

MINUTES OF THE DC MEETING FEBRUARY 7, 2004

Despite the icy weather, there was a good turnout for the February DC meeting which was held on Saturday February 7, 2004 at the Gleason Library in Carlisle MA. Attendees included Iris Realmuto, Steve Realmuto, Lucille Beeth, Louise Hara, Jackie Jacobs, Deb Maietta, Karen Marcotte, Deb Titus, Curtis Renner, Kathy Burroughs, Debbie Power, Lisa Brem, Betsey Reeves, Catherine Williams, Lara Hubner, Peggy Knight, Wendy Johnson and Tammy Erickson.

Betsey opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. by greeting the members and giving a brief report of the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. It was great to have so many representatives from our region at the meeting and the pony club members represented us well by assisting in several of the clinics and looking beautiful at the banquet. Betsey suggested that we encourage our pony clubbers to think about the Barn Fair at Festival this summer as another opportunity to share their knowledge and leadership ability.

Karen Marcotte proposed that we elect Audrey Zwicker as Assistant Treasurer, Louise Hara as RIC and Lara Hubner as HMO. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Also, it was announced that Ted/Pete Barnard has resigned as Vice RS due to personal conflicts. He will still run the Dressage Rally and regional equipment coordination.

Next, the Regional Advisors presented their reports. Copies of the reports are attached to these Minutes. C3 Coordinator Tammy Erickson noted that there are a number of changes to the C3 standard this year. Also, there will be a C3 kick off meeting on March 6th at Bear Spot Farm in Concord MA.

Jackie Jacobs and Iris Realmuto provided a Championships update. See the attached report for hotel update, new paperwork etc. According to Iris, the horse transportation cost ranges from \$6300 and up. Plan on approximately \$700 per horse minimum. The commitment letter has been updated. There will be a mandatory HM meeting on July 10th for all Championship qualifiers. A new Quadrille division has been added. There will not be a qualifier required and any clubs with potentially interested riders should speak with the Championship Coordinators as soon as possible. As with other divisions, it is expected that the region will only be able to send one team for Quadrille.

Betsey Reeves reported on the success of the Focus Groups. Positive feedback from the first two focus groups included networking with both small and large clubs, a feeling of not working in a void, sharing of experiences and working together as a group within the region. The next focus group will meet on March 13th at Nashoba Valley Ski area. The topic will be "keeping older pony club members interested". There will also be a focus meeting on Championships on April 3rd and a final focus group meeting on Horse Management immediately following the next DC meeting on May 1st at Nashoba Valley Ski area.

Lara Hubner spoke about Horse Management and the need to keep more UL kids interested by encouraging them to judge at rallies. She asked that each club pick 3 mature, strong kids that might be interested in judging and have them contact Lara with the hopes that this will help draw more kids into the program. There are new Rally evaluation forms which should be copied as two separate pages. The HM Clinic will be held on April 10th. It is still in the planning stages but Lara hopes to organize a mock rally based on feedback from the clubs. A number of ideas were tossed around such as having stations for the various aspects of a rally and having demonstrations for each portion, dividing kids into teams with an experienced coach for each team, having one set of tack, equipment etc for each team, running the clinic as an actual horseless rally, etc. It was recommended that Lara form a committee to help organize the clinic. Finally, Lara would like to have a raffle for horse management and brought up several ideas such as having each club donate an item (\$25 to \$50 in value) and entering all perfect tack and turnout competitors and/or horse managers and drawing items at each rally for immediate gratification. Or, possibly entering the Horse Managers only as an extra incentive to participate as an HM at rallies. It was also suggested that clubs do something on the club level. More discussions will continue at the HM Focus group on May 1st.

Judy Pelis was not able to attend due to the weather but she will be coordinating the insurance for the region. Any questions or additional locations or updates should go to Judy.

Louise Hara submitted her report as the RIC. There is a huge amount of curriculum that has already been developed nationally. Louise will gladly come out and speak with your club about developing a curriculum, updated flow charts, new Standards etc if you give her a call. She also asked each club to fill out a questionnaire (attached) to help update the Resource list.

Our Treasurer Curtis Renner, asked that people fill in the memo on checks sent to him so he knows what the check is for since he has gotten some checks with no cover note for identification.

An Upper Level update was submitted by Deb Maietta. The B test is not going to be offered by our Region so it is even more important that candidates send in their paperwork early so they can reserve a spot. Her report lists the upcoming clinics and preps as well as deadlines for rsvps. A teaching clinic has been added for April 24th. There is a potential conflict between games and the C2 lunging clinic. Deb is happy to take anyone on in the C3 lunging clinic, so long as that meets with Tammy's approval, and so long as they rsvp by the reply date of March 15th. It was proposed and unanimously approved that the Mt. Holyoke Prep be mandatory for all UL candidates. Anticipated costs are listed in her report. ULs should budget \$450 for the UL clinic in July, which includes stabling and two meals daily for attendees, and \$275 for the clinic in May. Deposits for clinics need to be in by March 15th. A full notice will be going out within the next two weeks with more details for the ULs. A National Examiner booked by the region will be available for Monday of Memorial Day weekend at a nominal rate for the day if any club would like to use her services. Speak to Deb before Feb 29th to reserve her.

Iris Realmuto reported that the website has more disk space now. Also there are a number of different mailing lists available. She will make a master list available. Also in order to receive messages on the regional email list you have to be on the list yourself. Otherwise the message will be forwarded by Iris. It was clarified that full names will be used when listing rally results since there is no other identifying information. No names will be used at all in conjunction with pictures.

Esther Short was not able to attend due to the inclement weather but she passed along the information regarding the Jr. Board. They will be getting together in February to organize, discuss clinics, communication, reimbursements and coordination for Quiz Rally.

The next DC meeting will be on May 1st at 10:00 at Nashoba Valley Ski area (use tubing park entrance off 2A). The focus group will meet immediately following the DC meeting.

Following lunch, the topic of discussion was the Eventing Rally. After much discussion the four options in order of preference appear to be holding the qualifying rally at King Oak on 5/8 and 5/9 if we can get spots reserved for potential qualifiers; holding the rally at GMHA if they can guarantee spaces for qualifiers; holding a full C Rally at Kingsbury Hill on 6/5 since we have that weekend reserved anyway and finally, holding Eventing Rally and Show Jumping Rally back to back on June 19 and 20 at Appleknoll (limited area for useage on Saturday). Betsey and Lisa Brem will make calls to the sanctioned events. Rockingham, Overlook and Groton will host. Any potential qualifiers will also need an affidavit from either Huntington, GMHA, King Oak or Groton House. More to follow.

Denise Galejs will investigate the cost for CNER shirts in dark blue, with the CNE logo in white, front & back, shooting for a price of under \$23.00. She will let us know by the next meeting. Kathy Burroughs will get a copy of a patch to Denise Galejs so she can order more-possibly to sell as a fundraiser at rallies. Deb will check with Audrey to find out about the pin supplier.

Louisa McKown is coordinating the Ponyclub Reunion to be held at Groton House this year. All DCs should forward any alumni (grad & non-grad) information for this event to Mary Pierson at communications@ponyclub.org or Marian Vester at development@ponyclub.org

For the May meeting, topics will include fundraising ideas for Championships, scholarships and education funds, the Nominating Committee, discussion of dues, and policy revisions. Louise Hara and Wendy Johnson will work on the estimated costs to attend Championships to help assist in determining an equitable Regional contribution for qualifiers. With regards to policies, do the current policies do what we want them to? If, not, what changes would you like to see? Please email Betsey with thoughts for the next meeting

The meeting adjourned at 3:05.