

SVPC Newsletter

Pony Club. Where it all begins.



SVPC Member Writes About Scholarship

SVPC C1 Katrina R. wrote the essay below.

My name is Katrina. A couple months ago I applied for an ACPS scholarship and was awarded one hundred dollars. When I applied for the scholarship my goal was to put it towards preparing myself and my Connemara to be competitive at first level. I achieved this goal by putting my one hundred dollars towards a lesson with instructor Jaralyn Finn. In my lesson, we worked on balancing Sassy on the bit through the up transitions and clarifying the aids for lengthening's. Besides this we also discussed first and second level and their relationship to the training pyramid. Jaralyn also happens to be a USDF "L" judge with distinction. This was especially helpful because she gave me a judge's eye view of the requirements of first level. For example, we discussed the necessity of a higher level of contact in the canter transitions and the need for the horse to be on the bit and consistent in the hand in order to receive an eight from the judge. We also talked about the degree of balance required in first level. In training level, the horse has to demonstrate a developing balance, meaning a slightly downhill balance is acceptable. In first level however, the horse's balance has to be level or on it's way to becoming uphill. Jaralyn also helped me to understand the parts of the training pyramid required at first level. This included the lower three levels of the training pyramid, requiring a constant and steady contact with the horse with a slight over track. When you hear a trainer say increase or steady the contact it does not mean that the rider has to shorten the reins.

Upcoming Events

March 12-13:
Lessons with Julie Hagen at Bascule

March 19: Karen Nutt at Woodstock

March 20: Capital Region Standards and Certifications Clinic

April 9: Capital Region Quiz Rally

April 10: Karen Nutt Lesson

April 17: Kevin Bowie Lesson

May 21: Mary Ychwenker Lesson

June 4-5: Capital Region Show Jumping Rally

June 18-19: SVPC Spring Horse Trials

Scholarship (continued)..... A good contact is actually a neutral balance between the horse and rider. Another part of the training pyramid needed at first level is the need for rhythm and relaxation in the horse. This rhythm is especially important in the trot. The purpose of the first level trot is to show the judge the rhythm and swing in the horse's movements. This belief is highlighted by the stretchy trot where the quality of the horse's gates comes through. The stretchy trot also requires the neutral contact featured in first level. The judge needs to see that the horse is actually reaching for the bit and stretching over their topline. Over all this scholarship helped immensely in my understanding of the moving parts of first level. I have since competed in two schooling shows at first level where I achieved scores of 70% and 76% and two first places.

February Council Recap

MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH.

Membership Report – Candace reported that several people still owe membership paperwork. Candace is working on updating the Club directory. If anyone knows of interested potential members, especially, please pass on contact details for Candace or Leslie.

USPC Annual Meeting – Leslie, Debby and Sheila attended the Annual Meeting. USPC certifications will soon integrate safety training. Lastly, the venue for Championships. Maggie J. was a member of the National Youth Congress. The next Annual Meeting will be in Los Angeles, in January 2017.

Lessons Update – Shelley and Debby reported on the Kevin Bowie and Aviva Nebresky lessons scheduled. Karen Nutt is scheduled to teach on March 19 at Woodstock. March 13 will be reserved for a clinic at Bascule Farm. There will also be a Standards and

Certifications Clinic with Deb Wilson on March 20 at Bascule Farm. This Clinic is free for members and parents and all are encouraged to attend. Instructors are also encouraged to attend and will be paid a daily fee by SVPC. Upper level members are strongly encouraged to attend in order to gain teaching guidance for larger groups of riders.

Certifications Update – Maureen discussed upcoming certifications for members. Leslie reminded members interested in pursuing the C-2 to get their intent to certify paperwork submitted.

Bittersweet Field – Debby reported that a stadium steward is still needed for the horse trials. Lauren suggested that a written job description be created.

Rally and Committee Sign-up – The following people volunteered as Rally Coordinators: Denise Graham for Games and Show Jumping, Jacquelyn Dickey (in absentia) for Tet, Marie Sheppard for Polocrosse, Lisa Rowe for Dressage and Tyler Stewart for Eventing.

Junior Board Report – The Board added up funds from the Silent Auction. Discussion was also held regarding possible ways to improve Club scores in HM, as well as the pros and cons of HM at rallies and Champs.

SVPC WEBSITE

You can register for the upcoming Quiz Rally on the SVPC website. We would love to have both junior and senior D's and a C team.

You can register for lessons and clinics on the website.

Members planning to go for a D1-C1 certification should complete the form on the website. For certifications C2 and above members should complete an intent form from the Capital Region website.

Additional SVPC Dates

Saturday, June 18 and Sunday, June 19 SVPC Spring Horse Trials & Capital Region Eventing Rally

Sunday, June 26 Capital Region Games Rally

June 27-July 1 D Camp

June 28-June 30 ABC Camp

Sunday, July 3 SVPC Club Day & Sponsors Meeting

July 27-July 31 USPC Championships East at Tryon International in North Carolina

Saturday, August 21 Capital Region C2 Certification (Date likely to change per March Capital Region Meeting)

September 3-4 SVPC Fall Horse Trials

Saturday and Sunday September 17-18 Capital Region Tetrathlon Rally Hosted by SVPC

Sunday, October 2 Capital Region Dressage Rally

Friday, December 2 Holiday Party

Help Wanted

SVPC is run entirely by volunteers. Our horse trials in the spring and fall are the club's primary fundraisers and we are in need of a stadium steward. The steward works to make sure the jumps are set after the course designer sets the course for the competition and oversees the volunteers (many of them are very experienced) over the weekend. We have members willing to train the steward.

We are also in need of parents willing to organize D Camp and ABC camp on June 27-July 1.

Our club is also working on fundraising and looking for sponsors and advertisers for our horse trials. Sponsorship and advertising is a great job for parents who may not be experts in horses but want to help the club offer activities to our members.

Please contact Leslie Case at lesliecase@aol.com if you would like to volunteer for any of the above positions or would like more information.

SVPC is a strong club because of the parent volunteers who run our club.

EASY WAY TO EARN CASH FOR SVPC

There's an easy way to make money for the club. Please send your proof of purchases for Legends, Triple Crown and Southern States horse feed to:

Sheila Jackson, 12227 Galesville Drive Gaithersburg, MD 20878

or give them to Sheila or Maggie when you see them. Each label generates \$.25 for the club!

Thanks! Sheila