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July 2014

VRPC News

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**2014 VRPC
Calendar**

Greetings from the RS

Happy Birthday America! Happy Independence Day! I'm just getting back from a wonderful holiday weekend with my family in upstate New York! We had a very busy pony club month in the Virginia Region and it was nice to have a little break before heading off to Kentucky for Championships!

Thank you to Debra Stehly, Jenn Mosle, and the Middleburg Orange County Pony Club for hosting the annual Eventing Rally at Glenwood Park. We couldn't have asked for finer weather and a better venue for our event. In addition to the Eventing Rally, we hosted a 60th USPC/VRPC Anniversary celebration! Thank you to Dawn Bellinger for helping pull it all together. Those that came really appreciated the efforts to recognize the milestone.

In June we also held our D-3 Eventing Rally at Windsor Lodge Farm, hosted by Old Dominion Hounds Pony Club. Thank you to Michelle Arnold and Debbie Welch for a terrific event! The venue was beautiful and the weather, perfect!

One comment I have heard over the past few months, at each rally, is what a nice job our "hospitality" folks do! I want to pass along a BIG thank you to all those that have taken on "hospitality" at our rallies these past few months. Your efforts are noticed and not taken for granted! The little touches (chocolate, gluten free, etc.) make a big difference in the day of the hard working volunteers! Thank you "hospitality" volunteers!

We had a very good turnout for our Champs Prep this past month! I know it is hard for parents and members that have "been there, done that" to come, but I have to say you bring the most value to these preps. We had great discussions with the parents and our "seasoned" Champs parents really brought a lot to the discussion. Thank you for that! Thank you also to Ella Rak for planning and leading our team building exercises! The kids had a blast and learned a thing

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

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

July 2014

July 14-21

USPC

Championships & Festival @ Kentucky Horse Park, 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

September 2014

Sat & Sun Sept 6 & 7

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

Sat Sept 20

D1/D2 Eventing Rally @ Kelly's Ford, Remington, VA

or two! Thank you to Marion Sharp for coordinating the food for the picnic and to Daniel Freeman and Daniel Holliday for cooking!

For those of you going to Champs, I look forward to seeing you in Kentucky! Safe travels!

That's all for now...

Wise Words from Mooseman...

By Cindy Shelberg

Summertime is here and whether you will travel to the USPC Champs & Festival or go to a show just a few hours drive away, heat combined with travel are sure to provide some additional challenges to some horses (and people).



And, if you are off campus for a few days knowing the signs of distress or colic are very important for all horse folks.

We found this article which details colic well and provides good reminders for us all.

<http://www.equusite.com/articles/health/healthColicFacts.shtml>

Summertime Trailering Tips

With the summer in full swing and USPC Champs on the way, we asked Anne-Marie Hancock, DVM, EDO, from Rectortown Equine Clinic to provide some helpful hints on trailering your horse this summer.

"It is very important to keep your horses cool and hydrated for a long trailer ride. Adding Gatorade or flavoring to your water at home for the last few days before leaving and continuing through the ride can help encourage your horse to keep drinking his water, even if the water tastes different," Dr. Hancock said.

"Also, adding a little table salt or electrolytes to your grain can help encourage water drinking. One of the little tricks that we like to suggest is to bring and use Magnalax orally, every 4 hours, to help keep the gastro intestinal tract moving and hydrated."

"When trailering in the heat of the summer, sometimes the

Hosts: GGPC &
SARCPC

Sat & Sun Sept 27
& 28

MOCPC Horse Trials
@ Glenwood Park,
Middleburg, VA

best time to trailer is at night. Keep as many windows as possible open, and try to minimize leg wraps if you can, as they are going to hold the heat in."

VRPC Celebrates USPC 60th Anniversary



Mary Slade and Carolyn
Lorenzen

A good time was had by all as several alumni from our region were in attendance on Saturday, June 14, to help celebrate 60 years of Virginia Region fun! Several clubs and centers presented current and historical photos, videos, and information. Here are some of the pic's from this fun event!!



Left to Right: Maggie Compton, Marion Miller, Carol Noggle, Sue W. Elliott, Ellen Mouri, and Mary Jane Skidmore



Gegi Winslett and Mary Ann Turner



Pat Liens and Marion Miller



Brian Smith and Perri Green

Prep for Upper Level Tests

We received a note from one of our Loudoun Hunt PC members recommending this website for study materials. After reviewing the information, we agree that this website offers terrific information on horse foot and leg anatomy. Check it out!!!

<http://www.anatomy-of-the-equine.com/index.html>

The postcards are available in hard copy as well as via electronic pdf and apps.

"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

Thoughts on Club/Center Certification Testing from the RIC

By Vicki Fox

Is your club or center hosting a certification test this summer? Here are some thoughts to help strengthen your Club/Center certification testings in order to produce members that truly meet the Standards of Proficiency (SOP) for their level. Offering members the opportunity to test themselves against the SOP is the core of the Pony Club Program.

Tools to use for Certification: When planning/executing a Club/Center testing at any level, you should refer to the "USPC Guidelines for Club/Center Level Testings D-1 thru C-2" and the "D-1 through C-2 Examiner's Handbook." Both are available on the USPC Website.

Important requirements for any testing:

- **well-qualified and well-prepared examiners,**
- **a facility capable of testing all aspects of the Standards of Proficiency, and;**
- **candidates that are well prepared.**

Who will take the test: The DC/CA is responsible for evaluating the candidates' readiness to test to the next level so they have the best opportunity to be successful. It is important for DCs and CAs to be honest with both candidate and parent when they and their instructor feel the candidate is in fact not ready for the next certification level. Resisting the temptation to "push" a child is difficult for most parents. Unprepared candidates make for a long day and result in unhappy candidates and parents when they do not meet standards.

Before test day: Candidates and parents should read the SOP, the test sheet and the Guidelines and understand the certification process. A prep before the test might be beneficial. Candidates should know the specified attire and equipment needed for their testing. Attire for C-1 and above is always either correctly informal or correctly formal. Check with your test organizer if you have a question concerning which attire is expected. D attire should follow the SOP. The checklist, available for all levels, is a useful tool for a candidate when preparing for their next certification.

Test Logistics: All testings should have an Impartial Observer(s) (IO). Parents of candidates SHOULD never approach the examiners directly. The IO is the liaison between DCs/CAs, parents, spectators and the examiners.

When choosing your examiners, it is highly encouraged that all Club/Center level Examiners:

- Attend a Standards and Certifications clinic within the past two years.
- Hold a current First Aid and CPR card.
- Complete the USPC background check.
- Review the Pony Club Safety Booklet.
- Pass the "It's Hot Outside" training module (USPC Safety web page).
- Pass the "Heads Up Concussion" training module. (USPC Safety web page).

- Complete "Youth Protection Training" (USPC Safety web page).
- Read the Horse Management Handbook and check the Saddlery and Bitting requirements of the particular discipline rulebook.
- Be thoroughly conversant with the testing directives for DC/CAs and Organizers found in the Guidelines for Club/Center Level Testings prior to each testing.

The recommended candidate to examiner ratio is 2-3 candidates per examiner. Testing only one candidate in a testing session is not encouraged and should be avoided if possible. Choose appropriate and knowledgeable examiners, normally not someone from within your own Club/Center or your Club/Center instructor or the same examiner over and over. This will provide a less biased assessment.

Make sure your examiners are experienced enough to test the level you are asking. It is most important that experienced well trained examiners are selected for the C-1 and C-2 certificate levels. Even consider using a certified National Examiner for these tests. Upper level members from your Club/Center could test your lower D members (D-1 and D-2).

Examiners should have all the tools (tape measure, stopwatch, SOPs, etc) for administering the test and they should USE them. Use the recommended grid contained in the SOP and the recommended jumping course on the USPC website. This allows for consistency and a level playing field in each testing.

There is a webinar on the USPC Club/Center Level Testing web page under Examiner Resources titled "Local Level Examiner Training" that I recommend all examiners view.

The Riding in the Open section should be tested at a suitable site that will allow all aspects to be tested, including the recommended number of obstacles at the appropriate speed at the appropriate height. If your facility does not have an appropriate cross-country course, arrange for that portion of the testing to be completed at a facility that does (e.g., Frying Pan Park, Turner Farm, Gordonsdale, Woodstock). A variety of terrain is also encouraged.

Lastly, the certification updates should be completed online by your Club/Center as soon as possible after the completion of the testing.

Welcome to Festival 2014!

USPC

Hear all of the late breaking news for Festival! Everything from last minute changes to competition schedules, find out when scores are posted, change of venues and emergency weather notifications. Make sure to sign-up to for the topics that you want to keep up with!

Simply text the appropriate discipline keywords (listed below)

to 703-596-1410! Shortly, you will receive a confirmation text letting you know that you have been added to the group. *Please note that regular text message fees apply, to opt out, reply with "stop".*

Dressage@dress2014
Eventing@event2014
Games@games2014
Polocrosse@polox2014
Quiz@quiz2014
Show Jumping@showj2014
Tetrathlon@tet2014

That's all for now!

Sincerely,

Carolyn Lorenzen, RS
The Virginia Region Pony Clubs

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