

## MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

July 16, 2005

The summer Regional Council meeting was held at the Nashoba Valley Tubing Park on July 16, 2005 at 10:00. In attendance were the following members: Karen Marcotte, Lara Hubner, Esther Short, Lucille Beeth, Louise Hara, Steve Wilkins, Steve Realmuto, Iris Realmuto, Wendy Johnson, Judy Pelis, Peggy Knight, Lisa Brem, Deb Maietta, Christina Keim, Catherine Williams and Betsey Reeves.

Introductions were made and we welcomed new Jt DC for Groton, Steve Wilkins. His email address is [raswilkins@yahoo.com](mailto:raswilkins@yahoo.com). Please add him to your Regional Council list, replacing Lauren Chenelle.

First on the Agenda was a report on the rallies. **Eventing Rally** was very successful and qualified a full Training Team and scramble Novice Team. It was agreed that King Oak works well as a location due to the fact that the event is already organized as a USEA event and involves minimum organization on our part. In return, we are required to provide parent volunteers the days of the event. We will continue with this arrangement as long as we can. **Games Rally** was held as an overnight at Topsfield Fairgrounds and 3 regions were represented. The rally went smoothly by all accounts and we qualified a junior and senior games team for Nationals. **Dressage Rally** was held at UNH. Swampscott did an excellent job of organizing and running the rally which went from Saturday through Monday. There were fewer teams than previous years. Chris says that while this was nice for the participants we really need 10 teams to break even and 12 is an ideal number. A full Training Level team plus a scramble rider qualified for Championships. **Show Jumping Rally** was held at Mt Holyoke and was again run very well. There was a discussion about whether the middle ring should have jumped inside after jumping outside and it was agreed by DCs that it was a good experience for the competitors. We had several Show Jumping Championship qualifiers as well. **Tetrathlon** was our new rally for the year. There were a small number of competitors but feedback was very good and some suggestions were made to tweek the format in future years. **A motion was made by Lisa Brem to hold a qualifying Tetrathlon Rally in fall of 2006 hosted by Old North Bridge.** The motion was seconded by Peggy Knight and passed unanimously. In the meantime, potential qualifiers should make plans to either compete this fall in the New Jersey area Tet Rally, or in the spring rally usually hosted by White Mountain Region. It will be important for DCs to pass this information on to interested members as soon as possible so they can plan ahead. It was also suggested that we hold some prep clinics in the fall and winter for those interested in Tetrathlon.

Upcoming rallies include Non-qualifying Dressage Rally, Non-qualifying Eventing Rally and D Rally. There was some discussion about changing the order of stadium and cross country at the D Rally. One thought was to keep the cross country first to stay with tradition and to aid in scoring. Another thought was to have D1s and D2s ride stadium first to establish their safety level. After discussion, the Council agreed to leave the

decision up to the organizer to determine which way would be most efficient timewise for scheduling.

Rockingham is still planning to host a mini Games Rally in the fall, but the August date had to be changed. New time and location will be announced when determined, probably mid-September.

We talked about the tight June schedule and will table further discussion until the next meeting, but in general, most of the June rallies are held in deference to the location's availability, and a lot of this is out of our control. Possibly we could consider having qualifying Games and Tet in the fall to free up the June schedule. More discussion will be necessary.

Next on the Agenda was the Championship Report. There are 35 qualifiers going for Quiz, Games, Eventing, Dressage and Show Jumping. The Regional Championship Prep meeting was held immediately following the Council meeting and the day wrapped up with a Regional BBQ. Shirts, pins, hats and saddle pads were also distributed by Jackie Jacobs. See her if you have any questions.

Next there was an update of the C3 Program. Betsey explained that since Tammy is no longer the C3 Co-ordinator, she is now trying to get the program back on track. Jamie Ferry and Audrey Zwicker are assisting. There will just be one rating held in August due to the cost and lack of candidates in July. She explained that apparently neither the examiners nor locations had been confirmed ahead of time, but that she is putting it all together now and has assured us that the rating will still be held on August 20-21 as planned. The C3 candidates were able to attend the UL camp at Kingsbury Hill in May, the C3 Camp at Kingsbury Hill in June and the Mt Holyoke Camp in July. There is a possibility of an upcoming cross country clinic and more details will be forthcoming.

The UL Program was next. Deb Maietta reported that the Mt. Holyoke Prep was awesome, great team work with all the parents sharing and working together. Feedback sheets will go to the DCs. There was further discussion about the upcoming UL ratings-should the region chip in to offset the cost where we are not hosting this year? Originally more kids were expected to rate, now with numbers down NY/Upper CT wants us to help with some of the expenses. Also, we'll need to help with the A test which may now be held at Mt Holyoke. The suggestion was to see what the additional costs will be and divide them up proportionately among the regions on a participation basis. Judy will be responsible for this. Overall it was agreed that we should do everything we can to support our UL candidates and help them avoid having to travel long distances for ratings if we can keep them in this area.

Next, Karen Marcotte handed out detailed information about the 2008 Annual Meeting for everyone to read at their convenience. She passed around a sign up sheet for people who would like to help her organize further. Please email her if you did not sign up but are interested in helping. [karenmarcotte@aol.com](mailto:karenmarcotte@aol.com)

There was no additional information to report at this time regarding the Leadership Seminar. We will try to arrange for our Annual Council Meeting to be held in conjunction with the Leadership Seminar. Our next regional council meeting will address issues in anticipation of the Annual Meeting.

Miscellaneous items on the Agenda for discussion included the annual calendar fundraiser. Deb Titus is the new "Calendar Girl". Please email your club calendar page to her at [dwtitus@comcast.net](mailto:dwtitus@comcast.net). Also, a brief discussion of our policy for refunds for scratches at rallies and other programs. It was thought that we should not offer refunds after the "closing date" but in some cases there isn't a clear closing date so we will need to discuss this topic further at the next meeting. The "Flash" Contest is closing soon. A trophy is being donated for the winning horse. More details are found on the ponyclub website. Also, Judy Pelis wanted to let people know that Mt. Holyoke is holding their Jumper Series August 28<sup>th</sup> for those who are interested. More information is found on the Mt. Holyoke website. DCs should give some thought to what they would like to cover at fall and winter focus group meetings.

Finally, we will be putting on a mounted demonstration at the Equine Affaire this November. The theme is "Pony Club Through the Ages" and we'd like to have several well rounded horses that can be used by different riders to demonstrate the various pony club rating levels, the disciplines we represent, and other aspects of pony club. We will also bring the equine digestive tract and welcome other suggestions any one has to offer. Those who want to be on an organizing committee should contact Betsey.

**The next Council meeting will be held at the Nashoba Tubing Park at 10:00 a. m. on September 24<sup>th</sup>.**

At 12:20, with the arrival of the Championship competitors, we adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Johnson  
Regional Secretary