



Planning for your PC year

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Looking ahead

It has been a while since my last newsletter, but I got energized in spending some time with our club leaders at the recent regional council meeting. Our leadership is a dedicated group of people who work hard to plan for each member. While we come from different disciplines and perspectives, there is the common goal to work for the entire

membership to bring quality activities.

2016 proves to return many of our “regular” pony club activities, while introducing a few new ones. Quiz, regional dance, Mega rally at Woodbine and a regional camp with national examiners return. New this year will be the JLC quiz and rating clinic, Everything but the Horse Rally and

Alternative Discipline for Ds activity.

It is my hope to give an overview of what for the coming year while briefly looking in the rear view mirror to give some perspective.

Looking forward to our season together,

Lorri Witkowski, RS

Everything but the What?

An “Everything but the Horse” Rally is a type of rally that we have learned about from the USPC annual meetings. Typically the rally format includes all phases of a rally without the horse involved. Our MiniRama last year was a type of EBTH rally but used mini horses for turnout and a dressage test on foot leading the miniature horse.

This year, HHPC will be hosting an EBTH rally at Starry Skies Equine Rescue in Ann Arbor, MI on Saturday May 14, 2016. The

organizers plan to use this experience for new, younger members to learn horse management skills without the pressure of a full mounted rally. The rescue will provide 1 horse or mini per team to practice grooming and turnout inspections. The participants will have the opportunity to practice a dressage test on foot without a horse. There is also a type of show jumping course planned on foot.

Our HMO team will be working to help provide HM instruction.

Helmet checks, turnout practice, stall and tack room set ups have been discussed as being a part of the rally.

Of course it wouldn’t be a rally without ribbons. Awards will be given at the end of the rally. Keep an eye out for a full description from the organizers!



Rally 2015:

- 120 @ Quiz
- 37 @ MiniRama
- 44 @ SJ
- 57 @ Dressage
- 32 @ Super Camp



D level Opportunities

Our D level members have some brand new opportunities this year! Here is a summary of what D level members can do this year:

- JLC quiz and HM Rating prep, Feb 28 @ Sparta High School
- Quiz Rally and Dance March 12, Pokagon State Park, Angola, IN
- Everything but the horse Rally, May 14 @ Starry Skies Equine Rescue, Ann Arbor, MI
- Dressage Rally June 29- July 1 @ Woodbine Farm, Chelsea, MI
- Show Jumping Rally July 1-3 @ Woodbine Farm, Chelsea, MI
- Regional Camp, July 11-

14 @ Hunter's Run Farm, Metamora, MI

- Alternative Discipline Activity, September ?, location TBD



C level Opportunities 2016

Our C level members have more regional opportunities as well:

- UL mounted clinics—Dec 28-29-nutrition Jan 30-31
- Feb 27 JLC quiz and HM test clinic teaching opportunity Feb 28
- UL mounted clinics—April 16-17 – Jeannette Scanlan June 21-22 -- TBD
- Dressage Rally—June 29- July 1 @ Woodbine
- SJ Rally – July 1-3 @ Woodbine Farm
- Regional Camp with National Examiners July 11-14 @ Hunter's Run
- C 3/B/A test—August 19-21 @ Hunter's Run (come audit if you aren't testing)

- JLC meetings as announced



Champs application due: April 1, 2016

GLR champ camp: July 11-12 @ Hunter's Run

USPC Champs East: July 27-31 location TBD

USPC champs Central: Aug 6-11 Cedar Rapids, IA

Champs Basics

For many, USPC champs will be the first experience of a national level competition. When thinking of attending champs, the first step is to consult the "Gold Book". The Gold Book is a USPC document that has all things championships. If

you are planning early prior to the 2016 Gold Book being released, consult the 2015 version for a general idea of expectations. Some details will change.

It is required to submit an application to Linda Short-Lowe by April 1. This allows

us to begin communication and planning with each member. The application will be posted on the GLR digest for DCs to distribute and on the Facebook group page. Contact Linda Short-Lowe with any questions about championships.

Alternative Discipline Activity

A committee was formed at the fall Regional Council Meeting to create a new activity that explores the "other" USPC disciplines. Rose Lake, Peirport, Little Traverse Bay and South East Michigan Pony Clubs have begun planning an activity to include games, tetrathalon, polocrosse and vaulting.

These clubs are planning

hands on activities to explore these disciplines. The committee is currently looking into locations and dates while exploring varied formats.

If you have an interest in attending, keep your eyes open to announcements or contact a DC of the listed clubs to lend a hand to the planning!



Tentative dates are in the fall possibly in the Traverse City area (to allow parents to have a long weekend during peak fall colors.



Horsemasters

Horsemasters (HMX) have been around since 2008! This program has become very popular in other regions and has become more common in ours. KV2, LTB and OH all have horsemasters as part of their clubs. Each club has the option to accept these "non-traditional" members.

A horsemaster is a member over the age of 18 who has all the same dues and requirements of a traditional youth member. They may attend clinics, camps, rallies and

have certifications. Currently, horsemaster certifications only go up to the C2. However, if the person had been a youth member in the past, they keep their old certification.

At rally, a horsemaster could expect to have the same HM requirements and riding. Currently, our region has decided to keep scoring separate for horsemasters, but they may be stabled in the same barn as a traditional youth member. So far, no

horsemaster has competed in our regional rallies. There will be new questions to be answered as this program charts new territory for us. USPC does have some policies in place, but they allow for each region to handle some questions in a manner that best suits their members.

Welcome Horsemasters! We look forward to seeing you at regional activities.

Club leaders:

SAVE THE DATE...

November 6, 2016

Fall Regional
Council Meeting

Preparing for a National Test

Preparing for a national test takes dedication. Going beyond the C2 levels requires an exceptional member and requires the support of parents, clubs and the region. First a member must review the test sheets on the USPC website to be sure they are ready to dedicate the time (and money) to be successful.

Decide how long it will take and when you will target to take the test. The USPC website has test dates and locations posted well in advance. GLR requires that you attend one UL clinic to be eligible for national tests.

A member must also evaluate which skills will require the most support

and where to go for the help. Resources include: yourself, your club, your instructor, other candidates and the GLR RIC. Kerry McKinley, our GLR RIC, surveys members to design the UL clinics offered each year. Tell her how she can help. Other members working toward the same goal or who have recently passed are great resources as well.

Good Luck! Study Hard!

2015 Fundraising Update:

GLR Silent Auction @ Quiz: \$1875.04

Omnibus: \$1005.19

Many thanks to Candy Tavormina (Vice RS) and Liz Hoffswell of Macatawa Pony Club for their hard work!



2015 National Tests:

B Trad: Brenna MacLeod HVPC

H: David Silver OHPC, Emily Dingwell OHPC

HB: Leah Koskenin MH2PC, Hanna Szumski OHPC, Eleanor Graber SSPC, Talia Graber SSPC

C3: Kate Rodgers HVPC

C3 Dessage: Claire McNulty GRPC

Budgeting for Pony Club

Horses are expensive! Even with organizers doing their best to keep the costs to members down, there is always a cost. Budgeting is an important skill for members and their parents to develop.

Budgeting=planning how you spend your money

1. Choose your activities by using the calendars of the activities you participate.

Keep goals, your horse's fitness and available funds in mind. Consult your riding instructor and DC for advice.

2. Find the cost for each. Include entry fees, travel, hotel, food. There may be extra equipment needed.

3. Start setting money aside NOW, so when summer comes and there are activities close

together, there is money to pay for them!

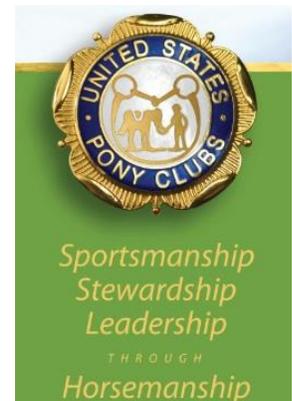


Our membership is up...

We are ending our year on a high note. There are currently 205 members on the national books. There are also many new members joining for 2016.

Cedar Ridge Pony Club was recently recognized by USPC for their ability to

grow. They were tied for 7th in the country in the Plus 1 program. It gained them \$100 to use for their members! Congratulations Cedar Ridge PC!



The GLR Executive Board

Lorri Witkowski, RS
Candy Tavormina, Vice RS
Jennifer Foreman, Vice RS
Linda Short-Lowe, Vice RS
Jase Macleod, Treasurer
Ginger Wisseman, Secretary
Kerry McKinley, RIC
Julie Graber, HMO
Susan Smith, HMO
Nicole Bodmer, RTC

lorri@witkowski.biz
candytavo@yahoo.com
jenforeman@gmail.com
lindashortlowe@yahoo.com
jase.macleod@hotmail.com
ginger.wisseman@gmail.com
kerry.mckinley@gmail.com
j2graber@gmail.com
stkdg@sbcglobal.net
nikkia99@comcast.net