that the **2015 USPC Annual Meeting will be co-hosted by The Virginia Region and Capital Region Pony Clubs** at the Hyatt in Crystal City, **January 21-25, 2015!!** More details to follow in the February newsletter.

That's all I have for now! Looking forward to fun in 2014!

As always, if you have anything to contribute or information you'd like to see in the regional newsletter, please contact our new newsletter editor Cindy Shelberg at cschelberg@gmail.com.

H-B Prep Session Offered January through March

Note that dates are subject to change. Please check back often for updates.

January 2014 Calendar

Sat & Sun Jan 4 & 5

Upper Level Prep @
Morven Park
Equestrian Center

Sat Jan 11

H-B Prep @ Morven
Park Equestrian
Center

Sat Jan 18

H-B Prep @ Morven
Park Equestrian
Center

February 2014 Calendar

Sat, Feb 1

H-B Prep @ Morven
Park Equestrian
Center

Sat, Feb 8

Regional Meeting @
Location TBD

Sat, Feb 15

HM Seminar @ Marion
Theros Farm,
Haymarket, VA

Sun, Feb 23

Quiz Rally @ The Hill
School

USPC 2014 Annual Meeting in Portland, OR

Dates: Jan 22-26,
2014. On-site
registration available.
Contact Carolyn

VRPC will offer the H-B Prep Sessions beginning on January 11 and continuing for six sessions during January, February and March. Judging by our pass rates, these have been excellent preps! If you are thinking about taking your H-B certification this year, you should find the time to join us at these preps!

Here is the schedule of events.

11 January - An Overview of the H-B Certification

How to Prepare for the Test, Introduction to Teaching (unmounted), Health Maintenance Books and Conditioning Plans
Presenter: Karen Nutt, USPC National Examiner
Location: Morven Park
Time: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

18 January - Diseases, Preventive Care, Parasites and Teeth/Dental

Presenter: Dr. James (Jay) Joyce, Total Equine Veterinary Associates
Location: Morven Park
Time: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

1 February - Nutrition and Feed/Toxic Plants

Presenters: Sandy Rose and Jessica Morton, Southern States
Location: Morven Park
Time 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

15 February - HM Seminar

H-B Session members will present their unmounted lessons to participants
Location: Marion Theros Facility, 15150 Doe Ridge, Haymarket, VA 20169
Time: 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

1 March - Identification and Discussion of Tack and Equipment

Presenters: Anna Koopman and Dover Employees
Location: Dover Saddlery, 43717 John Mosby Highway, Chantilly, VA 20152
Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

8 March - Conformation/Leg Anatomy/Lameness/Shoeing

Presenter: Dr. Paula Horne
Location: 19288 Silcott Springs Road, Purcellville VA 20132
Time: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

We will also hold a **Mock H-B Test on March 15** at Cathy's Frederickson's new location, Marley Grange Farm, located at 644 Lime Marl Lane, Millwood, Virginia. This event is an all-day activity which gives candidates an opportunity to participate in a Mock H-B Test prior to the actual testing! Additional information on the Mock H-B Test will be provided in early February.

For more information please contact Vicki Fox at
vfoxfamily@aol.com

Getting Ready for Quiz Rally - Check out Pony Club Tack Trunk



Lorenzen if you plan to attend. Leadership training sessions will be offered for DCs, JtDCs, CAs, ACAs, RSs and VRSSs.

Check out the USPC website for more info! [USPC 2014 Annual Meeting](#)

US Pony Clubs Championships & Festival 2014

Festival Championships
Lexington, KY
July 14-18, 2014

Festival Education
Lexington, KY
July 19-21, 2014

USPC Entries Close
July 1, 2014

Looking for some new ways for your club members to study for an upcoming certification or the **Quiz Rally**? While our manuals are great, why not let your members try something a little more interactive?

Try logging onto the USPC website to find the **Pony Club Tack Trunk**. The Pony Club Tack Trunk has materials for the D levels all the way up to the A level. At the D and C levels your Pony Club member can take quizzes on various subjects. Subjects include everything from grooming all the way up to toxic plants.



For the B and A level certifications there are subjects like Duckett's Dot Hoof Information as well as riding information, such as practicing grids. Does your member like watching videos or TV? Check out the U.K.'s Pony Prep Section, they can watch videos on everything from how to apply a tail bandage to creating their very own stable or pony avatar.

You will need to sign into your account to access the Pony Club Tack Trunk. Go to the member opportunities section. Once there have fun using the interactive modules available. This should be another fun way to learn and prepare for ratings or Quiz Rally!

This year's **VRPC Quiz Rally** will take place at The Hill School in Middleburg on **Sunday, Feb 23rd**. Invite will go out soon! Entries are due February 7th. For more information contact Nicole Gnozzio mgnozzio@msn.com

International Tetrathlon Exchange set for Perth - Western Australia

International Tetrathlon Exchange will be held from July 5th to 20th in Perth Western Australia. The Tetrathlon Exchange application has been updated to allow C-2 competitors. Applications for Team members, Chaperone and Coach are currently open and due to the USPC National Office by February 1st, 2014.

Team USPC 2014 will consist of 4 boys and 4 girls, one Chaperone and one Coach. Team members must be between the ages of 17 and 21 (as of January 1, 2014), with one boy and one girl who may be over 21, who will compete in a separate competition for 21 - 24 year olds.

The Tet Competition will be held on the weekend of the 12th and 13th of July and conducted under local rules www.pcawa.com/tetrathlon

During their time in Australia, the Team can expect to enjoy some of the world's best beaches, an outback experience, a tour of the major gold mining centre, and close encounters with Kangaroos

and Koalas!

For more information, go to

[www.ponyclub.org/International Exchange](http://www.ponyclub.org/International_Exchange)

USPC College Scholarships Deadline March 31st

USPC administers several scholarships each year that are available to current Pony Club members. Application deadline is March 31.

Samantha Pitcher, an H-HM from River Bend Pony Club, was recently awarded the Jubilee Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to Pony Club members for excellence in academic pursuits and outstanding achievements in Pony Club. Samantha currently attends the University of Virginia and is majoring in Engineering.

For more information about US Pony Club Scholarships, visit

www.ponyclub.org/scholarships

A Deeper Understanding of a Horse's Anatomy

Written by Lindsay Dennis & Alex Arabak

Misty Brae Farm Riding Center

Never did we imagine we would be able to take part in dissecting a horse, but on



December 7, we got to do just that.

Thanks to Rectortown Equine Clinic, Dr. Jeanne Waldron, Dr. Ann-Marie Hancock, farrier Paige Poss, and Dr. Lynne Johnson, 23 members from six different clubs from our region got to help and observe in the dissection of a horse. We got to see and learn about the inside of the horse while it was still intact, as well as individual organs, the inside of a hoof and leg, and the head and neck.

As pony club members hoping to get our A certification, this had a profound impact on understanding of the anatomy of the horse as well as the role of each of the individual organs. The part we found most interesting was looking at the inner structures of the hoof and leg. The ability to actually see the inside of the hoof in 3D rather than just in a picture was so helpful in understanding the placement of the numerous bones and parts of the hoof. Also, getting to see the different tendons and how they connected to one another was helpful in understanding how each tendon could affect the overall function of the leg.

This experience had a huge impact on everyone involved. For Marie Y (Deep Run Hunt) it reaffirmed her desire to become a vet. "This was my first major veterinary experience and now I am even more sure that I would like to pursue this career." For Jacqueline S (Deep Run Hunt) and Katherine P (River Bend) it helped them gain a

deeper understanding of the anatomy of the horse and how it works in a 3 dimensional way.

Even farrier Paige Poss learned that bad behavior is usually caused by pain, "after listening to Dr. Waldron, Dr. Hancock, and Dr. Johnson describe a specific equine behavior and then pointing out the anatomical reason."

Lastly, the Virginia Region would like to send our deepest thanks to Birdie Carrier and her beloved horse, Reflection, for allowing us to be a part of this ever so valuable learning experience. The ability to get a first-hand look at the inner workings of the horse was a fabulous way to gain a deeper understanding of the equine anatomy.

This opportunity left us looking at our equine partners in a new light. No longer will we brush off our horse's bucking, stopping, or inability to extend as simply naughty behavior. We will look into why our horses are acting the way they are and ask are they really just being stubborn or are they hurting somewhere? Thanks to this very special equine experience, we are now able to question and better understand our equine partners and grow as Pony Club members.

Go Horses, Go Pony Club!

Words of Wisdom from Mooseman Rallies 101

By [Brian Smith](#)

A good topic for folks that are new to Pony Club rallying but maybe even for the experienced sorts there is something you did not know...

Why Judge Horse Management

We judge HM at rallies to educate the members and to evaluate their proficiency within their certification. Since this is the goal, we are not interested in how well mom or dad can label things, or set up a tack room, or bed a stall, or hang water buckets. Pony Club wants to raise the next generation of horsemen capable of competently caring for their own mounts. So other than the 4 things parents & non-competitors can do at rally, let your competitors do it all. They also like it better that way.

Who and What of HM at Rallies - Judging Process

There is one Chief HM Judge (CHMJ) at each rally and a set of Assistant HM Judges (AHMJ). The chief administers the rally and scoring HM sheets, the AHMJs are the "eyes and ears" of the chief. The AHMJs walk about the stall areas, educate the competitors & take notes that end up on HM score sheets. The AHMJs are strongly encouraged to note the good along with what could be improved upon.

Turnout sheets are used for the turnout inspections, and these have columns for the AHMJ to indicate to the chief if a comment in their opinion is "pointable" or not. (Horse Management scoring is like golf... you want a low score.) The columns are "ES" - Exceed Standard, "MS" - Meets Standard, "SBS" - Slightly Below Standard, and "FBS" - Far Below Standard. The chief looks at the comments and the column indications and scores the sheets.

In turnouts and everywhere else, AHMJ's do not assign points. Only the chief assigns points. Even if a column is marked "SBS", that does not guarantee a point will be given by the chief. And similarly, an item checked "MS" could still be given a point. Before doing this, the chief will likely discuss the item with the AHMJ, but again, the AHMJ does not assign points. And the AHMJ's are to make this clear to the competitors when they ask, "Will I get a point for that"?

The reason that only the chief gives points is this helps to provide consistency across the rally. The chief is looking at all the issues, taking certification and magnitude of what was noted into account. "Where" and "when" for HM Judging is on rally grounds and mostly occurs during barn hours but HM rule 6a states that the USPC Code of Conduct is to be upheld from arrival on grounds until departure after awards. For overnight rallies, this includes after barns close.

Our Regional Youth Board

The Virginia Region Pony Clubs established a Regional Youth Board (RYB), sometimes referred to as a Junior Board, in 2011. The idea behind the RYB is to give a voice to our young adult members, provide leadership opportunities and an opportunity to "give-back" to Pony Club. Ideally, the RYB is made up of at least one and maybe as many as three representatives from each club/riding center in the region. Currently, the RYB meets a few times a year to discuss what they'd like to experience in our Region, how they can implement their plans, and how they can support regional activities. In 2013 the RYB, led by Andrea S, DRHPC, planned and managed the silent auction at Quiz Rally, benefiting from the money raised. They also supported the Region with a "booth" at the Hunter Derby/Clinic that showed visitors what Pony Club is all about and how to get involved. The RYB hosted a pizza party at the Show Jump Rally and provided support to the D-1/D-2 Rally.

On January 4, 2014, representation from many of the clubs met to set the agenda for 2014. The following clubs were represented - Cassanova-Warrenton, Commonwealth Foxhounds, Deep Run Hunt, River Bend, Middleburg-Orange County, Blue Ridge Hunt, and Misty Brae Farm. Andrea resigned as Chairperson as she is busy with college. We appreciate all that she provided to the success of the RYB. The group voted in new leaders to the RYB:

Chairperson - Alex A (MBFPCRC)
Co-Chair - Alena M-S (BRHPC)
Treasurer - Olivia B (CWPC)
Secretary - Ava M-S (BRHPC)

The group agreed to once again plan and manage the silent auction at Quiz Rally and host a "party" (pizza or something) at Show Jump Rally. Some other things they will look into include hosting a non-competitive regional event like a trail ride or event like what use to be the "MOC Olympics", and some sort of "pep rally" for the "pre-champs" prep. It was also discussed that the region will celebrate its 60th anniversary this year and perhaps the RYB could do something to recognize that milestone. These ideas will be discussed and debated, and possibly planned, at the next meeting which will coincide with the Regional meeting on February 8. Details

to follow.

If you are interested in participating with the RYB, please contact Carolyn Lorenzen (cslorenzen@aol.com).

That's all for now!

Sincerely,

Carolyn Lorenzen, RS
The Virginia Region Pony Clubs

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