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June 2014

VRPC News

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2014 VRPC Calendar

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

Greetings from the RS

Another very busy month has flown by with the Virginia Region completing our Show Jumping and Dressage qualifying rallies - thank you to Deep Run Hunt and Loudoun Hunt Pony Clubs for hosting outstanding rallies!

Congratulations to Renta P. for winning the Aspen Award, and Madlen L. for winning the Dancing Weather Award, both at the Virginia Region Show Jumping Rally. The Aspen Award is given to the rider that demonstrates good sportsmanship and fine horsemanship. The Dancing Weather Award is given to the rider with demonstrates outstanding equitation. Also congratulations to the Misty Brae Farm Red team for winning the Dressage Perpetual Trophy Cup! Team members include Sydney M., Bailey M., Maya K., Ryann K., and Lindsay D. For more information on these awards and historical recipients, please find the [June 2013 Newsletter](#) on our VRPC website.

We are looking forward to the upcoming Eventing Rally, June 14 & 15, hosted by Middleburg Orange County Pony Club, at Glenwood Park in Middleburg. In conjunction with the Eventing Rally, the Virginia Region will host our members, alumni, family and friends in celebration of 60 years of Pony Club memories! Please pass the word to your alumni friends to join us on Saturday, June 14 at Glenwood Park from 2 pm to 4 pm.

Also coming in June is our D-3 Eventing Rally at Windsor Lodge. Hosted by Old Dominion Hounds Pony Club. The event is scheduled for Saturday, June 28th. Invites are with the club leaders and you should all be hearing about it soon! For this event we will need lots of C advisers. Please encourage your upper level members to participate and remind them that someone did this for them!

As Championships drawn near, please be sure to let Lisa Woods know of your [Intent to Compete](#)! Please complete

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

June 2014

Sat & Sun June 14-15

Eventing Rally @ Glenwood Park, Middleburg, VA

Sat June 28

D-3 Eventing Rally @ Windsor Lodge, Flint Hill, VA

Sun June 29

Champs Prep Picnic @ Northern Fauquier Community Park, Marshall, VA

July 2014

July 14-21

USPC Championships & Festival @ Lexington, KY

August 2014

Sun Aug 3

MOCPC Combined Test @ Glenwood Park, Middleburg, VA

Fri-Sun Aug 8-10

USPC National Testing C-3, B and A Trad @ Glenwood Park, Middleburg, VA

Sat & Sun Aug 30-31

LHPC Horse Trials @ Oatlands Plantation, Leesburg, VA

the *Intent* form, using the link on the Virginia Region website or above. Go to *Rallies*, and then *Championships* for all the details.

As always, thank you to the many, many wonderful people that make this machine run! I never cease to be amazed by how many people it takes to get these Pony Club activities done, and how many people actually show up to do them! Thank you to all you tireless volunteers who do so much good for our members!

Wise Words from Mooseman...

by Brian Smith

Why be an HM Judge?

I'll start with why I do this... I did various volunteering when we were in the Maryland Region, but somehow I never got into HM until I attended a Virginia Horse Management Judge



training seminar shortly after we moved here. I had been a member back in the day. I was also a riding instructor in college (where I met my wife) and again when Matt became old enough to start riding. And I was a small barn manager.

All of that is helpful but none of it is required to do HM judging. All you need is "A love of ponies and children" as Sue Elliott, another of our wonderful previous RS's said. And a pair of "Pony Club friendly" unmounted footwear. And maybe a little push like I got from someone who suggested I attend the seminar. Whoever that is, I owe a debt for all the things I have gotten out of being an HMJ!

- Memories. I come home from every rally with a story or 2 or more!
- Knowledge. Even with all the horse jobs I've had and all the rallies I've been to, I learn something new at every rally. The horse is such a fascinating creature.
- Friends. I have made so many friends working rallies. Working "in the trenches" with other HMs is great fun. And the competitors... I get to work with the best young people in the world.
- Equine friends. I love to see the gorgeously turned out horse with their equally well turned out rider, but the little person with the pony that is watching out for them can take my breath away.

VRPC Horsemasters

Please note that all VRPC Horsemasters can now be reached via their own google group. If you would like to invite the Horsemasters to join your club or center activity, you can email the group using VRPCHorsemasters@googlegroups.com.

- A sense of accomplishment. I can generally come home thinking that I have contributed toward a positive rally experience for the competitors. That the rally was safe is job 1, and fun and educational (tie for 2nd).
- Being an advocate for the welfare of the member or pony. There have been a number of opportunities I have had to make a difference in the rally experience for a competitor or the care of mounts in Pony Club.

I consider these some of the most worthwhile things I have done in my life. I have also been in awe to watch others do the same. It takes bravery sometimes.

So that is what I get out of rally. What, in addition to that, would someone new to HM get out of working at least one rally?

- Learn what Pony Club is all about. What is it about HM that makes Pony Club different from every other riding organization?
- Losing the "mystery" of HM. Most that have spent a day in the paddock boots of an HM find that HM is not as "odd" as they had thought/heard. Most of the rules/equipment/procedures have a grounding in the "best practices" of horse care.
- Being a better Pony Club parent by realizing that even the little ones are capable of setting up their own stalls, tack, feed rooms. And watch all that teamwork happening.

So, I encourage you to sign up to be an HM at rally. You do not need experience. We will buddy you up with an experienced person, and HM is not "rocket science". Like I said, all you need is "a love of ponies and children" and barn friendly footwear. We hope to see you next time!!!

VRPC 60th Anniversary

Please join us

**The Virginia Region Pony Clubs'
60th Anniversary Celebration**

**Saturday, June 14, 2014
2pm - 4pm**

**Glenwood Park, Middleburg, VA
During our Qualifying Eventing Rally**

If you can't join us on June 14th, we hope you'll join us on FaceBook (VirginiaRegion) or Twitter (@vrponyclub) and use our website (vrponyclub.org) to stay in touch.

We hope that everyone will come help us celebrate 60 years of Virginia Region fun! Each club and center will be represented with current and historical photos, videos, and information. All USPC alumni and current member families are invited as well as current and past supporters & friends. We'll be under the tents behind the grandstand at Glenwood. Please stop by the tent and raise a glass of lemonade to VRPC with us!

Cross-Country Advice

by Melissa Fox, (Graduate "A", LHPC)

Cross-country jumping is a test of endurance. Your goal for a successful round is to jump clear with no disobedience's, falls or rider errors and closest to the optimum time, without stressing you or your horse.



Fitness for both the rider and the horse are very important. Before even thinking of competing at a horse trials or eventing rally, you need to make a plan of what type of work your horse needs to do each week to get ready for the level you want to compete.

An eight week program should get your horse in shape for the lower levels. Write your plan down so you don't forget Thursday is cross-country schooling day. Doing some hill work is a better way to get your horse's heart rate up without pounding their legs off on the flat hard ground.

Before going out on the cross-country course, make sure you have proper equipment for you and your horse. You should have an ATSM helmet (skull cap with no brim is preferred), a body protector which can be with an air jacket, medical

armband, gloves with a good grip (leather gloves can slip when wet), non-slip rubber reins, whip/spurs and a watch. You should have for your horse an all purpose or jumping saddle, set of bell boots, protective galloping boots, appropriate bit (you do not want to punish your horse's mouth). When tacking up your priority should always be safety for your horse and you.

Schooling a variety of cross-country courses is extremely important. When schooling cross-country, jump the jumps in a series not just one jump at a time. You need to develop a rhythm and to teach your horse to



look for the next fence. A cross-country round should feel and look rhythmic but you cannot develop this rhythm if you jump one fence and then walk to the next.

Several types of fences on a cross-country course tend to cause problems. Ditches and trakeheners are usually scarier



to the rider than to the horse. If your horse doesn't like ditches you need to practice them as often as you can. Always look up and don't look in the ditch because if you look in the ditch so will your horse. We do not want the old saying, "Look in the ditch, Be in the

ditch," to apply to you.

Water jumps don't appear on all courses but be prepared in case there is one on yours. Some horses don't like the feel of water and the splashing sound. Again, if this is your horse, you should school water jumps a lot. Make sure you sit very defensively. You don't want to take a swim. Always offer lots of praise after successfully schooling a difficult jump.

On the day of or before cross-country try to walk your course at least two times. Walking with a coach is always a good idea. They can give you some great insight on how to ride a technical question. Some of you may need to walk it more if you have a tendency to get lost on course. Take your wheel and calculate your minute markers (for those using a watch).

Take care of your horse at the end of the cross-country ride. He/she took care of you during the ride. Dismount and loosen the girth and nose band. Walk your horse back to your trailer or stall and immediately untack. Take off your helmet and

vest. Begin to cool your horse by sponging, scraping and walking. Repeat as often as necessary to get the temperature and heart rate down to their normal level. Of course, if you are at an eventing rally you must report to the vet box immediately after crossing the finish line.

Now that you have the proper conditioning, the proper equipment, and the proper schooling you are ready for the thrill of cross-country. 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, have a great ride!!!!

"Your Old Kentucky Home: Tips and Tricks for Setting Up Your Stabling Area at Festival!" Webinar

Excited for Festival but not really sure what to expect when you get to the Kentucky Horse Park to ensure that your horse is comfortable and an efficient set-up for your team's tack room? USPC has posted a webinar for you to view! Join Horse Management gurus (and Festival veterans!) Yvette Seger and Lara Hubner as they walk you through the layout of the Kentucky Horse Park facilities and offer tips and tricks regarding things to pack to ensure that you and your horse have an "Exceeds Standards" experience at Festival 2014.

USPC webinars are posted at http://www.ponyclub.org/members/group_content_view.asp?group=112383&id=198879

The Masters of Foxhounds Association Launches Hunt Staff Career Training Apprenticeship For Pony Club Members

The Masters of Foxhounds Association of America (MFHA) is offering one or two individuals the chance to apprentice with one of the nation's top professional huntsmen and train for a career as professional hunt staff.

To be considered for an apprenticeship, the candidate must be a USPC C-3 traditional or higher certified member, be 18 years old or older, and have the recommendation of their local DC or Master of Foxhounds. One, or possibly two, candidates per year will be chosen by the MFHA's Professional Development Committee. The interview process will include riding tests and interviews conducted at a camp, time and date to be announced soon. The first year-long apprenticeship will begin May 1st 2015.

During that year the apprentice(s) will be employed by the

hosting hunts and will receive on the job training by one of the top huntsmen in North America. They will also participate in a rigorous study program put forth by the MFHA, supplemented by hunt and kennel visits and by attending hound shows. They will work extensively with a representative of the MFHA, who will mentor the apprentice and oversee the study program.

At the successful completion of the year-long apprenticeship, the mentor and the MFHA will assist the apprentice in finding a job in the business.

For more information on this program, please contact Andrew Barclay at Andrew@mfha.com

Eventing for Mom & Dad

by Dawn Bellinger

As the mother of an eventer, I can tell you that it's not for the faint of heart. Luckily, I evented myself (albeit at the lower levels) so I understand the adrenalin rush my daughter gets running Cross-country (or XC) and the butterflies in the Jumping ring and the headache just before Dressage. But I write to all of the moms & dads on the sidelines today who are walking a sweaty pony after cross-country, learning to tie a stock tie, and writing big checks for one competition! In addition, I want to tell you that your sons and daughters will never forget your support!

So, whether you're getting ready for D-3 Eventing rally or the Qualifying Eventing rally, let's start with how Eventing Dressage and the Jumping Test in Eventing are different from Dressage Dressage and Show Jumping. In Eventing Dressage, the lower the score the better and the tests are a little different. In the Jumping Test, the courses are different (fewer tight turns) and slower. While timed like in Show Jumping, there is no attempt to find a "winner" of the Jumping Test on its own. People use the terms Stadium Jumping and Show Jumping interchangeably in eventing but actually the correct term is Jumping Test for eventers and Show Jumping is for Show Jumpers.

A Horse Trials (or HT for short) is a name of one type of an eventer's competition (which you know includes three phases of competition combined into one overall score). You'll also hear about Combined Tests (or CT for short) which just include the Dressage and Jumping phases. Sometimes a CT will offer a few cross-country fences as options or a part of their jumping round. Frequently the Jumping portion is held on grass in an open field and sometimes even on a hill. And then there's a Three Day Event but that's another article altogether.

The third phase, Cross-country, is the real reason that your son or daughter has begged you to let him/her event. The course is a test of complete confidence between horse and rider (you may be less confident but you can't show it). Riders should walk the course at least twice, preferably once with a coach and once alone. You can help by letting your child go through the course in his/her mind saying the fence types in order while you confirm using the course map, just like reviewing spelling words.

Scoring for Jumping and Cross-country are different. If a pole comes down (or even the whole jump) in the jumping test, four points are assessed. Four points are also assessed for a refusal in Jumping. In Cross-country, there are no poles to knock down and first refusals count for 20 points each (a step backwards or even a full and complete halt constitutes a refusal so judging can be a little tricky). If your son/daughter's score reflects a refusal that he/she doubts, he/she should inquire to the technical delegate (in a rally situation, go to his/her team captain and they will go together to the appropriate officials).

There's a lot more to learn and you'll be glad if you learn alongside your child. I highly recommend that you and your child cross-country fence judge together at a local Horse Trials. You don't need any experience as the officials will put you on an "easy" fence until you feel more confident. I also recommend that you and your child (once they are over about 13 or so and riding at the Novice level or above) volunteer to help in a vet box at an HT. You could also volunteer to scribe for a Dressage and Jumping judge so that you can see things from their vantage point. Start small with an unrecognized event (or "Starter" HT).

My daughter and I have an exceptionally close relationship in part because of our shared passion for horses. After years of helping her with barn duties, drying her tears, and sharing her grin from ear to ear, I can't recommend it enough to you. We went to the see the World Equestrian Games (the WEG) Eventing Competition in Lexington, KY in 2010 and had a wonderful trip together! I brought home the brochure which had a very good History of Eventing and have put it up on the VRPC website for you. [Click here to download it](#) and then go enjoy the thrill of eventing with your child!

That's all for now!

Sincerely,

Carolyn Lorenzen, RS
The Virginia Region Pony Clubs

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