

# MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

**February 7, 2009**

The first 2009 Regional Council meeting was held at the Gleason Library in Carlisle MA on February 7, 2009 at 10:30. The following members attended: Chris Daly, Beth Platt, Heather Ricard, Esther Lutz, Debbie Power, Lelo Reeves Curtis, Janet Oliver, Laura Smith, Krystine O'Connor, Elaine Brazeau, Sarah Robinson, Karen Marcotte, Wendy Johnson, Curtis Renner, Shelly Patrick, Elizabeth Kohler, Sara Michas, and Betsey Reeves.

Betsey opened the meeting by having the DCs introduce themselves. There were several new faces in the group and she welcomed all the new DCs and Jt-DCs. She also commented on how great it was to see Jericho Forest represented at the table again.

Betsey began by summarizing some of the highlights of the Annual Meeting in Greenville SC. At the Meeting there was a lot of discussion about changes to USPC, what the future of Pony Club might be, and how Pony Club needs to change to accommodate today's children. Betsey urged DCs to give feedback to the National Office when topics come up on the DC Digest. Some of the discussions at the Meeting revolved around Horse Management, incorporating games, inter-club and inter-regional activities. These are things our region has been doing all along. Check out the Horse Management website at [hm.cne.ponyclub.org](http://hm.cne.ponyclub.org) for ideas about games, "ponytube" and horse management tidbits. There are also links to other interesting sites.

Next, Betsey reminded the Riding Centers that membership dues should be paid by parents' personal checks. It was suggested that the Centers collect the checks and mail them to the National Office all at once, so they have a record of who has paid. Traditional clubs should continue to send a club check for dues. Also, DCs were reminded to update the National Office right away when a member changes ratings. An update should also be sent to Betsey. Be sure to send any checks to our new Treasurer Beth Platt.

As of Championships 2008, all rally competitors are now required to wear an armband with their Medical Release Form at all times during a Rally. It was decided that at Quiz Rally, the participants would keep their Releases in their name tags. Participants need to send in two copies of their Medical Release form from now on. In the case of Quiz Rally, one copy will go in the name badge, courtesy of the organizer, but at other rallies the kids should bring their own arm bands with their Medical Releases. The rally organizer will include the second MR copy with the club packets in case someone forgets to bring their armband, and the Release can always be pinned to their arm (not literally) in a baggie if necessary. Betsey is going to look into purchasing armbands at a better rate than the USPC bookstore. If anyone else has a source, please let her know. If possible, we will sell them at Quiz Rally this year. Just as an aside, for Championships, the Medical Releases will be printed online for the National Office.

Karen Marcotte advised the group that the Standards have been revised this year, from the Ds up. Starting at the C3 level the candidates must be familiar with the USDF brochure discussing the "Pyramid of Training". All UL candidates need to be sure they print out a copy. It is available on the USDF website and Karen is going to send it over to Iris to post on the CNE website.

At the Annual Meeting, Wentworth Pony Club was awarded a 25 year anniversary plaque. Betsey delivered the plaque to Janet Oliver. Kate Erickson received the Cavalry Award at the Annual Meeting and congratulations were extended to her as well.

Finally, Championships will be held in Lexington VA this year from July 23-26. Festival has been moved to 2011 due to the World Equestrian Games in 2010.

Next on the Agenda was Rally updates.

Show Jumping Rally will be held on May 24<sup>th</sup> and will be open to all levels. Karen asked if we wanted to award regional ribbons for equitation and it was agreed that we should. Also, there is a contest to design a shirt for the show jumping rally. Any member who would like to submit a design is asked to mail, email or scan their design and send it to Karen Marcotte by April 1.

Games Rally will have move in date on Saturday and offer Junior, Senior, and Advanced divisions. Advanced has 4 man teams now and the age limit is 18. Please be sure to download any new rulebooks and the 2009 Newsletter for each discipline. These are located on the USPC website.

Eventing Rally is moving along. This year the rally will be held at Valinor. Beth Platt will be looking for parent volunteers, and will need to coordinate trailers and parking carefully due to space constraints. More information will follow.

Dressage Rally is also in good shape, but Shelly Patrick is looking for another local Dressage judge. She is going to check with the discipline organizer to see if the judge has to be an R. Please send any recommendations for judges to Shelly. Karen suggested checking out the USPC website ([www.ponyclub.org](http://www.ponyclub.org)) and clicking "disciplines" to find out more information on scoring, judges, study hints etc.

Tetrathlon Rally has not been organized at this point. There are possibly enough competitors to form a CNE team to compete in NJ. Interested DCs will need to try to coordinate.

Non Qualifying Eventing Rally will be held on September 13<sup>th</sup> at Green Acres in NH.

Quiz Rally will be held shortly. Sara Michas is looking for help with scoring. Anyone interested should contact her as soon as possible. The theme is "sea creatures" this year if any club wants to submit their own name. Squamscott would like to have a used tack sale at the rally. Anyone with items to sell should tag them with club name and money will go back to the club. It was suggested that any left over items go to Nevins Farm (MSPCA).

Finally, Debbie Power announced that the Standards Clinic will be held at Shepley Hill Farm in Groton on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Nancy Grout will be the Clinician. Anyone with interested demo riders should contact Debbie as soon as possible. We will need a couple of riders from each level. Ds and possibly up to C2 will ride in the morning from 9-12 and we will show DVDs with Upper Level riders starting at 1 pm. Clubs should encourage carpooling due to limited parking. Food will be offered by the UL candidates. There is no charge and parents and instructors are encouraged to attend.

Next on the Agenda was Upper Level ratings and prep updates.

Wendy Johnson announced the HBs will have a prep on tack, February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Dover Saddlery Tack Shop in Plaistow NH. Also, HB and HA candidates are urged to attend the D3/C1 Conformation Clinic next weekend at UNH. Any candidates who wish to rate this year must send their applications for the HB and C3 to Wendy by March 20<sup>th</sup> in order to test. The HB test will be at UNH on July 11 and the Traditional C3 will be at Shepley Hill Farm in Groton on August 22. The Dressage C3, B and A will be held on August 23 in Groton. Wendy also asked DCs to help prepare their HB candidates by encouraging them to teach unmounted club meetings this winter. DCs will need to sign off on this requirement on the test application. Also, there will be a requirement to participate in land conservation. Karen Marcotte will have more information on this topic after she attends the National Examiners meeting. Karen mentioned checking out the website [www.elcr.org](http://www.elcr.org) (equine land conservation resource) for additional ideas.

Next, Lelo Curtis announced the C3 prep schedule for the year. There will be a bandaging clinic at Shepley on March 21. Candidates should bring their own bandaging material but not horses. There will be a lunging clinic on April 4<sup>th</sup> and candidates should bring their horses to this prep. April 18, May 16, July 1 and July 23 there will be mounted clinics with various instructors. Details will be forthcoming. Also Shepley Hill will be offering Jumper nights on Thursday evenings for \$10 a class starting on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

There was no coordinator for the UL program at this meeting, but there will be a B test offered with White Mountain Region at UNH on August 8 and an A test on August 9th. CNE will also host an H, H/A test on July 17-19 in Groton MA. The UL program is running a food booth fundraiser at the Standards Clinic. They will be holding one day prep clinics in May and June with a prep camp at UNH July 9-12. Applications for the rating need to be mailed to Allison Blood by March 20th.

The next Regional Council meeting will be held on May 2 at the Tubing Park. Be sure to check the CNE website for calendar updates.

As the meeting wound down, Betsey asked if anyone was interested in having a focus group. Several people suggested we start a Regional Digest and Curtis volunteered to set it up and host it. Curtis also volunteered to coordinate the Pony club insurance. Please email Curtis a list of the locations you have already insured or plan to insure so he can coordinate to see if they are already insured.

Finally, a motion was made for the Region to cover the cost of entry fees for Championships in 2009. During discussion it appeared that we needed to check with the treasurers to verify fund availability. The motion was tabled and will need to be revisited at the next Regional Council Meeting.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 12:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Johnson  
Regional Secretary

## Calendar of Events for 2009

| DATE/TIME          | EVENT   | HOST   | LOCATION  |
|--------------------|---|--|---|
| February 14 1-3 pm | D3/C1 Clinic Conformation<br>Laurie Chapman Bosco   | D3/C1 Program                                    | UNH<br>Durham NH  |
| February 28 6-8 pm | HB Prep-Tack  | HB/C3 Program                                    | Dover Saddlery<br>16 Atkinson Depot Rd, Rt. 121<br>Plaistow, NH 03865<br>603-382-4000 |
| March 7            | D3/C1 Clinic --"legs"<br>Allie Hayes<br>all levels are welcome  | D3/C1 Program                                    | TBA   |
| March 15           | Standards Clinic  | Nashoba Valley                                   | Shepley Hill Farm<br>122 Old Ayer Rd Groton MA  |
| March 20           | Regional deadline for UL testing<br>applications-<br><br>HB/C3 go to Wendy Johnson<br>B, A H/HA go to Allison Blood | UL Program                                       | n/a   |
| March 21           | C3 Bandaging Clinic   | HB/C3 Program                                    | Shepley Hill Farm<br>122 Old Ayer Rd Groton MA  |
| March 28           | Quiz Rally  | Jordan Stables, Pegasus,<br>Pentucket and Hybrid | Curtis Middle School<br>Sudbury MA  |
| April ?            | Mock Rally  | Jordan Stables                                   | Jordan Stables Riding Center<br>339 Boston Post Road<br>Marlborough MA                |
| April 4 10-2       | C3 Lunging Clinic   | HB/C3 Program                                    | Shepley Hill Farm<br>122 Old Ayer Rd Groton MA  |
| April 18           | C3 Mounted Prep   | HB/C3 Program                                    | Shepley Hill Farm<br>122 Old Ayer Rd Groton MA  |
| May 2 10:00 am     | Regional Council Meeting  | CNER   | Nashoba Tubing Park<br>Westford MA  |
| May 16             | C3 Mounted Prep   | HB/C3 Program                                    | Shepley Hill Farm<br>122 Old Ayer Rd Groton MA  |
| May 24             | Show Jumping Rally<br>Qualifier   | Rockingham                                       | Brookvale Pine Farm (The Tack<br>Shack) Fremont NH                                    |
| May 30-31          | Games Rally   | Overlook and<br>Merrimack River                  | Topsfield Fairgrounds<br>Topsfield MA   |
| June 13-14         | Qualifying Eventing Rally   | ONB  | Valinor Horse Trials<br>Plymouth MA   |
| June 27-29         | Dressage Rally Qualifier  | Squamscott PC                                    | UNH Durham NH   |
| July 1             | C3 Mounted Prep   | HB/C3 Program                                    | Shepley Hill Farm<br>122 Old Ayer Rd Groton MA  |
| July 9-12          | UL Prep camp  | UL Program                                       | UNH Durham NH   |
| July 11            | HB test   | CNE/USPC   | UNH Durham NH   |
| July 17-19         | H, H/A test   | USPC   | Shepley Hill Farm<br>122 Old Ayer Rd Groton MA  |
| July 23-26         | Championships   | USPC   | Lexington VA  |
| July 29            | C3 Mounted Prep   | HB/C3 Program                                    | Shepley Hill Farm<br>122 Old Ayer Rd Groton MA  |
| Aug 8-9            | A & B test-traditional  | White Mtn Region                                 | UNH Durham NH   |
| Aug 22             | C3 test-traditional   | CNE  | Shepley Hill Farm<br>122 Old Ayer Rd Groton MA  |
| Aug 23             | A, B, & C3 Dressage Specialty Test  | CNE  | Shepley Hill Farm<br>122 Old Ayer Rd Groton MA  |
| September 13       | NQ Eventing Rally   | Wentworth  | Green Acres Farm<br>Madbury, NH   |
| October 4          | D Rally   | Groton   | Groton Fairgrounds<br>Groton MA   |
| November ?         | Regional Council Annual Meeting   | CNE  | TBA   |

\*\* Current dates are subject to change, check calendar often