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March 2014

# VRPC News

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## 2014 VRPC Calendar

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

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

## Greetings from the RS

Are you all sufficiently sick of this weather? I am so ready for spring! I regret that we had to cancel our Horse Management Seminar, but it was the right decision given the weather forecast at that moment. We are trying to reschedule, so stay tuned.

Thank you to Nicole Gnozzio (RBPC) for coordinating our annual Quiz Rally! It's a huge amount of work and she did an awesome job of pulling all the phase coordinators together! Thank you to the secretary, Melissa LaVallee, Anne

Williams for coordinating Classrooms, Jennifer Carpenter for coordinating Barns, Laura Smith for coordinating Mega Room, Amber Markley for TD'ing, Diane Fanta and GGPC for providing concessions, our RYB for pulling together the Silent Auction, Kerry Childers for once again doing our scoring, and Dawn Bellinger for creating and supporting our new and improved rally registration process. Thank you, also, to Lisa Woods for once again securing The Hill School. It is a great venue and we appreciate all her hard work in securing it for us. Results can now be viewed on [our website](#).

Another big thank you to Vicki Fox for coordinating our H-B Preps. The kids have enjoyed a number of outstanding speakers/clinicians. So far we've heard from Sandy Rose and Jessica Morton, Southern States Purcellville, Dr. James (Jay) Joyce, Total Equine Veterinary Associates, and Karen Nutt, National Examiner. They had a great time at Dover Saddlery learning about tack and equipment. There is one more prep at Dr. Paula Horne's before the Mock H-B Test on March 15th.

Cheryl Clark (RS Capital Region), Yvette Seger (Capital Region & USPC BOG), Wayne Quarles (Activities, USPC), and I met at the Crystal City Hyatt, the venue for our 2015 USPC Annual Meeting (see photo above). We toured the facility and discussed plans for the upcoming meeting. We are all very excited about the venue and the opportunity to bring the Annual Meeting to the Northern VA/Maryland/DC area!



## March 2014 Calendar

**Sat March 1**  
H-B Prep, Dover  
Saddlery Chantilly

**Sat March 8**  
H-B Prep @ Dr.  
Paula Horne,  
Purcellville

**Sat March 15**  
H-B Mock Test  
@ Millwood  
Equestrian Center

**Sat & Sun**  
**March 29 & 30**  
Morven Park Spring  
Horse Trials

**Sun March 30**  
River Bend PC CT @  
Frying Pan Park

## April 2014 Calendar

**Sat April 5**  
Horseless Rally @  
Glenwood Park

**Sat April 5**  
Show Jump Clinic @  
Turner Farm, Great  
Falls

**Sat & Sun**  
**April 26 & 27**  
Loudoun Hunt PC  
Horse Trials @  
Morven Park

## May 2014 Calendar

**Frid, Sat & Sun**  
**May 2, 3 & 4**  
H-B Certification @  
Morningside Farm,  
The Plains

**Sat & Sun**  
**May 10 & 11**  
Show Jump Rally @  
Deep Run Hunt PC

We've sent out an email with the "job" descriptions for the various activities we need to do to pull this off, along with a survey to help us figure out how best to use our resources - you! If you haven't already, please fill out [the survey](#) and let us know how you'd like to help! We know we have many smart and talented individuals that are part of our pony club community, that can lend their talents and skills to make this the best Annual Meeting EVER!

We have loads of fun planned in the coming months! Next up, the Morven Park Horse Trials, Horseless Rally, and Show Jumping Clinic. Read more about these wonderful events in this edition of our newsletter!

As always, if you have anything to contribute or information you'd like to see in our newsletter, please contact our newsletter editor Cindy Shelberg at [cshelberg@gmail.com](mailto:cshelberg@gmail.com).



## Morven Park Spring Horse Trials March 29 & 30

Please save these dates and sign up for a day of volunteer duty for this event. You can choose what volunteer duty you would prefer (e.g., cross-country jump judge, scribe for dressage, or bit and spur check for dressage). Volunteers receive lunch and a pass for use at the cross-country schooling day, the Wimert cross-country schooling field or the indoor ring.

Our region receives a discount for our events at Morven Park. In exchange we are asked to provide volunteers for the horse trials in spring and fall. This is a wonderful experience for parents as well as your pony club member!

The sign up link will be distributed via email as soon as it's available.

## Come Join Our Horseless Rally Fun!

**Sat May 10**

Multi Region Games  
Rally @ Boyds, MD

**Sat & Sun  
May 24 & 25**

Dressage Rally @  
Morven Park

**Sat**

**May 31**

XCountry Clinic @  
Gordonsville XC  
Schooling Farm,  
Berryville, VA

### Diamond Legacy Eventing Award



Start getting in shape now for the VRPC Eventing Rally, June 14/15 and try to win the new Diamond Legacy Award for the Training Level best conditioned horse! Thank you to Melissa Fox for creating this award. Follow this link on the VRPC website for [details.](#)

Are you new to pony club? Have you never been to a rally? Then this rally is for you! Come join our fun on Saturday, April 5th at Glenwood Park in Middleburg. We guarantee that you will have a great time ~ and bring your parents so that they can learn all the things they need to know about rallies.



Open to all members; new members are especially encouraged to attend. This is an introductory "competition" to teach members how pony club competitions (rallies) work and to introduce pony club parents to the workings of pony club rallies. Participants will be "judged" on their horse management while "riding" unmounted dressage and jumping tests. Participants are placed on 3-4 man teams with an advisor who walks them through each activity while teaching them about all things pony club. It's a fun learning experience with prizes for everyone!

The invitation can be found on the calendar entry on [our website.](#)

### Mock H-B Test - Are You Ready for the H-B Certification?

The Virginia Region Pony Clubs will host a Mock H-B Test at Millwood Equestrian Center, Saturday, March 15th. Participants will go through a simulated H-B test with an actual National Examiner. The NE will guide each group through the certification process and answer questions. It is an excellent opportunity to review all the actual testing materials, topics -- the entire deck of cards and to review the actual H-B test format in an educational atmosphere. Judging by our pass rates, this has been an excellent prep! If you are thinking about taking your H-B test this year or even next, you need to find the time to join us at this prep! The registration is \$35, and the closing date is **March 5**. Please contact your DC/CA if you are interested. Please contact Vicki Fox, VRPC Regional Instruction Coordinator (RIC), if you have any questions at [VFoxFamily@aol.com](mailto:VFoxFamily@aol.com).

### H-B Certification Testing May 2-4

The Virginia Region will host an H-B certification testing on May 2-4 at Morningside Training Farm, The Plains. **Registration & payment were due to USPC office by February 7th.** (Late fees apply after Feb 7th.) To register for this test, go to the USPC site at [USPC National Tests Info](#) then click on *Application to Test* to submit your application. Click on *Test Fees* to submit your payment. The USPC fee is \$160. The region fee is \$175 and is paid separately. Details for this test (agenda, start times, etc) will be provided to all applicants prior to the test.

A promotional poster for the River Bend Pony Club Combined Test & Schooling Show. The background is a blue sky with a white horse and rider jumping a blue and white striped pole. The text is white and yellow. At the top, it says 'River Bend Pony Club Combined Test & Schooling Show' and 'Save the Date ~ Sunday, March 30, 2014'. Below that, it says 'New division: Assisted/Lead Line through Preliminary or Test of Choice CDCTA recognized'. At the bottom left, it says 'Frying Pan Park Herndon, VA 20171'. At the bottom right, it says 'Opening Date: February 2nd Closing Date: March 23rd'. At the very bottom, it says 'Prize List & Entry at: www.riverbend.ponyclub.org'.

## HM Handbook Gets Updates

From Clair Harmon, Vice President of Instruction: The Horse Management Committee has been working very hard on the new Horse Management Handbook. It has taken a little longer than expected and is currently being reviewed by the Instruction Council and PAC. It should be approved and released shortly. This being the case, we realize that Rallies are fast approaching and that the members and the officials need time to read and understand the new handbook.

In an effort to help both the members and officials, if you have a Rally in March or April use the current Horse Management Handbook and newsletter. All Rallies beginning May 1st will use the 2014 Horse Management Handbook and Newsletter. The HM Handbook will be available online and for purchase through ShopPonyClub.org.

On **March 18th at 8pm**, USPC is offering a webinar to introduce the new Handbook. Check out [this link](#) for more information or to sign up.

Note: Those Qualifying for Championships under the current HM Handbook will be judged according to the 2014 HM Handbook at Championships in July of 2014.

**USPC Championships and Festival - Coming Soon to the Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, Kentucky!**



USPC Championships 2014, will be held in Lexington, KY. "Champs" will be from July 14-18, with "Festival" immediately following from July 19-21.

Our Champs Coordinator, Lisa Woods, is hard at working pulling everything together to make this a wonderful event for our Regional participants.

Qualifying criteria can be found on the [USPC website](#), with discipline specific qualifications, in each discipline's rulebook and newsletters. Be sure to note **age** and **certification** requirements for attending champs, and additional qualification requirements for Eventing.

As we go through the rally season, Lisa will update the list of "qualifiers" on our [Virginia Region website](#), under "Rallies", "Championships", "2014 Qualifiers". The list of qualifiers grows with the completion of each qualifying rally, so be sure to check to see your name on the list! Once qualified it is important to let Lisa know as soon as possible if you are interested in going to Champs in that discipline. Our Virginia Region teams are formed based on the rankings from rally results. The Virginia Region team spots will be filled by those that qualify with first through fourth places. If an individual chooses not to go, or opts for a different discipline, we will go down the list to the next qualifiers. Even if you qualified last, don't fret! You might still be able to get on a team. Typically we can only send one team per discipline, per division, however, traditionally, we have always been able to send scramble members. The key is to let us know that you want to go!! The earlier, the better!

Regarding Stable Managers, it seems we are always scrambling for them at the last minute. Stable Managers are an integral part of each team, and "SMing" is a great way to attend Champs without the extra stress of bringing a horse along, and it's much more affordable! Please consider "SMing" for VRPC this year at Champs!

Lisa has just posted [the Information Sheet and this year's forms](#) on the Virginia Region website (except the Polo Shirt Order Form). You can fill out the Intent to Compete Form online this year if you wish! Or, download the snail mail version.

We will again hold a mandatory "Picnic Prep" for members planning to go to Championships. This is scheduled for Sunday, June 29, location TBD. This prep is extremely important and helpful for parents and members to get to know their teammates and plan who will bring equipment. It's also important and helpful to have "veterans" of

champs there to help our newer participants figure it all out.

VRPC is looking into hiring a horse transport to get our horses to Kentucky. We used Brook Ledge the last time Champs was held in Kentucky and it worked well for those that used the service.

Lisa has reserved a block of 40 rooms at the Holiday Inn in Georgetown, Kentucky, not far from the horse park. The "secret code" to reserve a room will be released when you complete your intent to compete and pay your registration.

The VRPC closing date for Champs is June 16, 2014. This is the Monday after Eventing Rally. All paperwork and payments are due to the Champs Coordinator by that date.

It is important to note that since Champs is in KY this year, a Health Certificate is required for each horse traveling outside the state of Virginia. Health Certificates are obtained from your vet, good for 30 days and must cover the duration of travel.

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa at LisaWoods65@gmail.com.

### Wise Words From Moose Man... Reduce Your HM Score

In Pony Club Horse Management, scoring is like playing golf... you want a low score.

Read the discipline and the Horse Management rulebooks. Knowing the rules is your best defense of avoiding points in the first place and getting them back in inquiries/protests. The rulebooks look kinda thick, but much of that is for officials, etc. and you can breeze thru.

Know the inquiry and protest procedures. HM Rulebook HM 17. Do not miss the inquiry period. Drop by the HM office on your way to the ring to see if scores will be posted soon. You only have 30 minutes from when the scores are posted. If you get a point and honestly feel you should not be getting the point, do not be afraid to inquire it. Chiefs LOVE to talk to competitors. Do not inquire every point. Chiefs do not love to talk THAT much! A goal of Pony Club and HM is to teach the members to not be afraid to talk to "authority figures." Go in with a smile on your face and a good attitude and explain your side. If there is not a rule about it, you should not be getting a point!



Watch each other's backs. Check the stable area before you leave and at intervals during the day. Stall doors closed? Halters hung up? Stuff left out? Stalls clean? Water buckets clean and full? Wheelbarrow, and cleaning tools stowed and secured? Muck in a barrow? Yuck! Is your competitor number on the stall card?

Have a good attitude even if the going gets rough. Pull together. Teamwork! Support each other, and help other teams that may be struggling. We love to see teamwork!

Do not be afraid to ask HM's opinion. If you get an opinion that something is OK from an HM, you cannot be given a point for it.

Turnout - Do not be late! Before turnout, run your hands all over every inch of your pony. This is what we do at turnout. If you do not feel any dirt, we will not either. Just before, pick feet, and wipe eyes, nose and dock. Read your section of the turnout sheet (HM Form #3A, B, C as appropriate) and see what the requirements are.

Tackrooms - Sometimes they will be a work in progress, but we hope there does not come to be a pattern of messiness. Empty your garbage can at night. Tidy up before you head to lunch or leave the grounds.

Required Equipment - Do NOT trust mom to check the kits. Mom will not be given the points. You will! EVERYTHING on the Required Equipment list must be labeled.

Feedrooms - Close the feed room door! Always tie hay bales back up. Make sure the feed container is secured.

That's all for now!

**Sincerely,**

Carolyn Lorenzen, RS  
The Virginia Region Pony Clubs

## Tutoring Tuesdays

Don't miss out ~ USPC is offering wonderful opportunities for members and parents ~ Tutoring Tuesdays! These webinars cover a variety of topics ranging from leadership training, certification preparation, to the experiences of Championships. Please check back often as dates and topics may be modified. By clicking on the titles listed you can find out more information about each topic, in addition to registration information.

[Click here for more information](#)

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