



The Central New England Scoop



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Volume 13

The Newsletter of the Central New England Region, USPC, Inc.
cne.ponyclub.org

COMING UP

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| Feb. 5 | D3/C1 Conformation Clinic 2:00 pm
Barton Hall UNH Durham NH |
| Feb. 11 | C3/UL Prep Meeting 6:00 pm
Johnson Residence Nashua NH |
| Feb. 12 | DC Meeting 10:00 am
Groton Library Groton MA |

NOTES FROM THE RS

Here's hoping everyone had a great holiday season and that you aren't all totally snowed in with all this snow!

The USPC Annual Meeting in New Orleans was a lot of fun. Those Southerners certainly know how to throw a party! There was lots to learn as well with a great variety of workshops available for all ages. The CNER delegate to the Youth Congress was Katie Biery and she looked like she was having quite a good time meeting other delegates from around the country and the Academy of Achievement nominees as well. That is such a wonderful program and CNER has been fortunate over the years that we have been able to send many delegates.

We just had another Focus Group, the topic being Camps, which Lisa Brem was kind enough to host at her house. This was followed by a very exciting introduction to Tetrathalon which was attended by many members. CNER is planning to host a Tetrathalon competition this year, and it looks like that will be a popular rally!

January can be a bit of a down time for riders, but I hope all you pony club members are taking advantage of the quiet time to prepare for Quiz, or do some unmounted work towards the upcoming rating season. There have been some very educational sessions hosted in the

region for all members from D-3 on up, and there are still more on the calendar.

Saturday the 12th will be the next DC Council meeting. It will be at the Groton Public Library and we have a number of topics to cover, so I hope all you DC's will be able to be there. While at the Annual Meeting, I gave a talk to the other RS's about our Focus Groups, how they evolved, and what they have done for the region; making it even stronger, with more inter club activities, improved communication, and the new D-3/C-1 Program. I am happy to report that many other RS's were interested to know how we had accomplished this. It was very invigorating for me to see others wanting to learn how they too could have open discussions about topics that were concerns within their regions.

USPC ANNUAL MEETING

This year the USPC Annual Meeting was held in New Orleans LA. The going was a little rough for a handful of us who, along with the White Mountain Region kids, had our flights cancelled due to the weather and missed a day trying to get to the meeting. But once we were there it was worth the aggravation! The City of New Orleans was a fun place to visit (No details please-in order to protect the innocent). The workshops were interesting and varied and a lot of new information was shared regarding upcoming changes to ratings system and specialty tracks being developed on a National level. There was lots of good food and the Deep South Region treated us to their southern hospitality with a lovely formal Banquet.

Katie Biery represented CNER in the National Youth Congress -- and looked gorgeous at the Saturday night banquet!

Other CNER people present and enjoying the festivities included: Meg Biery, Lisa Brem, Amanda Brem, Julia Brem, Laurie Chapman-Bosco, Tammy Erickson, Wendy Johnson, Deb Maietta, Stephanie LeCours, Louisa McKown,

Judi Pelis, Beth Platte, Katie Platte, and Betsey Reeves.

Three CNER folks were elected/re-elected to the National Board of Governors and, among them, give CNER visibility into the working of many of the major board committees: Laurie Chapman-Bosco was ratified for a 2 year term and continues as the influential VP of Instruction and as a member of the Executive Committee and the Policy Committee; Betsey Reeves was ratified for a 2 year term and will serve as chair of the Communications Committee; and Tammy Erickson was elected for a 3 year term and will be on the Regional Administration and Strategic Planning Committees. Louisa McKown was elected to the Advisory Board and will be a member of the Policy Committee. Nashoba Valley Pony Club was honored for 25 years of activity

Betsey spoke to the RS's regarding how to communicate effectively within the region so as to motivate the clubs. Tammy spoke to the RS's and DC's regarding "Conversations for Conflict Resolution" and "The Volunteers We Need," based on her research on the changing characteristics of the adult population. Deb Maietta was a workshop presenter on the topic of "Successful Organization of Upper Level Clinics and Tests" .

Congratulations to everyone.



Julia B at the Fais Do Do party

THE NYC EXPERIENCE

Going down to the National Youth Congress in New Orleans was quite an experience! The hotel and the city were both beautiful, and the people I met down there were even more fascinating. The delegates of the National Youth Congress discussed some pretty important topics. The first item on our agenda was discussing role models and what words we believed described the perfect role model. After many hours of

deliberation (really!), the words that were chosen were: integrity, inspirational, respectful, compassionate, resilient, innovative, cooperative, and communicative. We then discussed how to give back to pony club, especially after older pony club members go to college. The possibility of an upper level network online was discussed so pony club members could get involved with the pony clubs near their college. Another important topic that was discussed was changing the age limit of pony club from 21 to 25, although many of the delegates were not in favor of this. Our agenda was also sprinkled with the inspirational stories of pony club alumni Peter Zimmerman, Catherine Scott, Christine Harris, Michael Richardson, Don Mclean, Nancy Ambrosiano, and Gillian Clissold.

National Youth Congress was ended with a dinner and awards banquet for the alumni. I had the pleasure of eating dinner next to the United States Pony Club president, Margo Leithead, while watching the alumni being presented with their awards. The annual meeting and clinics that followed in the days after the Youth Congress were very interesting and very educational. I even found some time to do some shopping at the trade fair! The best part of the whole week was the Saturday night banquet. Everybody was dressed in their Mardi Gras finest! I am very honored to have been a part of the National Youth Congress and I would like to thank Central New England Region for sending me to be their 2005 National Youth Congress Delegate.

Katie Biery



Katie, Steff and Amanda at the Banquet

D3/C1 PROGRAM

The pilot program for the D3/C1's got off to a chilly but well attended kick off at Bantry Bay in Pepperell back in December. Thanks again to all who attended and a special thanks to Bantry Bay Farm for donating their facility and Molly

Dolben for doing a great job as our clinician. Also, thanks to the terrific riders who demonstrated their various ratings so well-Zoe Chenelle, Catrina Hellmer, Elizabeth Mudge, Samantha Lutz, Annie Maietta, Michelle Realmuto and Robin Edwards.

Our second clinic, held in early January was the Hoof and Limb Clinic with Allie Hayes. Thanks so much to the Gigueres for donating their facility and refreshments. The kids were all very attentive and after the lecture they broke into two groups to study the hoof and leg samples up close or to work on a little quiz to test their knowledge.

Our next clinic, Conformation and Movement, will be held at UNH on Saturday February 5th. The time has been changed to 2:00 pm. We will meet with Laurie Chapman Bosco at Barton Hall (where the Quiz Rally was held a few years ago) and later move to the barn and indoor to study the conformation and movement of several UNH horses. This should be a great lecture and for many of the younger kids, a first opportunity to meet Laurie. DC's be sure to remind your D3s and C1s to dress warmly! See you there.

C-3 Prep Program:

Open to All C-2s!

Our Region's C-3 Program is ready to kick off for the year! Jaime Ferry and I will be coordinating this year's activities, and look forward to getting to know all the region's C-2s and parents over the upcoming months.

The goal of this regional program is to provide all the region's C-2s with solid guidance for achieving the fundamentals of the C-3 standards, while making new friends from across the region. For many members, this level of proficiency is the natural "last step" in a Pony Club rating progression. The C-3 is the rating level that the USPC hopes and believes every member should be able to achieve and signifies that one has the skill required to be a safe and competent horseperson for life.

Attaining the C-3 rating is a big step. This is the first rating taken by candidates outside their home club. As a result, our prep program focuses on helping candidates develop independent organization skills, confidence and personal relationships with other candidates, as well as riding and horse management competencies.

Specifically, our goals for this program include:

- * to offer excellent instruction and assistance to

candidates and to their families as they prepare for this rating;

- * to communicate effectively with club leaders, enabling them fully to support their candidates;
- * to pay particular attention to some of the "soft side" elements of the program - easing the transition away from club and parent-lead preparations to a growing sense of personal ownership and responsibility for the learning process and helping form bonds of friendship and support among the participants; and

- * to make the process as joyous and as non-stressful/fearful as possible.

These sessions are open to ALL C-2's, whether or not the participant plans to take the C-3 rating this year. Our Kick Off Meeting and Mini-Standards Clinic will be on Saturday, February 19 from 2 - 5 pm at Bear Spot Farm, 276 Pope Road, Concord, Massachusetts. All C-2's, as well as parents, instructors and DCs are invited to attend. We hope it will help everyone get organized for a great year ahead and answer any questions you may have. Nancy Grout, who is the National Chair of the C-3 program will be our guest clinician. Nancy will hit the highlights of the C-3 Standards, focusing on key differences between the C-2 and C-3 ratings, and the areas that seem to give people the biggest challenges. The Mini-Standards Clinic, with brave souls who are currently C-1's, C-2's, C-3's, and B's, will give Nancy an opportunity to show us all what the key transitions look like in action.

Also at the Kick Off Meeting, we'll review the year's program and provide important information regarding dates, required preps, and other administrative details. We'll talk about various resources to help you plan your own personal program, and give you an estimate of the costs involved over the course of the spring and summer. Each participant will also receive a notebook full of information, including phone numbers of clinicians, notes on the standards, and useful articles that relate to key areas of knowledge required for the rating.

There will be a charge of \$25 per participant for the session, to cover the cost of the notebook, facility and clinician. You can pay this at the session in cash or in a check made out to CNER. Please bring a folding chair if you'd like to sit in the arena during the demo, and dress warmly for that portion of the day. Please RSVP to me at tjerrickson@concoursegroup.com, including the number of others who will be accompanying you.

In addition to the Kick Off, all C-2's have been invited to attend three of the sessions that Deb

Maietta has organized for Upper Level candidates. If you'd like to attend any or all of these, please respond to Deb at deb_maietta@comcast.net:

Feb. 11 -- a lecture with Laurie Chapman-Bosco on one of the anatomical systems tbd

March 11 -- a lecture with Laurie Chapman-Bosco on one of the anatomical systems tbd

April 9 -- a session on grids with Betsey Reeves

We're still firming up the dates for the camps, preps and ratings (and hope to have all details available at the Kick Off on February 19). However, the tentative plans include:

March 13 -- The first session on unmounted teaching. This two-part session is open to all C-1s and C-2s. Any C-2 who has NOT taken the course and who plans to rate this year will be strongly encouraged to attend.

March 27 -- The second session on unmounted teaching

April 17 -- A session on either longeing OR bandaging

April 24 -- A session on either longeing OR bandaging.

June 10-12 -- The Camp at Kingsbury Hill Camp

July 11-12 -- The C-3 Prep at Mt. Holyoke

July 23 - 24 -- A July rating

August 20-21 OR 27-28 -- An August rating

In addition, we're planning cross-country schooling sessions, mock orals and other fun sessions. If you have specific requests, please let us know.

To help us firm up the rating dates, it would be very helpful to get a rough idea of how many participants are considering rating this year and, if so, if a late July date or a late August date (early August is Championships), would be preferable. Please let us know.

Jaime and I look forward to seeing everyone soon. Jaime's email is

rosensteel422@comcast.net and mine is tjerrickson@concoursegroup.com.

We hope to hear from you!

All the best,

Tammy Erickson

978-369-8828

UPPER LEVEL PROGRAM

There's lots going on in the Upper Level right now. Applications are starting to come in for those who are testing. (Please check those applications carefully – so far only 1 candidate has had a complete application.) We've had several full clinics, including the unique opportunity to attend a hands-on cadaver lecture on the GI system. Many thanks to Nici Hornblower of Jericho Forest, and Linda Cemetti of Tufts and Mass Equine for setting up and running the excellent lecture series in January. Please remind your C1s and up to review the calendar attached and on the website for upcoming unmounted opportunities and rsvp dates. Our last few clinics have been filled to capacity!

We have a few items for consideration by the DCs, and because I anticipate that everyone has lots of items to cover, I'd like to remind you of a few things that I hope we will be able to cover during our February meeting.

2004 Refunds: We need to vote whether or not to refund the excess funds from last year's ULs to the youngsters who prepped with us last year.

There are major changes set to occur in National Testings in the next few years. I'm hoping that some of the folks who attended the meeting in New Orleans can do a quick rundown of some of the changes that were presented at the National meeting, including tracking of tests and changes in where the National Testing level will start.

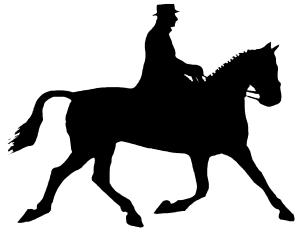
DRESSAGE INTEREST ANYONE?

Despite the blizzard, a few hearty souls made it to Connecticut to attend the Lendon Gray Weekend Lecture series. There was a lot of support for Pony Club Dressage youngsters. I attended several awesome lectures that would have been directly relevant to our UL riders, and I believe that even more relevant topics could be added if we had a large group of Pony Club members who committed to going. Hopefully the weather next year will allow more of us to get down to benefit from this opportunity.

In CNER, a group of parents has started working on designing a program for those with dressage interest, to support members who might want to pursue their dressage riding. Our initial in-region meeting is a sleepover! This is an unmounted clinic to cover the development and choreography of musical freestyles, as well as the key points of development in riding dressage from training through 2nd level. It is open to D3s and above, 14 years and older to cover Musical

Rides. The clinic will be held at Giguere's gym, and the facility will be open for free-time between clinics sessions. A Big Screen TV/PROJECTOR will be available for running DVDs and Videos -- maybe someone has the Olympic DVDs? RSVP to Leonora Giguere by February 15th. Cost of this clinic will be \$25.00. (Which will cover clinic cost, pizza dinner & breakfast.) More details at the February meeting.

Deb Maietta



TETRATHLON IS ON!

The Tetrathlon kick off clinic on Saturday, Jan. 22 was a great success. We had many kids and parents from a variety of clubs fill up my family room to hear about the tet rally we plan to run on July 9 and 10. I talked about what tet is and what you and your club need to do to get ready to participate in this totally fun pony club activity (see attached power point slides for a copy of my presentation). We had a wonderful swim coach, Kim Donovan, come and talk about techniques for improving swim times, Katy Agule (ONB), an accomplished cross country runner, talked to us about how to get ready for the running phase. Amanda Brem took us all down to the Brem's basement firing range and taught us all the basic safety rules, how to get strong and mentally fit for shooting. Please let me know (Lbrem@comcast.net or 978 250 0356) if you would like to be on our running, swimming or shooting lists ... our coaches have offered to work with groups to get them ready for the rally).

Thanks,
Lisa Brem

FOCUS GROUP ON CAMPS

Despite the impending blizzard, a few brave souls met at Lisa Brem's for the January Focus Group meeting to discuss "Club Camps". Lisa led the discussion, sharing the organization details of many Old North Bridge Camp experiences. ONB has held camps for many years and they've tried a variety of formats which she shared with the group. Then Deb Power described the Nashoba Valley club camps which are held three times a year for a much smaller group. We were able to get excellent ideas from both presenters. If anyone is contemplating a camp for their members this year, I'm sure Deb and Lisa would be happy to answer any questions. And thanks again to Lisa for graciously offering her home for the meeting.

CHAMPIONSHIP UPDATE

Please let all your Quiz competitors know that there will be a Quiz Championships Planning Meeting for both qualifiers and parents on April 8 at 7:30PM at Nashoba Valley Ski Area. Last year we had a great series of preps led by each of the clubs. This will be the meeting where we plan our schedule. While some members know they want to qualify for Quiz, others are taken by surprise when they qualify so please make sure they all mark the date.

WEBMASTER UPDATE

I'm happy to report that our email distribution lists are being widely used. By using these lists you get email messages out correctly; this is especially difficult with people's ever changing email addresses. These lists include C-1 and C-2 members in the region so please send me email addresses to ensure that the mailing lists are up to date.

I would also like to remind people that you cannot send large attachments to the distribution lists, they will bounce. One easy way to get around this is to send me the file, I will then post it on the web site and you can send out the pointer to the file. Sending a pointer rather than an attachment has the added benefit of not filling people's email inboxes.

Also, if you send mail to a distribution and include many other addresses in the "TO:" line it will also bounce because it looks like spam.

The following regional email distribution lists are available:

- cner - Regional Council
- cner-ul - Upper Level Pony Club members & parents
- cner_c2 - C-2 Pony Club members & parents
- cner_c1 - C-1 Pony Club members & parents
- championships -championship competitors & parents

Iris Realmuto

DC MEETING

The February DC meeting will be held on Saturday February 12th from 10:00 to 2:45 at the Groton Library in Groton MA. Please email Wendy at wendy@wendyj.org if you can bring a food or drink item. There is no kitchen in the room so we will need to have cold sandwiches, salads, chips, pastries etc. Please email as soon as possible to help with planning. Thanks.

Directions to the Library:

Groton Public Library
99 Main St
Groton, MA

Rt. 495 to Rt. 119 West. The library is on your left near the Rt. 40 intersection in Groton. Parking is behind the library. Doors open at 10:00.

See you on the 12th!

Our Condolences

We'd like to extend our condolences to Lara Hubner on the passing of her horse Kumar due to liver complications. He was a member of RPC for 14 years and went to many ratings including the B. Most recently he had been leased by Liz Fitzgerald of Rockingham PC. Kumar (with Liz) represented CNER at the last two Championships (dressage in 2003 and show jumping in 2004). Karen Marcotte has written a lovely tribute to Kumar and you can read about him on the Rockingham Pony Club website at <http://rockingham.ponyclub.org/Kumar.html>. He will be missed.