

MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

April 10, 2010

The Central New England Regional Council meeting was held at the Nashoba Valley Ski Area in Westford MA on April 10, 2010 at 10:00. The following members attended: Iris Realmuto, Beth Platt, Heather Dostal, Allison Blood, Julie Koss-Stephany, Amanda Ellis, Elaine Brazeau, Wendy Johnson, Curtis Renner, Rita-Marie McConnon, Laura Smith, Krystine O'Connor, Kathy Roberts, Elena Wohl, Michelle Borden, Debbie Power and Betsey Reeves.

Betsey opened the meeting by welcoming the new DC with Pegasus Pony Club, Kathy Roberts. She proceeded to thank Amanda Ellis who agreed to organize the Quiz Rally at the last minute. She did a great job pulling it all together and may actually be willing to do it again next year (if it's in the Minutes it must be true). Also thanks to the other clubs that volunteered to host the different sections of the rally. Betsey reminded everyone that pony club is a volunteer organization and that we appreciate and need to respect all those who donate their time, services and facilities to the region. She also announced that she will not be continuing as RS next year and needs someone to step up and be RS for next year.

Next on the agenda was a status check on the upcoming rallies and activities. The Horse Management Rally went well and had good feedback. The kids liked the Mock Rally format and it was a good experience for the new members as well as their more experienced team mates. It was suggested we do it more often. We can hold a mock rally anytime, someone just has to volunteer to organize and host it. Clubs are welcome to hold their own interclub mini horseless rallies as well. It was also recommended that younger kids should go to rallies with older members, possibly from other clubs if necessary, so they can learn the ropes. Junior Pony Club is an excellent opportunity to bring in younger kids and some clubs are already offering the Badge Program.

The Show Jumping Rally will be held on June 5th in Fremont NH. Rockingham is hosting and information should be going out shortly.

Eventing Qualifier only has a few entries and may need to go to one day if they don't receive more entries ASAP. Beth advised that Valinor is working out well as a location for the qualifier.

Sue Beliveau may want to coordinate a group to go to White Mtn. Region for Tetrathlon. Contact her if you have any interested members.

Games Rally is moving along and officials are all lined up. Entry for is posted online and HM will be judged overnight.

Dressage entry will also be posted online and everyone agreed that this is a great rally for overnight and Championship experience. New members are always welcome to audit rallies or try to match up with an experienced rallier. Small clubs are encouraged to hold mini rallies for practice and can also join together for interclub practices.

Championship qualification was next on the agenda. The region agreed unanimously that the Quiz qualifiers that want to go to Championships in another discipline should be considered as alternates until they know how they will qualify. Julie will send in the entry and try to send a second team as well.

Elaine and Amanda want to do a fox hunting clinic, simulating a hunt. ONB may do a hound walk. Beth will try to coordinate with them to do something at Foss Farm in Carlisle.

The Upper Level Camp will be held at UNH in July. Allison will provide a price range and determine cost based on the final head count. It has been hard for her to plan since the UL numbers are down this year. A cancellation fee will need to be included.

Betsey has a Rolex ticket if anyone is interested in going. It must be used for a pony club member.

Once again, Betsey reminded DCs to give her a copy of their club policies as soon as possible.

Beth reminded rally organizers to submit transmittals with their rally reimbursement requests. Also, please give her notice at least a week in advance if you need checks on a timely basis.

Remember to use medical armbands at all mounted functions including mounted meetings, ratings, clinics and preps.

\$455 from Quiz Rally has been raised towards Championships so far this year. There was some discussion about how the money will be distributed. Should the money from each Rally go towards Championship competitors from that rally, should all the money we save each year be dispersed at the end of the year to those who went to Championships, should we just build up the funds and pay for everyone once there is enough money again, or should we just use it for scholarships? Although there was no official vote, the general consensus was to wait until the end of rally season and then divide the funds among all the qualifiers. The amount would not be determined until after Championships, possibly at the Annual Meeting. There will also be a scholarship fund available in addition for those in need of financial assistance. They should contact Beth or Betsey for more information.

Beth Platt mentioned that she had spoken with Jeff Brem regarding a combination golf fundraiser and social event to be held at the Meadow Creek Golf Club in Dracut MA. It looks like the fall might work best, possibly a Saturday or Sunday night dinner with a small silent auction, golf available for those who are interested during the day. Emphasis would be on the social aspect. October 17th was mentioned as a possible date.

We still need to look into using the Long fund for educational programs.

Julie Koss-Stephany will contact the Equine Affaire organizers to see if we can do a Ponyclub session.

Finally, September 11th was selected as the date for the next regional council meeting. The Annual Meeting was rescheduled for November 20th to avoid a conflict with the Equine Affaire.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 1:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Johnson
Regional Secretary