

MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

May 2, 2009

The Spring 2009 Regional Council meeting was held at the Nashoba Valley Tubing Park in Westford MA on May 2, 2009 at 10:00. The following members attended: Julie Koss-Stephany, Iris Realmuto, Lisa Doyle, Helen Robinson, Ruth Colburn, Tom Tellier, Allison Blood, Debbie Power, Krystine O'Connor, Elaine Brazeau, Sarah Robinson, Wendy Johnson, Curtis Renner, Shelly Patrick, Sara Michas, and Betsey Reeves.

Betsey opened the meeting by reminding everyone to try to arrive on time so we can get to the business at hand and leave on a timely basis. Central New England now has 14 clubs and 3 centers, the newest being Cedarbrook Riding Center. The Annual Directory now lists Riding Centers along with the clubs in the regional section of the directory. Betsey remind us the CNE region is a very vibrant region without many of the problems other regions in the country are experiencing. We are growing and active thanks to everyone's efforts to make this an awesome region.

The first report of the day was Upper Level. Allison Blood reminded DCs that Nancy Grout is coming to teach on May 31st and kids need to get their applications to her by May 15th. She would hate to have to cancel the clinic due to lack of attendance. The clinic is open to C3 candidates as well and she may open it to all Cs if there are openings. Riding or lunging instruction is offered. Details are on the CNE website. The UL camp is scheduled for July 9 through 12 with move in on Wednesday night. They are in need of mounted students for the H/HAs to teach so if DCs can let their D members know, this is a great opportunity for them to bring their ponies and help out the UL candidates. Please let Allison know as soon as possible. Also, there is a need for housing options for UL kids coming from other regions. If anyone has room to put up a candidate for a few days, please call Allison. The UL camps are open to anyone in the region, even if they do not plan to rate this year. Also, they are planning a Sue Winslade clinic. Sue is also offering retreats for students, instructors and trainers at New Gait Farm if anyone is interested in getting a small group together. She has information on her website. Finally, the region is hosting an H/HA testing in Groton on July 17-19. There are 12 candidates. Allison is looking for volunteers to assist the candidates. They will need student riders, horse holders and general volunteers. It is an excellent opportunity for future H/HA candidates to attend and see how this rating is held first hand. Traditionally testings in the past were hosted by an individual club. They saw to the food and accommodations etc. If this could happen again, it would be greatly appreciated. Please let Allison know if you are interested.

Next was the C3 Program update. A bandaging clinic and a lunging clinic have been offered so far. Several mounted clinics are scheduled over the next few months. Unfortunately the April clinic had to be cancelled due to lack of participation. The C3s have an opportunity to attend the Nancy Grout Clinic, a Lori Underwood clinic hosted by Rockingham, and a Richard Lamb Clinic, all offered in May. There will be one clinic in June and two final clinics in July. The rating is August 22 and 23. The region discussed participation and agreed that the candidates need to attend 50% of the preps, or present a plan to the coordinator showing their prep program.

The HB Program has also been moving along. We have held several indoor preps with Karen Marcotte and a barn prep with Stephanie LeCours. The candidates also had an opportunity to attend all the D3/C1 programs this year which covered many of the topics

on the HB standard. There will be an HB one day camp on June 6 at UNH. We received requests from surrounding regions to open the camp to other candidates. At this point there are 5-6 CNE members and 8-10 candidates from Southeastern, Northeast, Western NE and NY/Upper CT regions attending. At this point there are 9 CNE candidates and 3 from out of region scheduled for the rating on July 11th. We will need to have 12 unmounted students on that day for approximately one hour. Last year the teaching portion of the test was scheduled for right after lunch and we will know this year's schedule shortly. Hopefully some of the students can coordinate with Allison to ride at the mounted teaching session on Saturday as well. There is no charge for this opportunity to learn and to help the upper level members achieve their rating. Please let Wendy know if you are interested in the unmounted session.

The question was raised as to what we should do about late applications. Both the UL and C3/HB programs have to make decisions based on attendance as to whether it is financially feasible to hold a clinic. Unless there is enough attendance it is often not possible to pay the clinician. This decision obviously has to be made on a timely basis based on applications. For both programs, applications or RSVPs have been late in arriving. A bigger question is what to do about late applications for the actual rating. The National Office has a deadline and will absolutely not make exceptions if the deadline is missed. The region sets an earlier deadline because we have to correct errors, redo incorrect checks, get all missing signatures etc and applications all get sent to the NO after Betsey signs off on them. The deadline has been March 20th to the organizer. There was a very late application this year and Betsey wanted to discuss developing a policy with the region to deal with the additional expense involved and also to enforce the deadline. The region agreed informally that there should be a \$10 charge for this year to cover the additional expense of overnighting the application. Subject to a vote at the fall meeting, the council agreed that there should be a fairly hefty late penalty such as \$50 for any applications received after April 1st.

Next on the agenda was Championships and fund raising. Five years ago we agreed to pay for the entry fees for Champs. Now we have no money left. We will pay for this year because we are obligated at this point, but we need to discuss whether we want to pay in the future and if so, how we can raise funds. Elaine was going to look into grants, Julie was going to check with one of her contacts to see about sponsorship and Sara Michas offered to gather fundraising ideas if people can email her. One suggestion was to raise regional dues by \$10. Curtis pointed out that 200 members multiplied by \$10 is still only \$2000 and we need at least \$7000 or more. Someone else suggested adding a \$10 fee to the rally entry cost. **A motion was made to raise the regional dues by \$5 for 2010 which would bring them up from \$10 to \$15. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Mileage reimbursement was addressed next. Our current policy was to reimburse at the IRS rate which is \$.55 for 2009. This figure is making it prohibitive to pay clinicians to travel from a long distance. The current USPC rate is \$.25. **Iris made a motion to amend the mileage reimbursement rate to whatever the National Office is paying on a yearly basis, which this year is \$.25 per mile. Deb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

Betsey reminded DCs to notify Beth Platt ahead of time regarding required checks and reimbursement for rallies and clinics. Please plan ahead to help the treasurer, and be sure to use the expense reimbursement and budget forms that can be found on the CNE website.

Curtis Renner is coordinating the regional insurance. Please let him know what sites you have listed so he can coordinate and not have to pay for duplicate coverage. Check with him before you insure a location so he can check to see if it is already in the system.

Betsey asked if anyone has any interest in reviving the Dressage Program. There did not seem to be any interest at this time.

A mandatory championship meeting was tentatively scheduled for 7:00 on Thurs July 9th at UNH. If it turns out that the majority of qualifiers can meet at a different location, the meeting can be relocated. However, a meeting is mandatory to go over the rules, regional expectations, coordinate the BBQ and hospitality, and to hand out shirts, pins and saddle pads etc.

Iris commented on how early the rally entry forms were being sent to the region. Please be sure to send your entry information back to the Rally Organizers as soon as possible, or email them with an approximate headcount, so they know if there will be enough teams to compete. Also, rally entry information can be sent to neighboring regions as well. Shelley hopes to hear from DCs soon regarding the Dressage Rally.

The Games Rally organizers reported that they have permission to waive the senior age 15/C1 rule at regional rally.

Arm bands are now required at all rallies. There will be a supply for sale at the Show Jumping Rally.

CNE has been holding assets from the Catherine Long Fund, which is to be used to fund educational programs. Deb Power is going to inquire into applying for the funds. We would like to apply for the funds and use them to offset the costs of our four educational programs - UL, C3, HB and D3/C1. The idea is to apply the Long Fund money to the education programs and then reallocate the \$2000 we budgeted for those programs to use for Championships funding this year. Deb will follow up.

Iris advised she will be revamping the CNE website shortly.

The next Regional Council Meeting is scheduled for Saturday September 19th at the Tubing Park. The Annual Meeting will be held on November 21st.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 12:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Johnson
Regional Secretary