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September 2014

VRPC News

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2014 VRPC Calendar

The VRPC Calendar is available on the

Greetings from the RS

A big thank you to Vicki Fox for pulling together our National Testing at Glenwood park a few weeks back. She did an awesome job of pulling everything together. It takes an amazing amount of coordination to get so many candidates, examiners, Impartial Observers (IOs), and parents. Vicki always does an amazing job of keeping everyone informed, fed, hydrated, and positive. We also have to thank the wonderful volunteers that gave up their weekend to be IOs. The IOs play a very important role in the testing process. They don't have a stake in the game, no kids testing, and still they give up their weekend to support our testing initiatives. We are so lucky to have these wonderful volunteers. Thank you to our IOs Lisa Jaravandi "C-3", Lisa Woods "B" and Sue Elliott "A".

It's that time of year again when we need selfless volunteers to spend a day or two volunteering at the Morven Park Horse Trials. By providing the many volunteers needed for a succesful HT, the Region, in turn, gets a discount on the Morven Park facilities for our Dressage Rally and other VRPC events. Volunteers are needed Saturday and Sunday, October 4-5. No experience necessary - they provide great OTJ! Please sign up at [Morven Park HT Volunteers](#). Thank you in advance for supporting this effort.

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.

[VRPC Website.](#)

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

September 2014

Sat & Sun
Sept 6 & 7

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

Sun Sept 14

D-2-C-2
Certification @
Kelly's Ford
Equestrian Center,
Remington, VA

Hosts: CWPC &
RBPC

Sat Sept 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
Horse Trials @
Morven Park
Equestrian Center,
Leesburg, VA

November 2014

Sat Nov 1

Games Rally @
Great Meadow,
The Plains, VA

Tetrathlon &

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 at the Tet and D-1/D-2 Rallies coming up in September!

2015 National USPC Youth Congress

Important information for Club/Center and Regional Leaders concerning the 2015 National USPC Youth Congress -- Reprinted from USPC online magazine

What is the National USPC Youth Congress

(NYC)? The **NYC** is USPC's way of recognizing outstanding H-B/C+/C-3/B/H-HM/H/H-A or A and up Pony Club members and providing them with an extraordinary opportunity for growth and development through a national conference of approximately 40 youth members and up to 5 outstanding Pony Club alumni. The NYC Program takes place each year the two days prior to the USPC Annual Meeting. The Program consists of group discussions, presentations and interaction with Pony Club Alumni, networking, etc. for youth members and alumni. The NYC culminates in the Honors Banquet at which the outstanding alumni are inducted into the USPC Academy of Achievement.

The **NYC** provides numerous benefits for the selected Pony Club members. It rewards them for leadership in their clubs/regions by giving them opportunities to network with others who share their love of and experience with horses. It exposes them to wider experiences outside of Pony Club by introducing them to outstanding alumni from all walks of life. It gives them opportunities to develop leadership skills through participation in a national forum. All lodging (3 nights) and meals (2 days) will be provided for youth delegates for the two days of the Youth Congress. Transportation will **not** be provided.

Youth delegates to the **NYC** must be nominated by their clubs and selected by their Regions based on the following criteria:

Youth Delegates:

- Must be members in good standing of a member club of USPC in the current Year.
- Must embody the qualities mentioned in the USPC Mission Statement.
- **Must hold an H-B/C+/C-3/B/H-HM/H/H-A or A certification or above.**
- **Must be** 18 years or older by Jan. 1, when NYC takes place.
- Must demonstrate leadership and volunteerism,

Games Rallies

You've never been to a Tetrathlon or Games Rally? You don't know what they are or how they are run? Look back at last year's [August & September newsletters](#) for more information about these rallies.

Applications Open Now for the USPC 2015 IPE Exchange

Are you certified B or above and between the ages of 17 & 21? You should apply to the [USPC 2015 Inter-Pacific Exchange](#) in Canada! Last year, one of Virginia Region's members rode on the team and had the time of her life! Read all about her experience in last year's [September newsletter](#) and [message her](#) if you have questions.

Membership Renewals

- Must be outstanding outside of Pony Club.

Applications for NYC are due to USPC by November 1st. Please get your applications to Carolyn by October 15 to ensure timely processing. Please contact Carolyn at cslorenzen@aol.com if you have any questions.

USPC's Barn Project for National Mall -- Join the Webinar Oct 14th 8 pm



Calling all H-B's and up! Pony Club has joined forces with the Trust for the National Mall. Learn about how you can submit your H-A Barn Plan to the Trust for the new barn they are designing for the US Park Police Mounted Unit. The barn is located in Washington DC near the reflection pond. Submitted H-A Barn Plans will be reviewed by the Trust at the Annual Meeting in 2015 held in Washington, DC.

About the Presenter

Claire Harmon has been teaching and coaching for over thirty years, and is currently the Vice President of Instruction for Pony Club. Prior to serving as VPI, Claire was the Chair of the National Testing Committee and has been a National Examiner for over 15 years. She also holds her ICP Certified Instructor with the United States Eventing Association (USEA). Claire is a Graduate A from the Eastern Pennsylvania Region.

To join this webinar, please register at [USPC Barn Project Webinar](#) and register with your Name and E-mail address. As always, these webinars are recorded and posted at [USPC Webinars](#) for viewing at a later date.

FAQs about webinars can be found at [USPC Webinars](#) and any questions about webinars can be sent to webinar@ponyclub.org.

Erin Woodall
Activities & Events Coordinator and Systems Administrator
United States Pony Clubs

Wise Words from Moose Man...

This comes to us from a friend of mine, Jennifer Goss of the Old Dominion Region. Thanks Jenn!



Your club or center will be contacting you soon about your membership renewal. VRPC will be assessing a late fee in 2015 for any renewals not received by Jan 1. VRPC dues have remained \$20 for many years. Please help us keep them low by renewing promptly!



I recently served as an examiner for my local club, Glenmore Hunt Pony Club, and it caused me to reflect on some common things that are missed as one prepares for turnout. I also surveyed former and current Pony Club members to see what made their "list". Although the list below is not too extensive, I am hopeful that it will serve as a mini-checklist for you as you prepare for turnout at your next rally or certification. The items are not in any particular order, but are grouped by horse, rider and tack for your convenience:

Rider

* Dust in the cracks of one's boots. Although you have cleaned them, be sure to take a toothbrush or rag with you to turnout to "dust" the cracks/laces of the film you may have picked up en route. Also, give your soles a good wipe.

* Misplaced spur buckles. Be sure your spurs are properly fitted with the buckles placed towards the outside of your boots, not on the top or inside.

* Dirty helmet - you often overlook this because you use your helmet everyday and don't see it while it's on your head.

* A dirty belt - most riders keep a belt in their "show bag" and forget that it needs to be cleaned and oiled periodically.

* Stock pins not properly placed through the knot or tails not neatly tucked inside the jacket. But remember, as of this year safety pins are no longer required. You're probably going to need to have a sharp stock pin because "I couldn't get it to go through" doesn't cut it.

Tack

* Dust under the stirrup bars and rear part of the skirt. This is probably the most common thing I see as riders begin to move up through the certification levels.

* Stray hairs on the saddle pad and/or girth. This is especially noticeable with those who have gray ponies so if you have a darker colored pony, be sure to be extra vigilant with your girth.

* Yes, the bit goes in your horse's mouth but don't forget to polish the rings/shanks etc. as well as all of the other buckles on your tack.

* Don't forget to clean your stirrup pads, as well as the bottoms of your stirrups. Putting them (and your bit) in the dishwasher can work wonders - just don't mention it to mom!)

* Make sure your saddle pad is pulled up at the pommel and not lying flat and tight across your horse's withers.

Horse

* Don't forget to do the basics such as wiping the mouth, nostrils and dock, as well as picking out the hooves.

* Be sure the undersides of your horses boots are also clean, particularly with easy to check items such as bell boots.

* When getting dandruff out of the horse's mane and tail, don't forget to clean near their poll and at the tip of their tail.

* Be sure to check between their front and rear legs for any crud/dirt they may have picked up along the way.

* And although most of us dread it, don't forget to clean their teets/sheath.

The tips above are items that are often overlooked and should be examined in addition to regular turnout preparation. Of course, as you've heard by now - if you practice good habits regularly, turnout should be a breeze. Best of luck during the Fall Rally season!

The Virginia Region Needs 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 two formal meetings each year, in November and February. Time needed for each position varies

but some are less than 10 hours a month! We currently need a Treasurer and Regional Instruction Coordinator (RIC) for 2015. If you have an interest in any position, please reach out to our Nominating Committee (see below).



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. This is a great job for dads too!

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 time commitment of about 10 -15 hours per month, however, if we can find support volunteers, the job can be divided. Currently the RIC is responsible for providing support and assistance to clubs and riding centers for their instruction programs, organizing annual regional standards & certifications clinic, coordinating and organizing national level testings hosted by the region, supporting club level testings, 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 could take on the various aspects of the position.

If you are interested in any of these positions, or know someone should be considered, please reach out to our nominating committee:

*Pamela Smith (stables@sereneacres.com),
Nicole Gnozzio (mgnozzio@msn.com), and
Diane Fanta (mareboss@aol.com).*

That's all for now! I hope to see you at Tet Rally!

Sincerely,

Carolyn Lorenzen, RS
The Virginia Region Pony Clubs

**Save
the
Date!**

...for the USPC Annual Meeting in Virginia this year! All members and their families are invited to the weekend workshops, meetings & evening activities. There are unique tracks for HorseMasters, Ds, HM, Leaders, and many more. Early Bird Registration opens October 1. Meanwhile, [click on this link](#) for more information.



January 21-25, 2015

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