



# Seneca Valley Pony Express



October, 2011

*Celebrating Our 50<sup>th</sup> Year!*

## 2011 SVPC Calendar

### OCTOBER

23

Annual Sponsors' Meeting, at the Adams/Pancrazio home

### NOVEMBER

1

Membership Renewal Forms due back to Candace Gerrety

12

SVPC/Two Sisters' Farm Combined Test (Field Fundraiser!)  
(watch your e-mail for details)

### DECEMBER

1

Intent to Rate Forms for HB and above due to Regional  
Supervisor

9

Holiday Party, at the Cones' home!

## *Annual Sponsors' Meeting*

SVPC's Annual Sponsors' Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the home of Ann Adams and Joe Pancrazio, beginning at 5 p.m., with the business meeting starting at 6 p.m. It is very important that all sponsors (parents) do their best to attend this meeting - we must have a quorum of sponsors present to conduct required business, including the election of Officers and Advisory Council members for 2012 and approval of the 2012 proposed budget. We will also be discussing the need for additional fundraisers so that we can undertake needed improvements to Bittersweet Field.

We are still searching for new folks to join the Council and/or serve as Officers. If you are interested in helping your Club, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Debby Price, Alex Hazlett or Judy Barnhard.

## ***Kudos to our Members***

**Ratingzzzzz Updates:** I mistakenly neglected to mention in the last issue that **Daniel C.** earned his D1 rating at camp this summer. **Ollie W.** is now a D2; new member/transfer from Connecticut **Shannon Case** passed her C2 rating; **Emm K.** earned her C3 rating this summer and **Jenny B.** is now an HB!

Belated Congratulations to **Erika G.**, the only Pony Clubber in the country to earn the USPC's Gold Medal Club Eventing Award for competition year 2010! To qualify for the Gold Medal Club, the member must participate in a USPC Eventing Rally and complete a USEA Horse Trial at the Intermediate or Advanced Level or an Intermediate 2-day event, CCN\*\* or CCI\*\* or above.

**Taylor S.** was Reserve Champion at the American Eventing Championship's Junior Beginner Novice Division! See Taylor's article on page 4 discussing her experiences in Georgia.

**Coltin M.** recently traveled to Ireland to participate in an international Games competition, where his American team won first place. Coltin's discussion of his trip is on page 3.

Good luck to **Stephen P.** who will be competing next week with his Western NY/VA/Capital region scramble team "Lucky Charms" at the President's Cup Games competition, held in conjunction with the Fair Hill International Three Day Event.

## ***Fall Horse Trials & Party***

We had a wonderful turn-out for our Fall Horse Trials, with 340 entries received (prior to last minute scratches) and, despite the thunderstorm on Saturday which delayed the competition, all went off without a hitch. Thanks to all of you who volunteered over the weekend - obviously it takes the entire Seneca Valley membership & families to put on such a great event.

Even more fun was had after the competition on Saturday evening, when we hosted the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party for the Club at the Kiplingers' barn. It was a great opportunity to meet some of our alumni and hear their stories of the early days of the Club - a lot has changed in the past 50 years, but the underlying objectives of teaching horsemanship and leadership continue. Thanks to the Kiplinger family for allowing us the use of their barn for the party (and of course for their continued support of SVPC) and to party planner supreme Anne Corbeille for pulling the whole thing together.

## ***Hold the Date!***

Seneca's Holiday Party will be held Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, at the home of Andrea and Barry Cone (and Rachel!). As usual, there will be a gift exchange for the members (\$15 limit) and lots of good food and holiday cheer. Hope to see you all there!

## ***Membership Renewals***

Membership Renewal packets will be mailed out to each family shortly. To avoid late fees, please complete your paperwork and return all materials to Candace Gerrety no later than November 1, 2011. If you are not planning on renewing, please drop Candace a line telling her that. Thanks!

## *My Time Overseas*

by Coltin M.

I was chosen to travel to Northern Ireland on a United States horseback riding team competing against Irish teams. While I was there I had a lot of time to sightsee. My mom and I went to numerous towns with numerous cool things to see. The first town we went to was Howth. Howth is a coastal town on the Irish Sea. There we went on the jetty/boardwalk out into the sea. The second city we went to was Dublin the capital of the Republic of Ireland. There we saw The Book of Kells which is like the bible, and a lot of statues in the town center. We also saw Christ Cathedral, the thousands of year old church in Dublin. From there we went to the old town of Glendoulagh, where there is an over 900 year old grave yard. Also there was Ireland's tallest waterfall. After that we stayed in Dublin one more night and in the morning we drove up to Belfast which is close to where the competition is. There we ended up with my teammates and went to the coast and saw the beautiful coast line and got to go on a one-hundred feet high rope bridge the fishermen used in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century.

On Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> I met my pony "Bling" for the first time. After that practice I wanted to bring him home. Then on the weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> it was competition time. After having 4 sessions of games, my US team came through with the win out of 4 Irish teams including us. I was filled with excitement. The other US team competing in the level above us got 5<sup>th</sup> out of 7 teams. My team and I were the first American team to win first place overseas on borrowed ponies! And the first American all boys team! The day to come was the worst, leaving time. I said to my mom at the airport, "When I grow up I want to live here." I never wanted to leave that country.



Coltin riding Bling in Ireland

## ***American Eventing Championships by Tayler S.***

Eleven hours and seven stops later, Strictly Business and I arrived at the 2011 American Eventing Championships in Fairburn, Georgia at Chattahoochee Hills Farm. When we first arrived, it was overwhelming to see how many trailers were at the entrance, there must have been at least 250 of them or more! Out of the trailer parking opened up a huge field of the most beautiful cross country jumps I had ever seen. From up on top of the hill you could see all of the course, from Beginner Novice to Advanced. The barns were mostly temporary but for all the lucky early entries there was a huge permanent barn with big stalls and open space. I hope to be in them someday, but for now Ivan [Blumberg] & Opal, Sheri [Thornley] and Toga, and Biz and me were all in the temporaries. It was so much fun getting there early, so the next day I could have a morning ride, watch the Advanced, Intermediate, and Training dressage, and still have time to go the lovely vendors and see some of the sponsor tents.

The next day, Friday, September 9, I had dressage. I had never felt more nervous, but I just reminded myself that there were 71 other competitors that must have felt the same way. The best part of it all was they had all the junior novice and beginner novice competitors in the upper grand prix ring so that sponsors family and friends could all watch. As much as I was nervous, Biz kept me focused and calm. After my test all the people in the audience cheered and I felt so proud. I got a combined score of 32.7. I was so happy and that I would be going into the cross country phase in third.

When it was time for me to go cross country, I walked the course and it was difficult but not too scary and it looked fun. The footing was great and I didn't even have to use studs. When I left the start box the announcer let everyone know that I was in third and told what my dressage score was. After I finished, it was announced that I had no jumping and no time penalties, and I was still in third!

Then came show jumping, my most stressful phase. I walked the course twice and it was beautiful, the lines were perfect and I was so excited. When it came time to warm up I felt really nervous and I bumped into someone and I felt really bad, but the show must go on!!! When I went into the ring I jumped the first and all of my nerves went away -- I had a clear round. When I got done, I watched the two girls that were in front of me and the girl in second place who had a dressage score of 32.6, only 5 hundredths of a point above me had a rail at the last fence!

As much as I felt sorry for her I was so proud of Biz. We got to be second in the victory gallop and we got one of those really cool sashes! I had so much fun and it was funny how I came all the way to Georgia for two Marylanders to be first and second out of the biggest division. I congratulate all the competitors. I thank everyone who made this show possible. The people, place and courses were fantastic, but all events have there down side like a lot of people in the warm up and some dressage scoring misshaps, alls well that ends well!



***Tayler & Biz, Reserve Champions!***

## *2011 Dressage Rally*

Despite all the rain the preceding week, the 2011 Capital Region Dressage Rally was able to be held at the wonderful facility of Bascule Farm on September 11th. Many thanks to Julie and Dick Hagan for all their support and efforts to make it happen. The rally was well attended by Seneca Valley members and though there were some last minute horse issues and schedule conflicts, Seneca ended up with 3 teams and a Rising Star.

**Team Seneca Valley Here Goes Nothing** : Hannah R. , Captain, Shannon C., Oliver W., Maddison G. and Stephen P., stable manager , received 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Division 1 and 4<sup>th</sup> place for Horse Management with only 2 points off!

Hannah was the high score for qualifying riders at the Training Level with a 70.83 % for Tr 1 and a 69.20% for Tr 3 and second highest scorer overall at the rally.

**Team Seneca Valley Dressage Delinquents**: Josh K., Captain, Ema K., Ela R., Daniel C., and Rowan R., stable manager received 4<sup>th</sup> place in Division 2.

**Team Seneca Valley Rainbow Unicorns**: Rachel C., Captain, Reagan C., Lauren W. and Audrey C., stable manager received 5<sup>th</sup> place in Division 1.

Reagan was Seneca's Most Improved from test 1 to test 2, increasing her score by over 8 points!

And making her first appearance at a Pony Club Rally was Lexi W.on Puff the Magic Pony participating as a Rising Star! Way to Go Lexi!

Also four out of the five riders that performed musicals were Seneca Valley kids!

Hannah R.: 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a 77.40%

Maddison G. : 3<sup>rd</sup> place with a 74.80%

Ema K.: 4<sup>th</sup> place with a 61.20%

Josh K.: 5<sup>th</sup> place with a 60.33% doing a 1<sup>st</sup> level test!

### *2011 Officers and Contacts*

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