

SENECA VALLEY PONY CLUB NEWSLETTER

July 2020

UPCOMING DATES

July 31, 2020 SVPC Sponsors and Parents Meeting Zoom Call

September 5-6, 2020 SVPC Fall Horse Trials

July 19-26, 2021 USPC Festival

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new members Kaylee, Grace C and John and returning members Jenny and Grace O!

HORSE TRIALS ENTRIES HAVE OPENED

Thank you to all of the SVPC families who took the time to complete our survey on the horse trials. The majority of families were in favor of running our horse trials on September 5-6. The horse trials organizing committee has met and we have opened entries for the event. The officers of SVPC understand some do not want to get together with others given the current situation – no one is expected to volunteer for the horse trials. We fully support the decision of families who do not want to be at the horse trials with competitors and other volunteers.

Our club is working with the state and local authorities to make sure we are following all guidelines set by them. As a USEA event, we are adhering to the USEF COVID-19 plan for events that is updated weekly with guidance from USEF. Montgomery County has stated that SVPC must ban spectators from attending the horse trials even if the USEF plan allows them.

With the new regulations, our horse trials will be very different from the past. Currently we plan to have only one entrance to the site. Trailers and cars will enter Bittersweet and pull over to be greeted by SVPC volunteers who will use a touchless thermometer to take the temperature of each occupant of the vehicle. If anyone in the vehicle has a temperature, they will not be allowed to park on site and will be asked to leave.

All of our volunteers will be wearing masks and all competitors and coaches will be required to wear a mask unless the rider is mounted.

We will not be bringing volunteers together for briefings. Volunteers will be directed to USEA online tutorials on their jobs and any briefing will be done over the radio.

Our organizers realize conditions are constantly changing and we may not be able to run the fall horse trials, but they are proceeding with the planning and hope to be able to offer the horse trials to the eventing community. Again, volunteering and participation in the horse trials are entirely optional and we completely understand those who choose not to come to the horse trials. Those that are interested in volunteering may sign up online at <https://www.eventingvolunteers.com/events/1313/signup>

Please contact any SVPC officers or committee chairs with questions. We are here to help navigate the pony club world and opportunities.

Leslie Case lesliecase@aol.com
Debby Price jdprice15010@aol.com
Nancy Jones nancy.skylandfarm@gmail.com
Lisa Bromley maxbo22@comcast.net
Shelley Heron shelleyheron@me.com
Terry LaMotte tlamotte@nsolv.com

If you need anything, please don't hesitate to reach out.

SUPPORT SVPC

You can earn money for SVPC just by doing what you're already doing – giving your horses **Southern States®**-branded, **Legends®**, or **ProElite®** horse feed. Your organization can earn 25¢ for each proof of purchase seal from Southern States and Legends® horse feed bags. Please send your proof of purchases to: Sheila Jackson, 12227 Galesville Drive Gaithersburg, MD 20878

You can also support SVPC when you shop at amazon.com. Visit [https://smile.amazon.com/ch/ 52-6079190](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-6079190) and .05% of your eligible purchases will go to Seneca Valley Pony Club. Our club has completed the registration process and if you shop through the link above you'll be supporting SVPC.

MEMORIAL FOR PACKY MCGAUGHAN

Below is an email from Ariana Dickey on the fundraising effort for a jump in memory of Packy McGaughan. To date the fundraising has reached and exceeded its initial goal of \$5,000 and the jump is on track to be built this August. Thank you to all who have donated!

Hello, Fellow Eventers and Eventing Supporters,

My name is Ariana Dickey. On March 12, 2020 the equestrian community lost a valuable member. His name was Patrick (Packy) McGaughan. Packy's course design for Bittersweet Field helped to launch Seneca Valley Pony Club (SVPC) into becoming a well-respected USEA event. Packy had huge influential power when it came to some of the top riders. Many of the top riders benefitted from riding techniques and riding comments from Packy. I am writing to ask you to help me honor his memory in a special way.

I am currently a Pony Club HB test candidate and I am required to provide a letter from the district commissioner certifying my involvement in a local, regional, or national equine land conservation project. For me, conservation not only means to conserve land but also means to keep the memory alive of those who contributed to the equestrian community, especially locally throughout the years. I have a unique idea that combines both the conservation of land as well as memory: I would like to raise funds to construct a jump at Bittersweet Field, inspired by and dedicated to Packy.

Bittersweet Field has been home to SVPC since 1961. The field owns the legacy of the pony club members who have taught and learned at the field for generations. The first time I met Packy was at this field during the Seneca Valley Pony Club Horse Trials. Packy accepted me as a student and wanted to help me improve my riding skills. In fact, I had the pleasure of working with Packy many times throughout the years. The horse that I currently own would not be in my possession without the guiding hand of Packy. After watching a video of Falcon, Packy urged my mother to drive to Atlanta and pick up Falcon, knowing that he could become my

perfect partner. Packy pushed me to become a better rider.

Sadly, in March, our club lost this valuable contributor; not only to the growth of our members but also to the development of both the past and the future of Seneca Valley Pony Club Horse Trials' cross-country course. For many years, Packy also offered insights into the courses at SVPC events. Our club will greatly miss Patrick McGaughan and his thoughtful commentary into the challenges of the 3-day eventing world. Packy enjoyed great accomplishments and notoriety in the equestrian world - becoming a member of the US Equestrian Team and being awarded a gold medal at the Pan Am Games. His "celebrity" in the equestrian community is legend but he always considered Bittersweet field "home".

Shortly before his passing, Packy was at Southern Pines Horse Trials at the Carolina Horse Park, in Raeford, North Carolina, preparing horses for the upcoming eventing season. This was sadly the last show that Packy would attend during his meaningful life. It was there that he admired a Grob jump that excited him; he noted that many riders did not have the understanding of how to negotiate this Derby Style jump and also stated that he thought this type of obstacle would fit in well at Bittersweet. The gymnastic goes from a jump down into a coffin-like slope, just to jump out of it and back into the field. He posted the jump on Facebook, hoping to excite others. Packy thought this type of jump would be useful in developing young horses and challenging the seasoned event horse. Packy's contributions to the cross-country course at Bittersweet should be celebrated, and what a better way than for me to demonstrate my commitment to conservation than to raise the funds needed to build this jump at Bittersweet Field in his memory.

It is not common for course builders to be available to build this type of jump during the busy eventing season. But, COVID-19 has changed that game, and because of the revised event season, our course builder is available now to build this jump, giving it plenty of time to settle before christening it as the "Packy McGaughan Grob Jump" at our fall horse trials.

It is my goal to raise \$5,000 to see this project to completion. Packy was a very special part of the Seneca Family and I cannot think of a better way to honor his memory than the completion of this project and the dedication of the Grob jump.

I need your help to make this goal happen. Your tax-deductible contribution will go towards constructing this jump and honoring Packy. No contribution is too small or too big but I'd be excited to meet this goal with donations of \$20 or more. I am thrilled to be part of this endeavor and hope you will be as well. To make your contribution, simply go to Seneca Valley Pony Club sponsor web page and donate.
<http://www.senecavalleyponyclub.org/donate-to-jump-for-for-packy-mcgaughan.html>

I want to thank you in advance for your generous contribution and I look forward to keeping you up to date with this exciting project as construction proceeds. I hope everyone will cherish this jump in the upcoming horse trials, and keep in mind all of the wonderful horses, students, and trainers who benefitted from Packy's sound tutelage.

If you know anyone that knew of Packy, please pass this email on to them so they can consider donating.

If you have any comments or questions please feel free to email me at aridickey@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Ariana Dickey

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Capital Region has postponed activities for pony club and is operating under guidelines from the State of Maryland (where the majority of our club members live). Once we have information on any activities, we will communicate with our club members.

PONY CLUB LESSONS: CONTACT ANY OF THESE GREAT INSTRUCTORS FOR LESSONS

Chris Donovan: Chris Donovan runs the Area 2 young riders program. Her focus is on enjoying your horse with safety as the key. Chris coaches serious riders through Preliminary, but also enjoys teaching the unrated and D's.

Chris usually teaches three nights a week in the Seneca Valley Pony Club area between 530-9pm. Pony clubbers pay \$30 for a group lesson of up to four kids. Some facilities have a ring fee that they are also responsible for. She will not travel if we don't have at least four kids.

Mondays and Fridays Chris is at Sugarland. They have a \$20 haul in fee per horse. Tuesday or Wednesday depending on weather- Chris is at Bittersweet, Potomac Pony Club field (\$10 from non PPC members), or Woodstock.

Chris Donovan

703-261-3377

Jacquelyn Dickey: Jacquelyn is happy to help anyone at Bittersweet Field upon request. She offers a \$40 Pony Club rate if members come to Bittersweet. To find out more visit Jacquelyn's website. riding-innovations.com. It will be up and going in the next week or so. Happy to help all levels of horse and rider combinations.

Huntboots@gmail.com

401-714-4693

Ema Klugman: Ema Klugman is a longtime member of Seneca Valley Pony Club. She has achieved all three possible "A" ratings: A-traditional, A-show jumping, and A-dressage. She competes successfully at the four-star level and was named this year to the Australian High Performance Next Squad, which develops a pipeline of riders for future world championships and Olympic games. Last year, she graduated magna cum laude from Duke University. She enjoys teaching students of all levels, and also takes horses in for sale or training.

Rates: \$40/pony clubber, minimum two people per lesson

Prefer to teach out of my farm in Clarksburg, MD (dressage, show jumping, and cross country onsite) but can also teach at Seneca and Potomac Pony Club fields.

Contact 202-290-5890 to schedule lessons.

Eliza SanNicolas: Eliza is an instructor at Bascule Farm. She produced her late Quarab mare through Training level eventing and Second Level dressage. She started her current Arabian as a 3 year old and competed through Novice eventing before turning their focus to dressage. These experiences fuel her belief in the potential of every horse and rider pair. Her empathetic and upbeat approach makes lessons fun and positive for all students, whatever their riding goals.

Rates are \$30 for half hour private or \$25/member for hour small group (3-4) or group of 5 for 1hr 15min at Bittersweet or Potomac. Trailer-in lessons at Bascule are \$50 for private half hour or hour group. If members are dual with Potomac PC, Bascule discounts lessons for groups of 3 or more. Unmounted lessons are \$10 a member for hour+ sessions with at least 3 members.

Contact: elizasannico@gmail.com

CLUB LEVEL CERTIFICATIONS

If you are interested in a club level certification, complete a form online on the certifications page of our website for the D1 to C2 levels. Yvonneke Weitzel organizes the club level certifications and can be reached via email at yvonnekeweitzel@gmail.com.

For national certifications, members should visit the USPC website to view available certifications and dates. The national office has canceled several certifications that were on the calendar for 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, so visit the website often for updates on scheduled certifications.

If you are studying for a certification and would like some online mentoring from another SVPC member with experience with certifications, contact Leslie Case at syepdc@gmail.com. She can put you in touch with other members willing to assist in preparation for the certification.

SPECIAL THANKS

Two of our SVPC officers have been going above and beyond for SVPC this spring and summer. Debby Price and Nancy Jones have worked tirelessly to prepare the field, schedule schooling days and apply for a grant for SVPC. Their efforts have been tremendous and have yielded a grant to assist SVPC with the field maintenance costs and have raised over \$11,000 in schooling income for the club. They have also been working with the state and local governments on horse trials planning and logistics. Thank you, Debby and Nancy!!



Submit photos or information for the newsletter to Leslie Case at lesliecase@aol.com.

ZOOM CALL ON FRIDAY, JULY 31 AT 7 PM FOR SVPC PARENTS AND SPONSORS

Join us for a zoom meeting on Friday, July 31 for an update on the club activities and to vote in a nominating committee for 2021. We need a quorum of sponsors on the call for the vote. Please rsvp to secretary Terry LaMotte at tlamotte@nsolv.com

Contact Leslie Case at syepdc@gmail.com if you're interested in serving on the nominating committee with Lauren McBain. The committee can be 3-5 members and Lauren is returning and looking in particular for parents of younger members to assist. Contact DC Leslie if you're interested. The nominating committee comes up with a slate of officers to be voted on at the annual sponsors meeting in the fall.