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August 2014

# VRPC News

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## 2014 VRPC Calendar

The VRPC Calendar

## Greetings from the RS

Congratulations to all VRPC members who participated at Champs this year. Check out the article below to see how well our teams did this year!

Thank you to Lisa Woods, our Champs Coordinator, for pulling everything together to get us to Champs! Lisa worked hard to make sure every entry was in on time, and with all the correct associated paperwork, she took care of shirt orders, hotels arrangements, horse transportation, and a million other little details to ensure a great Champs experience for all of us! If anyone is interested in helping next year, I think there are a few jobs that could be broken out - someone to coordinate shirt and saddle pad orders, someone to make hotel arrangements and someone to coordinate the information booth volunteers (if required next year). Let Lisa know if you can help!

The region has two open positions for 2015. After many years of service, Vicki Fox and Valerie Page are resigning from the VRPC board. Vicki is our current RIC, and Valerie our Treasurer. We appreciate their years of service and while these are hard shoes to fill, we know there are at least two volunteers that will step in and pick up where they leave off. If you are interested in more information on either of these positions, please let me know or reach out to one of our Nominating Committee Members, Pamela Smith, Nicole Gnozzio, or Diane Fanta.

We also need lots of help planning and executing the USPC Annual Meeting, coming to Crystal City, Virginia, January 2015! If you are interested in helping, please let us know.

See you in September at the Tet and [D-1/D-2](#) Rallies!

## Wise Words from Moose Man...



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

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

## August 2014

### Fri-Sun Aug 8-10

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

### Sat Aug 23

DRPC Horse Trials @ Frying Pan Park, Herndon, VA

### Sat & Sun Aug 30-31

LHPC Horse Trials @ Oatlands Plantation, Leesburg, VA

## September 2014

### Sat & Sun Sep 6 & 7

Tet Rally @ Glenwood Park, Middleburg, VA  
Host: MBFPCRC

### Sat Sep 20

D-1/D-2 Eventing Rally @ Kelly's Ford Equestrian Center, Remington, VA  
Hosts: GGPC & SARPC

## October 2014

### Fri, Sat & Sun Oct 3-5

Morven Park Fall

One of my jobs at the barn when I was a youngster was to teach new students how to groom and tack their horse. Freida considered grooming and tacking an important part of equine education. This job did not pay money like cleaning 17 stalls a day, 7 days a week. I got the princely sum of \$10 per week for cleaning stalls!



### Tip #1:

When brushing, rather than slide the brush along in long slow strokes... flick, flick, flick the brush with your wrist. The frequency of the flick should be FAST. About three or four "flicks" per second. This works great at getting the deep scurf out from the bottom of the hair coat. We were only allowed to give a bath once a year so giving long sessions of brisk brushing kept their coat healthy and shiny. It is a really nice message for the horse. And I got awesome forearm muscles out of it!

### Tip #2:

Do not go "rally crazy" on your horses sheath or udder. Regular cleaning with a VERY GENTLE product that is specifically designed for this purpose is the way to keep the smegma at bay. Excalibur is my personal favorite. Don't use Ajax. Seriously... I saw that at champs a while back. Champs was here and the member panicked and tried Ajax on the sheath and the gelding could not walk.

### Tip #3:

Don't bang the horses teeth while applying/removing the bridle. This would get you in big trouble with Freida. Imagine the feel of a metal bit banging on your teeth. It would not take long to make your horse hate the bit.

Bridge the bit across the fingers of you left hand and insert your left thumb at the corner of your horses mouth. With your thumb, press down on the gum. There are no teeth there.

This will cause your horse to open his mouth. Continue pressing down on the gum and with the mouth open, use your left fingers to guide the bit between the teeth while using the right hand to raise the crown piece up and so pull the bit up into the mouth. Your goal should be no sound while applying the bridle.

When removing the bridle, do not just yank the headstall off the horses head. Pull the crown piece forward keeping enough upward pressure to maintain the bit at the corner of the mouth, and then slowly lower it down so that the horse can spit the bit out. Again, without banging on the teeth.

There is obviously so much more to grooming and tacking.

Horse Trials @  
Morven Park  
Equestrian Center,  
Leesburg, VA

And like I said, if you have tips about dealing with dandruff or anything else, I would love to hear from you.

I'll leave you with a question... do you know what a billet card is? Do you know why you need them? And when you don't? There WILL be a test!

## Tetrathlon Comes to Region Sep 6 & 7

On September 6 & 7, VRPC will hold its "qualifying" Tetrathlon rally at Glenwood Park in Middleburg, VA & the Warrenton Aquatic and Recreational Facility in Warrenton, VA. VRPC members of any age and any certification can compete. There are even "starter" divisions for members who just want to try Tetrathlon (fondly known as Tet) but don't want to try to qualify.

What is Tetrathlon? Tetrathlon combines riding a stadium course (with a few added extras) with swimming, running and shooting (the latter three not on horseback)! Each course and distance is determined by the age and certification of the member. And, members can elect to step down a level in any phase, for a penalty, if they feel uncomfortable competing at their competition level.

Tet has some interesting differences to their riding rules than show jumping or eventing. To start, competitors can share horses! This can be a serious benefit to members who don't own their own horse or whose own horse can't jump at the level the member's age and certification determines. The two show jumping courses add elements; One added element is slipping a rail after dismounting, walking the horse over the slipped rail and remounting. Another is opening and closing a gate while mounted. Does your horse or pony cooperate with you to perform these tasks? Try it and start practicing now!

Qualifying divisions are held for members who meet the age and certification requirements to be able to compete at USPC Championships each year. This September, members will be qualifying for Championships 2015 which will be held in late July 2015. Check out the invitation to this fall's VRPC Tet Rally for levels and distances. Why not give it a try this year? And, if you're a seasoned "Teter", enter one of our qualifying divisions and plan to join us at USPC Champs next summer at the Virginia Horse Park in Lexington, Virginia.!

## 2014 Virginia Region Champs Results

Congratulations to all of our VRPC members who competed at 2014 USPC Championships in Lexington, Kentucky!



**Eventing - Training Level (8 teams competing)**

**1st Overall; 3rd HM**

Katherine P., Haley C., Nicole G., Samantha P.  
(Scramble with Metro)

**Eventing - Novice (22 Teams Competing)**

Ellen W. (scramble with Capital) 2nd Overall, 2nd HM

Ariana F. (scramble with Carolina) 5th overall, 5th HM

Michelle G., Mikayla H., Julia L., Ally M., Lindsay W. 6th Overall, 6th HM

Clara L., Keely C., Neil D., Heather F., Abigail W. 12th Overall, 12th HM

**Eventing - Beginner Novice (23 Teams Competing)**

**12th Overall; 12th HM**

Carin B., Maragaret G., Katie L., Saoirse M., Taylor M.

**Dressage - First Level & Up (9 teams Competing)**

**8th Overall; 7th HM**

Kayla K. (scramble with Great lakes, Maryland & Old Dominion)

**Dressage - Training (18 Teams Competing)**

**10 Overall; 10th HM**

Katie D., Annabelle C., Taryn M., Madeline W., Rosemary G.

**Show Jumping - Developing Horse/Rider (16 Teams Competing)**

**11th Overall; 4th HM**

Lindsay D., Sydney M., Renata P., Pamela W., Katie C.

**Show Jumping - Introductory A (12 Teams Competing)**

**3rd Overall; 12th HM**

Brittany P., Rachael B., Tara J., Christina W., Marie Y.

**Show Jumping - Introductory B (12 Teams Competing)**

**1st Overall; 3rd HM**

Sam C., Olivia B., Alex H., Taylor M., Savannah G.

**Games - Advanced (4 Teams Competing)**

**4th Overall; 4th HM**

Madeleine W. (scramble with Midwest)

**Games - Junior (13 Teams Competing)**

**12th Overall; 12th HM**

Scott C., Bella C., Megan D., Grace H., Bailey M.

**Tetrathlon - Intermediate Girls (29 Competitors)**

**8th Overall; 1st HM**

Ashley K.

**Tetrathlon - Novice Girls (6 Competitors)**

**1st Overall; 1st HM**

Katie S.

**Polocrosse - Novice (3 Teams)****2nd Overall; 1st HM**

Ronald B., Virginia C., Baker W., Meghan S.

## USPC National Service Week

Did you know that USPC is having it's first annual **National Service Week Aug 18th-24th 2014?**

There are many ways to help out your community, and it is our (your) way to say thank you and step up to make the world a better place.

How can your club participate? It can be as simple as taking a few hours to pick up trash at a trail head or even helping out in a soup kitchen or animal shelter. Wear your Pony Club shirt, let them know you are a part of pony club, and make sure your Regional Supervisor knows of your good deeds. Contact your local papers to share your good deeds, and get your PC in the spotlight.

Also please e-mail [kierstisandiacreek@yahoo.com](mailto:kierstisandiacreek@yahoo.com) to let us know what you did, we will make sure you get a shoutout!

## Polocrosse News!

submitted by Jennifer Carpenter

Sugarloaf Mountain Polocrosse Club Play-Day is on Sunday, August 10. Information and sign up form/releases can be found on their website : [www.sugarloafmountainpolocrosse.com](http://www.sugarloafmountainpolocrosse.com)

It is not too late to get in on racking up points for the end of the year awards (open to all participants, not just SMPC members!). And, for this last Play-Day, we are adding even more opportunities to get points! Any (or all) of the following earn extra points in your column:

- Pre-register. Return the attached registration form by August 6th - 1 point (easy one!)
- Bring an umpire horse - 1 point
- Bring a friend to play (someone who has not played in the Play-Day on May 10 or June 29) - 1 point

### Rules for Play-Days:

- Everyone enters as an individual - you will be placed on a team based on your level of play the morning of the Play-Day.
- All levels welcome.
- Participants must arrive by 9am. Play will begin at 10am sharp.
- Pinnies will be supplied to teams, or you can wear polos

(must match & with playing numbers).

- At the end of each Play-Day, points will be recorded for participants: 2 points for each chukka your team wins & 1 point to everyone who shows up to play in each Play-Day. Points will be added up at the end of the Play-Day Series for High Point Awards.
- \$30 each for Play-Day - Includes lunch. Field location: Potomac Pony Club, 19301 Bucklodge Road, Boyds, MD 20841
- Pre-register. If you have any questions, please contact Nick: [nichb08@gmail.com](mailto:nichb08@gmail.com)
- Please bring an umpire horse, if you can. Let us know if you would like to trailer in the night before the Play-Day.

We hope to see you on August 10th!

## VRPC Region Positions Need Your Support

Our region has several board positions to fill for 2015. Please consider how you may be able to provide support to our region and our kids that participant in pony club. There are 2 formal meetings each year, in November and February. Time needed for each position varies but some are less than 10 hours a month! Specifically we need a Treasurer and Regional Instructor Coordinator (RIC).

The Treasurer is ideally someone who is comfortable with financial data, using Quickbooks (or similar accounting program), and some experience with accounting or bookkeeping. This is a job you can do from home with no expectation of being at rallies or clinics! The treasurer keeps the books for the region and prepares and presents reports at the regional meetings.

The RIC is ideally a USPC graduate or someone very familiar with the certification process and standards, with or without kids currently in the pony club program. This position requires a significant time commitment (10 -15 hours per month on average), however if we can find support volunteers the job can be divided. Currently the RIC is responsible for providing support and assistance to club and riding centers for their instruction programs, organizing annual regional standards & certifications clinic, coordinating and organizing national level testings hosted by the region with USPC, supporting club level testing, and planning and preparing for regional clinics (H-B, Show Jumping, cross-country, etc.). This position requires someone passionate about pony club, good at organizing and planning, very knowledgeable of the USPC standards and certifications, and excellent communication skills.

Perhaps you'd like to do some of the aspects of the RIC position, but not all? If we can get a few people interested in

dividing the job, all the better! We still need a RIC but maybe a group of you could take on the various aspects of the position.

If you are interested in any of these positions, or know someone that is or should be considered, please reach out to our nominating committee, Pamela Smith, Nicole Gnozzio, and Diane Fanta.

## How to Chase the Sneaky Red Fox

Loudoun Fairfax Hunt Education Series -- All ages, skill levels, and disciplines are welcome!!

### **Introduction to Hunting    Saturday, August 9 9:30 AM    \$25**

This "on the ground" workshop gives an overview of the sport covering background, required skills, etiquette, turnout, hound discussion, and a kennel tour. Please bring a chair. Attendees receive a \$25 coupon good towards a 2014 cap\* with Loudoun Fairfax Hunt.

### **Mock Hunt    Sunday, August 10 8:30 AM    \$30**

Tally Ho! Come & ride your horse in a "hunt" situation. Riders proceed without hounds today. The group will observe the huntsman and execute the riding skills required for hunting. You and your horse get to try hunting in a controlled manner. For green horses or riders, there will be a third field with walk/trot only and mentors will be assigned to new riders.

### **Introducing Your Horse to Hounds Saturday, August 16    8:30 AM    \$30**

This is an opportunity to expose green horses or new foxhunters to the hounds. You & your horse have the opportunity to observe the hounds from a distance & close up if desired. Experience riding to hounds. Riders 16 and under are FREE. Pot luck tail gate to follow. Negative coggins and helmets required to ride. Waivers signed on site.

Call the hunt line in the event of questionable weather 703-957-4633. For all other questions, call Paula Michaels 571-344-4245 or Andrea Justus 703-798-3679.

That's all for now!

**Sincerely,**

Carolyn Lorenzen, RS

## The Virginia Region Pony Clubs

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