

SENECA VALLEY PONY CLUB



JANUARY 2016

SAVE THE DATES

**SVPC Council and
Junior Board Meet-
ing: January 12**

**SVPC Aviva Clinic:
Sunday, January 24**

**SVPC Awards Din-
ner: Saturday, Feb-
ruary 13**

**National Examiner
Lesson with Kevin
Bowie at Good
Choice Farm: Sun-
day, February 28**

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Unmounted Sessions Set to Begin

The knowledge series will soon begin and will be offered to all D and C rated members. Please join us for the pursuit of knowledge on Friday evenings at 6:30 pm beginning on January 8, 2016. Location will be determined upon development of agenda. However, most sessions will be held at the Weitzel home.

The series will continue until the Quiz Rally, April 9. There may be a minimal cost for members for materials to participate as well as donations for the pizza dinner that will be

offered at each session. Members are not obligated to rate or participate in quiz rally to attend unmounted lessons.

The purpose of the series:

- gain knowledge for the health and safety of horse and rider

- prepare for certification
- prepare for quiz rally

Presenters are needed for the topics to be covered. This will be a great experience for all C members and above and it will also prepare for future certifications. Presenters are expected to develop a

lesson plan. Guidance and feedback will be given prior to the presentation. Presenters will also receive a certificate of achievement following the presentation. Lesson Plan and Certificate are aligned with the preparation of HB and the core standards of USPC. Please contact Yvonneke Weitzel; yvonnekeweitzel@gmail.com with your interest of presenting the topics.

The topics covered will be aligned with certifications as well as preparing for quiz rally....Cont. on pg 4

The United States Pony Clubs, Inc., develops character, leadership, confidence and a sense of community in youth through a program that teaches the care of horses and ponies, riding and mounted sports.

Bittersweet Update

Bittersweet Field is owned by the Kiplinger family who graciously allows our club to use their property for Seneca Valley Pony Club activities. With the blessing of the family, we are pleased to announce SVPC members may now bring a guest to Bittersweet during the week. Prior guidelines lim-

ited members to bringing their guest on the weekend or holidays. Please review the revised **Field Use Guidelines** at the back of this newsletter.

At Bittersweet there are currently a dressage ring & members ring setup. The banks @ Kips corner are closed for the winter. Be respectful of

footing and ground conditions. Remember members will need to bring water to the field this winter when visiting because the water is turned off for the season.

Thank you for being a member of SVPC!

Friends and Family Packages

SVPC's second annual Friends and Family campaign is underway. Members should have received a package with envelopes to give to friends and family who might want to write a special message to SVPC members in our awards dinner memory book. Last year every pony club member received at least one mention in the memory book. We encourage you to send the friends and family package to friends and/or family who might want to congratulate your pony club member(s) in the memory



book.

Funds raised go towards printing the memory book and offsetting member benefits including lessons, championships, rallies and member activities.

Each envelope contains a letter, a form to return with memory book notes and an optional dona-

tion and a pre-addressed envelope. In addition to the paper forms, we have an online form on our website for parents, friends and family to visit.

We've extended the deadline to January 22 — so there's still time!

We appreciate all of our SVPC members and thank you for your support. Please contact Leslie Case at lesliecase@aol.com with any questions. Forms are at the back of this newsletter again, too.

Certification

Procedures:

D1-C1 should register online on the SVPC website.

C2-A must complete an intent to rate form on the Capital Region website. The next tests will be in spring 2016.

Members register for national certifications on the USPC website after consulting with Leslie Case and Sheila Jackson.

Waredaca Three-Day Thoughts

If you event at the Novice or Training level, you have GOT to go to Waredaca's Long Format 'Classic' 3-Day. This event is the most fun you will have on cross country, the best way to learn about conditioning and a great preparation if you are interested in moving up to the CCI* level in the future. What is a Classic 3-Day? Well back in the day eventing at the Preliminary level and up wasn't just Dressage, Cross Country, Show Jumping. There was an entire day full of cross country! On this 'endurance day' horse rider pairs had 4 phases with a vet check before their day was done. You start on phase A- or 20 minutes of trotting through the woods on down dirt roads then go straight to Phase B - the steeplechase. After 3 minutes of running you cool down on Phase C- more trotting on roads



and tracks. Then you spend 10 minutes in the vet box cooling down your horse and getting them checked for soundness before finally heading out to do your real cross country course. It might sound like a lot, but you will have already spent 3 or 4 months doing long slow hacks and also trot and canter sets to prepare your horse. Spending the time planning and executing a conditioning schedule teaches you a lot about your own horse and prepares you for the conditioning level needed for upper level eventing. Even though the Classic format is no longer used at the upper levels, there is still a huge increase in the fitness needed.

The Waredaca Classic is also very fun and part educational as well as a competition. Each phase (jogs, dressage, cross country and show jumping) have at least one unmounted clinic by a top notch rider (I have been two years and we've had Eric Smiley, Colleen Rutledge and Stephen Bradley). For steeplechase you get an opportunity to practice on the exact jumps you'll jump the next day. There is a huge amount of 'eventing spirit' on cross country day, from other riders wishing you luck as you pass each other on roads and tracks, to them cheering you on as you blast around steeplechase to the help you get in the vet box. If you are thinking about it feel free to talk to me, or one of the many other pony clubbers to compete!

By Natalie Huso, SVPC

See more photos of Natalie at the three day in the photo section!

Unmounted continued from page 1

- Safety, Disaster Preparations, Traveling and Trailing
Turn-out: Tack, Attire, Inspection
- Nutrition and Condition of Horse
- Breeds, Horse Anatomy, Dentistry, Conformation and Lameness, Bandaging
Stable Management: Bedding, Cleaning, Parasite Control, Stable Vices, Grooming and Bathing
Types and Reasons

- for Clipping, Blanketing
Toxic Plants
- First Aid, When to Call a Vet, Vet Knowledge
- Farrier Knowledge
- Disciplines: Dressage, Show Jumping, Eventing, Fox Hunting, Games, Tetrathlon, Polocrosse
Land Conservation
- Horse Management for Rallies
- Expectations and knowledge of Ratings/Certification
- Quiz Rally Rules

The above topics will not be presented in order as stated as presenters need to be confirmed. It would be beneficial if all C members and above would present a topic of their choice to present. A more detailed agenda will be forthcoming.

We look forward to seeing you at the knowledge series as a participant or presenter.
Yvonneke Weitzel

Feed Proof of Purchase = \$\$ 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





Do you have photos for the newsletter? Please email Leslie Case at lesliecase@aol.com with any photos for the newsletter.

Go SVPC members!



Capital Region Takes on Tet

Tetrathlon- something for everyone! My first encounter with the unique Pony Club sport of Tetrathlon (or running, riding, swimming and shooting) was in 2010 when Capital Region held a rally at the Carrol County Equestrian Center and I helped in Horse Management. It looked so fun and I wished I was competing! People shared horses, jumped a unique show jumping course that involved going through a gate while mounted, dismounting to lead the horses over a 'slip rail' and even jumping a fence outside the ring before cantering back in. That Christmas I got a simple air gun and practiced with my dad in our garage. My first rally was a series of unfortunate events (too ill to breath easily in the running or swimming, fell off in warmup, lost a stirrup and circled multiple times on course) but the end result was feeling like a well rounded and *potentially*

capable athlete. I kept practicing and attended the Maryland Region rally when Capital's folded and even went to Championships in 2012. Finally, after a 4 year hiatus, 'Tet' returned to our region! On a very cold October weekend, 11 girls and 2 boys started our competition at the pool for the swim phase- this was by far the warmest part of our weekend. The next morning we all got to enjoy the first frost of the year at Bittersweet field where we started with the riding phase. This is a modified show jumping course with the fun additions of a gate and slip rail. 13 lovely rounds later we were ready to shoot. The shooting phase scares some people off, but it is run with a serious 'safety first' mentality. Our steward, Gerry Jackson, held the guns under lock and key until we began. The entire phase has a series of commands to ensure we are all in a safe

position, protective glasses on, when the firing begins. I believe we all learned how difficult it is to accurately shoot while being hit with icy wind blasts! Luckily the next and final phase was the run and we all got to warm up. Bittersweet is a great place to run because we already have little logs to jump to make it a true cross country test on foot. After a very short wait the 'mighty 13' tetrath-letes received their awards. It was a well organized and quick rally which will hopefully get even better attendance next year. If you are 'bad' at a phase or haven't the time to prepare, you can still enter as a 'mix and match' participant to take down the difficulty level. Very few people are great at all 4 phases, but if you can do just one well (and we can all ride, right?) you have a shot at being competitive. I hope to see many more SVPC faces next year!

By Natalie Huso, SVPC





SVPC 2015



November 1, 2015

Dear Friends and Family of the Seneca Valley Pony Club,

Seneca Valley Pony Club is winding down 2015 and planning for the upcoming year. One of the most exciting upcoming events is the annual Awards Dinner where we celebrate accomplishments of each member. Both the club members and the horses are anxious to enjoy a new season filled with the challenges and activities that the club presents. Our club offers ongoing riding lessons, specialty clinics, competitive experiences, stable management training, summer camp - and more. Our goal is to provide these marvelous experiences for all interested children, regardless of their means.

Riding well, however, is only one part of Seneca Valley Pony Club. Through the care of horses our members learn about responsibility and discipline. Participating in Pony Club Rallies encourages and develops leadership and teamwork. The Club also fosters a generous spirit of giving back as each older, more experienced member mentors and helps the younger members with the patience and kindness they were shown from members before them. This summer we were able to send members to participate in Pony Club Championships in Lexington, Virginia.

We need and count on the generous support of people like you. We thank you very much for your support in the past. This year we ask you to consider contributing to our club. To show our appreciation, you will be listed in the "Friends" section of our *Memory Book* distributed to all Pony Club families and friends, including you. Even if you cannot contribute, feel free to add a note to a pony clubber! Certainly all cherish a message from a loyal supporter about their hard work and pride in their riding. Please email your special note to Leslie Case at lesliecase@aol.com and return the attached form with your optional donation by ~~Friday, December 11, 2015~~ Friday, January 22, so we are sure to have your message in the Memory Book. SVPC also accepts credit cards online at www.senecavalleyponyclub.org.

On behalf of Seneca Valley Pony Club, I thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Leslie Case
District Commissioner

Seneca Valley Pony Club
Memory Book 2015
Friends & Family Support Form

Name (s): _____

In Support of: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Message:

Optional Donation: \$ _____

Seneca Valley Pony Club is a not for profit 501(c) 3 organization:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$150 (Half Page) \$300 (Full Page)

Checks should be made payable to SVPC. Our club can also accept credit card donations on our website at www.senecavalleyponyclub.org.

Please, even if you cannot contribute at this time, feel free to send a short message to the important pony clubber(s) in your life! Email messages to Leslie Case at lesliecase@aol.com and mail your optional donation with this form to Leslie Case, 13311 Drew Lane, Potomac MD 20854 by January 22nd to be included in the memory book.

Thank you for supporting
Seneca Valley Pony Club!

Bittersweet Field Guidelines:

The Field may not be used for personal or financial gain.

Bittersweet is for the use of Members and an occasional guest. One guest per member.

The schooling of client's horses is not allowed.

Field Use: FIELD CONDITIONS PERMITTING

The field is open to members and parents on seven days a week.

You must wear a current field pinny at all times while riding at Bittersweet.

No one can ride at the field alone – you must have a groundsperson or another rider with you.

The banks at Kip's Corner and the Intermediate obstacles cannot be schooled.

Guests are allowed to ride with members. Guests must complete a hold harmless agreement before riding, and must obtain a guest pinny from Annette Chong or Debby Price.

Use common sense – if the ground where you are riding is muddy or overly soft, don't ride there! The same goes for your trailer – park only on the graveled areas or on hard ground. You do not want to have to get towed out!

You must wear an approved helmet when riding and a safety vest when jumping.

The competition course (the area that is generally used for the Horse Trials) will be closed as published in the Omnibus until after the Trials. Any violations (following USEA rules) will both lose their field privileges and will not be allowed to compete at the Horse Trials.

Parking:

Enter the 4th gate (end gate closest to River Rd, by Kip's Corner).

Park on the graveled area only – do NOT park on the grass.

Check footing to ensure that you can get your vehicle & trailer out without getting stuck.

Avoid driving on the grass at all times.

Pinnies:

SVPC members are REQUIRED to wear their assigned pinny (NOT a borrowed pinny) when mounted on the Bittersweet Field property.

Pinnies can be obtained from Annette Chong or Debby Price.

Guests:

Guests MUST be accompanied by a SVPC Member. One guest per member is permitted to ride.

Before the guest can ride, the member must contact Annette Chong or Debby Price, return a completed Bittersweet Field Hold Harmless Form for the guest and obtain a current negative coggins form for the guest mount.

When these are received the club can issue a Guest SVPC pinny. After use the member must return the pinny to Annette Chong or Debby Price.

Questions?

To confirm that the field is open for schooling, please contact the Field Coordinator, Debby Price.

Questions about field use should be directed to a DC.

To obtain a pinny or for guest information and release forms, contact Annette Chong or Debby Price.



We are in need of a horse trials stadium steward. We have a great team working in the stadium area with lots of experience, but need a volunteer to step up and organize the phase.

Nancy Jones can answer any questions you have on the position and what's involved.

This a great way to get involved in the horse trials and help the club with it's most important fund raisers.

For more information, contact Nancy Jones at nancy.skylandfarm@gmail.com.