



# The Central New England Scoop



Issue: March 2004 Volume12

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

## COMING UP .....

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Mar. 13 | <b>Focus Meeting 10:00 am</b><br>Nashoba Valley Ski Area, Westford MA |
| Mar 20  | <b>Regional Games Clinic</b><br>Monk's Stables Chester NH             |
| Mar. 28 | <b>Quiz Rally</b><br>Weston Middle School Wellesley MA                |

## FOCUS MEETING

The next monthly informal focus group will be held at the Nashoba Valley Ski Area on Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. The topic will be "How to Keep Older Pony Club Members Interested in Pony Club". DCs, Co-DCs, club instructional coordinators and invited guests are welcome to attend and share their experiences, problems, concerns etc.

### Directions to the Ski Area:

**From Rt. 495:** Take Exit 32 (Westford), left off exit, first right on to Rt. 110 to Powers Road (1 mile on your left) and go approx 1/2 mile. Nashoba Ski area will be on your left. See below.

**From the East:** Take Rt. 2A/119 West in the direction of Nagog Woods and Littleton. Continue on Rt. 2A through the lights at the intersection of Rt. 27, and keep on Rt. 2A through the set of lights at Nagog Woods. Then about 1 mile beyond that, at the 3rd set of lights, go right onto Powers Rd. and Nashoba Ski area is about 1/2 mile on your left. See below.

Once you get to the Nashoba Ski area, immediately as you come into the ski driveway, watch on your left, before the actual parking/ski slopes for a small parking area/dirt road, at the end of which is a small gray hut.

## A REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL YOUTH CONGRESS

Coming back from the NYC I'm still in awe of all the people that I met there. The other candidates were all so amazing. While the candidates were from all across the country we had the similar bond through pony club, and a drive to succeed. My roommates were from Montana and Indiana and both were avid eventers. We spent hours sitting and discussing our horse lives, and how difficult it was to make our nonhorse friends understand our dedication to the sport. It was equally as amazing to meet the alumni that came back to speak to us. It was nice to see what a background in pony club can translate to in the "real world". I'm incredibly grateful to have been given this experience and would encourage all eligible Pony Clubbers to apply in future!

*~Becca Cole*

## UL UPDATES

The MOUNTED TEACHING CLINIC scheduled for April 24th with Sara Contois is open to ALL C1s and above. RSVPs are due in to me by March 15th so that we can schedule the sessions. This is a fun, interactive clinic that ALL the C's should really enjoy, while learning skills that will carry them through into upper ratings.

**Do you have C2 and up members thinking of championships for showjumping or eventing this year??** Richard Lamb, who designs many of the showjumping courses for Nationals will be just one of the five fantastic clinicians we are featuring at the clinic in July. Kate Emery, who is coming to us from California, who is famous for her showjumping clinics will be on hand, as well as Deb McKenzie-Willson who is known for her eventing acumen. Annette Gavin who we

had the opportunity to see at the recent B at Northeast is known as a tough, savvy examiner with a discriminating eye, and a dry sense of humor, and last, but not least, Laurie Chapman Bosco, who is known for her supportive coaching style and incredibly in-depth unmounted knowledge will all be available at this clinic. ANY C2 and above is welcome to this opportunity. We have youngsters from as far away as Maine, the Carolinas, Illinois, and Missouri who have expressed interest in coming in to this clinic. However, CNE youngsters have first dibs through March 15th. Please make sure your ponyclub members are aware of this unique opportunity to ride with the top in the country, while spending time with the ULs from our region, local regions, and even kids from around the country. Although the spring clinics get our kids moving, it is the July clinic which provides the polish and honing our youngsters need to be truly competitive in their ratings or at Nationals. If you know of anyone interested in leasing an HA horse or an upper level horse during the July 5th, please let me know. We have candidates with strong recommendations who will be flying in & looking for mounts, if they are available.

The Upper Level program is progressing well, with 11 upper level candidates having sent in their applications. The final application deadline for ULs in CNER is March 15th. There are two more candidates who have indicated to me verbally that they wish to test but have not sent in their data -- Last call!!!

Each UL candidate has received a listing of the remaining UL clinics for the year, including the clinic in July, which was voted in at the DC's meeting as the mandatory clinic for those testing this year.

Finally -- thanks for your patience with the issues associated with the leg dissection. We are rescheduling! Unfortunately, we must wait for available specimens and clinician availability in order to have this clinic go forward....but Nici Hornblower of Jericho Forest is still working to make this, and several other clinics a possibility.

## THE JUNIOR BOARD

Dear DC's,

I am contacting all the DC's of the Central New England Region because in a few weeks on March 28th is Quiz Rally, and the Jr. Board is in charge of the food booth, raffle, and poster contest. The Jr Board would love to have some new members. If you have any members who would still like to join the board now is a good time to get involved as I am making up teams of

old and new members for each committee for Quiz Rally. The way to contact the JR Board is to use our new email address

[jr\\_board@cne.ponyclub.org](mailto:jr_board@cne.ponyclub.org), all emails go to the entire Jr Board and everyone is up to date with details. Attached is the Jr. Board Policy, please have new members read it over and understand their commitment to the board. The most important commitment to the board is email, it just makes life a lot easier if everyone can take two minutes out of every week to check in.

I am asking for some help in updating our Jr Board list from each club also. Please email club representatives info to our new email address for this update. And at the same time contact each of your Jr Board members to remind them to start checking email again for the 2004 season. I understand that school and other activities maybe very busy for the Jr Board members, but I need to know who I can rely on to help work at Quiz Rally. Emails will continue to go out until March 28th so they need to continue to check their email.

Thank you,  
Allsion Blood Pres. of Jr B.

## NOTES FROM THE HMO

### Urban Legends of the Horse Management Kind

By Lara Hubner – CNE Horse Management Organizer

In trying to dispel the "urban legends" of horse management in Pony Club competition, I'm going to attempt to clarify a few of the most common issues, each month, to determine if they are myth or rule.

#### *Cotton Haynets*

Q: If a haynet is used, does it have to be made of cotton rope?

A: No. Plain and simple. I have been amazed that, in talking to different clubs and individuals about haynets, so many people are under the assumption that you MUST have cotton rope haynets. The HM Handbook (p. 29 – Sect. 12 E.) states that: "It is recommended that hay nets be cotton." This does not state "must". Thus, any haynet "properly tied, and hung high enough so even when empty, they do not hang below the mount's point of shoulder" is acceptable.

But, this is a good place to talk about haybags and that the key to haybags at rallies is that they are PROPERLY TIED AND HUNG HIGH ENOUGH! This is something that has been asked of pony clubbers since any current pony clubbers have joined, so this isn't a surprise. It should be secured with a safety release knot OR

a snap. Height is the other area of concern. It's a safety issue and the rule plainly states "when empty...do not hang below the horses point of shoulder." This means at ALL times. Most HMJ's know this is a constant struggle, and will kindly remind competitors to fix their haybags if it's noticed that the bag is getting below the shoulder. Like at a testing, if they tell you to fix something, do it! It is in your pony's best interest, and a good habit to form.

### *Bailing Twine*

Q: Must you use bailing twine at all at a USPC rally?

A: NO! This is another of these PC urban legends that I think has finally straightened itself out as I don't hear as many people that are confused on this issue. The HM Handbook states: "Twine may be used as a ring on a halter or lead for tying mounts or to tie up hay nets or buckets(loop on screw eye), but is **NOT** required." However, IF used for breakaway purposes, it MUST be the rope/hemp type. It cannot be the nylon/plastic type(often orange or blue in color).

Bailing twine is used in "breakaway" situations to ensure that the twine breaks vs. the horses halter, lead or trailer hardware. It is useful, but again, not required. One might want to replace just a small loop of bailing twine after a mount's moment of panic at the clanging of items in the tack trailer, rather than their expensive triple-stitched leather halter that was won at last years Area Eventing Championships. You also, though, might not want to tie a horse that has figured out the ease with which he can repeatedly "pop" that bailing twine and get to the always tempting knee high grass 50 feet from his tie area.

It is simply another tool that these PC'ers have at their disposal, which really does have some benefits. It's not just one of those "pony club things", though it is a "practical application of sound HM practices" which is what PC strives for.

The next item is more to answer a common question with the ever-changing selection and invention of new bits.

### *Gag/Bubble/Pessoa/Beval/Show Jumping Biting*

Q: If I use a traditional gag, elevator, pessoa/bubble/showjumping gag, or a beval bit: Do I need to use two reins?

A: If you are putting any of these bits on your bridle, more likely than not you're going to be using it for the "gag" action in addition to the snaffle action that these bits can also provide. (i.e. if you're only using it as a snaffle, one would

assume you would instead use one of the plethora of traditional snaffles out there....common sense!).

Thus, if you are using both the gag and snaffle features: TWO reins must be used and ONE of those two MUST be attached to the ring that gives the snaffle effect.(See page 13 and 36 of the HM Handbook) The handbook states: "All bits with more than one point of rein attachment must have one rein attached so that the snaffle action of the bit is in effect. If other bit actions are to be used, two reins will be required..."

For D's: Converters ARE allowed on Pelham and pessoa/bubble/showjumping gag bits.

For C's and up: Converters ARE NOT allowed.

For ALL: Kimberwickses can be used with only one rein.

The traditional gag with polo cheekpieces need a rein on the large ring directly on the bit and one on the round ring of each cheekpiece. On the pessoa/bubble/showjumping gag, the snaffle action would be the large ring, with the cheekpiece connecting to the small top ring and the second rein attached to one of the rings below the large ring. Same with the beval bits, which only have two small rings, one on top and bottom: one rein in the large ring and one in the small bottom ring. Elevators have three points of attachment, one each for the cheekpiece, snaffle action rein and elevator action rein.

Another important thing to keep in mind is that you should ALWAYS read the biting requirements of each discipline by looking at the "saddlery and biting" section of the appropriate rulebook. They will have even more specific rules and diagrams of bits allowed in USPC competition and how they must be used. All rulebooks are available on the USPC website, [www.ponyclub.org](http://www.ponyclub.org) under the Forms section.

**\*\*If you have your own questions about "Urban Legends of the Pony Club Kind" or about specific HM issues, email me at [larahubner@yahoo.com](mailto:larahubner@yahoo.com) and I will find the answer and pass it along to the region!**

## **C3 UPDATE**

The C-3 Prep program got off to an enthusiastic start on Saturday, March 6, with a Kick Off at Bear Spot Farm, in Concord. Eleven C-2s and their parents attended the session, which featured Nancy Grout, Chair of the National C-3 Committee. Nancy provided an overview of the new C-3 standards, answered questions, and

provided candidates with tips and encouragement.

Five Pony Clubbers rode in a Mini Standards demonstration during the Kick Off, as Nancy helped candidates and parents see the differences in the various levels. Special thanks to Leigh Davis (C-3, Nashoba), Sally Davis (C-3, Wentworth), Jillian Middaugh (C-3, Wentworth), Michelle Realmuto (C-2, Groton), and Kelsey Bradley (C-1, Old North Bridge) for volunteering to be so closely examined so early in the season! They were a great help and wonderful sports!

There's a full program planned for the remainder of the spring, including two camps and a number of special clinics. Details are posted on the CNER website and call or email with any questions. Please remember that registrations for the two camps are due by March 15!

Here's to a great year, full of good times and great learning.

Tammy Erickson  
978-369-8828  
[tjerickson@concoursgroup.com](mailto:tjerickson@concoursgroup.com)

## UNMOUNTED TEACHING CLINICS

All C-1s and C-2s are invited to participate in a two part series of clinics on how to teach an unmounted lesson in Pony Club. These will help you strengthen your skills so you are better able to work with the D's in your club, and give back to the organization. We hope you'll all attend.

March 14 -- An overview of how to teach effectively: selecting a suitable topic, developing a lesson plan, working with your audience to sustain attention and help them learn.

April 4 -- A hands-on practice session, with feedback: each participant will teach a short session, with feedback and suggestions from the clinician and other participants.

Our clinician for these sessions this year is Wendy Grant. Both sessions will be held at Black Brook Farm in Carlisle, MA. For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Tammy Erickson at 978-369-8828 or [tjerickson@concoursgroup.com](mailto:tjerickson@concoursgroup.com).



## WEBMASTER UPDATE

The following regional email distribution lists are available:

- cner - Regional Council
- jr\_board - Jr. Board
- cner\_ul - Upper Level Pony Club members
- cner\_c2 - C-2 Pony Club members
- cner\_c2\_parents - C-2 Pony Club members' parents

To use a list, send mail to

[listname@cne.ponyclub.org](mailto:listname@cne.ponyclub.org)

where list-name is the name of the list you want.

This information is also available under the "Contact Us" link on the left hand side of the CNER website.

## USPC EASTERN REGIONS JUBILEE REUNION PARTY

USPC is 50 years old this year and some of us were in Philadelphia in January and attended the wonderful Jubilee celebration. We in CNE, along with all the other Eastern Regions, are going to have a Massachusetts Reunion and a Celebration of all these past 50 years.

Mark your calendars. Saturday, June 26th is the date for the Eastern USPC Jubilee Reunion cocktail party. The party will take place following the cross country phase at Groton House Horse Trials in Hamilton, MA. Invitations will be sent later this spring.

### WANTED: YOUR HELP!

WE NEED TO FIND NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR ANYONE WHO IS OR WAS INVOLVED IN OUR REGION OVER THE PAST 50 YEARS SO THAT WE CAN INVITE THEM TO OUR REUNION PARTY. PEOPLE WE WANT ARE THOSE WHO WERE, OR ARE STILL, DEVOTED TO PONY CLUB. PONY CLUB GRADUATES, WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS, FORMER AND CURRENT DCS AND JT. DCS, RSS AND VICE RSS, HORSE MANAGEMENT JUDGES, NATIONAL AND C3 EXAMINERS, CLINICIANS, CLUB RATINGS EXAM-

INERS, IN SHORT, ANYONE WHO HAS HAD MORE THAN A PASSING INVOLVEMENT IN PONY CLUB IN OUR REGION. MAYBE EVEN SOMEONE YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IN YEARS BUT WOULD LOVE TO SEE AGAIN.

This reunion will be a time to remember the fun and funny times we've all had in Pony Club, trade stories and memories, hug a long lost friend, share old photos, meet all the special people who have meant so much to Pony Club in CNE, and just generally celebrate getting together.

If you know a special friend or long time supporter of pony club, a dedicated volunteer, a pony club graduate, etc., please pass their name (and hopefully address) along to Diane Reed at [DIANE.REED@COMCAST.NET](mailto:DIANE.REED@COMCAST.NET) or Debbie Shade at [DMSHADE51@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:DMSHADE51@HOTMAIL.COM).

AND THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

Eastern Reunion Committee for CNE

Deirdre Pirie, Diane Reed, Debbie Shade, Tammy Erickson, Betsey Reeves, Louisa McKown, Chair

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 18-** Groton Pony Club 2 Phase Schooling Show. Training through Starter divisions dressage and stadium, dressage only and optional xc schooling. Groton Fairgrounds, Groton MA. Contact Wendy Johnson at [wendyj@groton-pony-club.org](mailto:wendyj@groton-pony-club.org) or 603-888-9014.

**May 2-** Second Annual "May Day 2-phase at Foss Farm". The event is limited to 50 competitors and was a sellout last year, so early entry is advised! Pre-elementary through training and dressage-only divisions Sunday, May 2, 2004 Foss Farm, Carlisle, MA Proceeds to benefit the public riding facilities at Foss. Call Tracey with any questions at: (978) 318-1944

**May 16-** Groton Pony Club 3 Phase Schooling Show. Novice through Starter divisions. Groton Fairgrounds, Groton MA. Contact Wendy Johnson at [wendyj@groton-pony-club.org](mailto:wendyj@groton-pony-club.org) or 603-888-9014.

***See you on the 13<sup>th</sup>!***

