



Seneca Valley Pony Express



Seneca Valley Pony Club

November 2007

2007 Calendar

November 16	Regional Meeting
December 1	Letters of Intent to Rate (C2 & up) Due
December 14	SVPC Holiday Party
January 20	SVPC Awards Dinner

Members' Achievements

Congratulations . . . to **Alex MacLeod**, who passed her H/B rating on November 3rd, and is now a full C3! . . . and to **Gabriella Catrett**, who is now a proud D2 pony clubber! . . . and to **Corinne Stephenson**, who took second place in the USEA Area II Training Championships! . . . and to **Kimmy McNamee** for being chosen to represent the Capital Region at USPC's National Youth Congress!

Sponsors' Meeting and Election of Officers

The Annual Fall Sponsors' Meeting was held on October 28, 2007 at Two Sisters' Farm. A quorum of sponsors was present, allowing the Club to conduct its business meeting. The proposed budget for 2008 was presented. After discussion, the Sponsors voted to approve the budget as proposed. Nancy Jones then put forward the slate of officer candidates as proposed by the Nominating Committee. The following officers were elected for the coming year:

Nancy Jones	District Commissioner
Pam Blumberg	Co-District Commissioner
Carla MacLeod	Co-District Commissioner
Ann Adams	Secretary
Judy Barnhard	Treasurer

Advisory Council Officers

Lisa Gonzalez	Nellie Hanagan	Tanya Herbick	Mike Kearney
Cathy Mattax	Sandy McNamee	Debby Price	Karrie Recknor
Leslie Sherman	Donna Willems		

We'd like to express our huge thanks to Anne Fortier and Julie Priddy, both of whom have worked with the Club for many years in many positions, and have decided to take a well-deserved break from SVPC governance! They will be missed.

2008 Dressage Rally Results

Yes, that's right - 2008 Rally! Because our Regional Dressage Rally is held in the fall, the results count for 2008 USPC National Championships (and for our 2008 Annual Awards, which are given in 2009). Just a little confusing! But the rally itself wasn't confusing at all and was a lot of fun for the Seneca Pony Clubbers who participated. Here's the breakdown of how they did:

Div. 1, 1st Place: **Seneca Salutes**, with Gabby Van Tassel (Capt.), Addie Thornley, Derek Alvey and Corbin Blumberg.

Div. 2, 3rd Place, 6th HM: **Seneca Leg Yields** with Andrew Alvey (Capt.), Erika Gonzalez, Meredith Kearney and Stephen Pancrazio.

Div. 2, 5th Place: **Seneca/Tally Ho CU@X** with Kallan Ludder (Capt.), Kimmy McNamee and Hannah Recknor.

Div. 1, 6th Place: **Seneca/Tally-Ho Flying Changes** with Andrea Jones (Capt.) and Addie Spencer.

Individual Awards of Note: **Gabby VanTassel, Reserve High C; Meredith Kearney, Reserve High D.** First-Level Musical Freestyle: **Derek Alvey, 1st; Kimmy McNamee, 2nd.** Training Level Musical Freestyle: **Andrea Jones, 2nd.**

Upper Level Letters of Intent due December 1st

If you are thinking about doing an upper-level rating in 2008, **you must send a letter of intent to rate by December 1st** to Laura Ganske, Capital Region RS. This requirement applies to all ratings from C2 and up. The letter of intent is simply that - a brief note stating what rating you are hoping to achieve. The letter must be accompanied by a \$75 fee - this fee will pay for three non-mounted prep sessions; additional mounted preps will cost \$25 each (the fees will be waived for H/A and A candidates who agree to teach at the prep sessions). Please have your letter and fee to Nancy Jones, 18800 Lake Placid Lane, Germantown, MD 20874 no later than December 1st for delivery to Laura Ganske.

Don't forget SVPC's HOLIDAY PARTY

SVPC's **Holiday Party** will be held on **Friday, December 14th**. The Fortiers have graciously agreed to allow us to hold the party in their home (again!). There will be a gift exchange (\$10-15 limit) for the Pony Clubbers, and lots of good food and cheer. The Club will supply the main course and drinks; A through I families please bring a salad or appetizer; J through R, a side dish; S through Z, a desert. For those SVPC members who were awarded trophies at last year's Awards Dinner, please bring them to the Party, so we can get them ready for the next group of recipients!

Lessons Update

We are working on scheduling a Games Clinic with Michelle Reilly for November 25th. Further details to follow.

Judy McGaughan is here until early December, so get your lessons in before she goes south.

Come one, come all!!
Potomac Hunter Trials
Nov. 24th at the Hunt Club
8 am warm up, 9 am classes start
Proper attire required
Braiding not necessary

Rating Knowledge and Horse Management Are they NECESSARY?

You bet they are - and they are what makes Pony Club different. As a Pony Clubber, you may be highly competitive, but you are also devoted to the well-being of your horse and the "right" way of doing business.

Just to generalize... knowledge is power, that's what my father told me very early on. No matter what happens in life, what you know stays with you to help, nobody can take it away. And we use knowledge all the time in life, whether we do it thinking or by instinct or by first impression, knowledge helps us to make correct decisions and to follow our path.

But is so boring to study! And all this horse stuff on top of school work...

Well, horses used to be small animals, self-reliant and undomesticated. But we have changed their anatomy through breeding, their physiology by feeding them differently to adapt to our needs, their personality by making them dependent on us. In a way, we have played creator of the modern horse. It is therefore our responsibility to take care of them as best as possible, routine and emergencies, normal and unusual aspects of each individual horse in our care. And with proper care and understanding, they perform better... This is the reason to do the knowledge ratings and do them willingly, wanting to really learn not just for the one day exam but for our horses and our better life with them. Besides, we really owe it to the horse.

The same concept holds true for HM - although we all joke about the obsessiveness of "the Pony Club way", it has at its heart to achieve the best for the horse and for the rider. For example, if you (or your parents) spend money on high quality tack, shouldn't you spend time and make sure it's properly cared for? Caring for tack includes thorough cleaning! In addition HM teaches responsibility, because your failures here will impact your whole team, and potentially your ability to participate in Championships. In fact, a couple of the participants at Dressage Rally would have done a WHOLE lot better if they hadn't been tagged with HM penalties! This is an area our whole club needs to embrace and improve.

2008 Regional Planning Calendar

To help you plan ahead for next year, here is the tentative 2008 Calendar set by the Regional Council:

January 23 - 27	USPC Annual Meeting, Boston
January 27	Non-mounted upper level rating prep session(s)
February 24	Non-mounted upper level rating prep session(s)
March 1	Quiz Rally
March 8	Snow Date for Quiz Rally
March 9	Horse Management Clinic
March 30	Non-mounted upper level rating prep session(s) and Ratings & Standards Clinic
April 5-6	H/B Rating
April 12-13	Mounted upper level rating prep session(s)
April 26-27	C2 Rating
May 11	SVPC Show Jumping & Dressage Day
May 18	Games Rally
May 24-25	C3 (Traditional) Rating
June 14-15	Eventing Rally & SVPC Spring Horse Trials
June 27-29	Show Jumping Rally
Early July	Maryland Region Tetrathlon Rally
July 22-27	USPC National Championships
August 8-10	A & B Ratings
August 16-17	C3 (Dressage & Traditional) Rating
September 6-7	SVPC Fall Horse Trials
September 14	Non-Qualifying Eventing Day
October 5	Polocrosse Rally
October 12	C2 Rating
October 19	Dressage Rally



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