

Minutes of the 2005 Annual Council Meeting Central New England Region November 20, 2005

The CNER annual regional council meeting was held at the Sheraton Nashua in Nashua NH on Sunday November 20 2005. The meeting began at 12:20, immediately following the USPC New England Leadership Camp. Attendees included: Anne Marcotte, Maria Rockwell, Betty Staten, Audrey Zwicker, Wendy Johnson, Steve Realmuto, Iris Realmuto, Steve Wilkins, Louise Hara, Deb Titus, Betsey Reeves, Deb Maietta, Carol Greata, Chris Daly, Judith Pelis, Esther Short, Belinda Barbas, Leonora Giguere, Lara Hubner, Chris Keim, Lisa Brem, Peggy Knight, Debbie Power, Connie Brown, Nancy Fantom, Stacy Casilio, Penny Jacques, Jackie Jacobs and Tom Adams from the National Office.

Betsey started the business meeting by welcoming the group. We reminisced about the Regional skit the night before, and Betsey thanked the members who helped by composing a lovely poem about each club for a great team effort. She then read the 2005 RS Report (copy attached). A motion was made to approve the report, which passed unanimously.

Curtis Renner, the Treasurer, was unable to attend the meeting. Audrey Zwicker, Assistant Treasurer, passed out a copy of the actual budget, but without a financial report and Curtis available for questions and answers, it was agreed to table the approval of the financial report until our next Council meeting. Betsey did say however, that from now on everyone must use a regional expense reimbursement form so that Curtis knows how to categorize income and expenses in the future. A proper expense form must be submitted before any reimbursements will be paid out. Also a budget must be submitted for each program prior to actual expenses being incurred.

Lara Hubner was next with the HMO report (copy attached). There was no HMO Clinic this past year but a booth was set up at the Standards Clinic. There were not many changes to the HM rulebook although in the near future there will be a new rulebook and Lara will want to review that with the region. Someone will come out to each club and go over the changes if requested. There will also be new standards in HM for lunging and bandaging. A prep was held for Championships in July. There were 9 rallies planned and Lara's biggest challenge was having enough officials. For the upcoming season, she urged each rally organizer to communicate with her as soon as they have a firm date for their rally so she can try to line up chiefs and judges. She would like feedback on the chiefs and judges used so she knows who to use and to not use- be sure to send emails to her. Once again, perfect tack and turnout achievers will be entered into a drawing. Each club is asked to email Lara with an item to donate for the drawing. The drawing will be done at the next Council meeting so please bring items then but let her know ahead of time. She ended by reminding us to stress good horse management every day. A motion was made to approve the report as submitted; it passed unanimously.

Betsey Reeves, as acting C3 advisor, submitted the attached C3 report which was then unanimously approved.

Next, Deb Maietta presented the Upper Level report . She mentioned that the Sue Winslade clinic was particularly well done. She gave a plaque to Deb Power for Jamie Ferry and finished with an emotional thank you as she ended her term as the Upper Level advisor. A motion was made to accept the report and it passed unanimously.

Wendy Johnson presented the D3/C1 Program report and passed out a flyer announcing the first of the new series of clinics at UNH. The report was submitted and approved unanimously.

Iris Realmuto was next on the agenda with the Championship report. A copy of the report is attached. A motion was made and the report was approved unanimously.

A copy of the Junior Board report written by the two co-presidents was presented by their Advisor Esther Short. At the Jr. Board meeting held just prior to the Council meeting, the board elected their officers. Annie Maietta and Leigh Davis were re-elected as co-Presidents; Caroline Daly and Sarah Titus as co-Treasurers and Amanda Brem and Stephanie Giguere were elected as co-Secretaries. The report was approved unanimously. Esther advised that the Jr. Board will need to name a new advisor and will submit their recommendation to Betsey shortly.

Next, the Webmaster report was submitted by Iris Realmuto. She advised that she had set up links on the CNE website to neighboring regions and reminded people to use the regional email address list. More discussion on that topic was tabled for a future meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes and passed unanimously.

Finally, the Dressage Program report was submitted by Leonora Giguere. She also asked for more members to volunteer for the program if interested. The report was accepted unanimously.

After all the reports were presented and approved, Betsey went on to announce the new advisors for 2006. Jackie Jacobs will be the new C3 Advisor and Catherine Williams and Aliza Edwards will be the new UL advisors. A special thanks was given to Deb Maietta, Iris Realmuto and Jackie Jacobs as outgoing advisors. Betsey asked the council members to go back to their clubs and look for interested parents to bring to the region as volunteers and future advisors. A motion was made to set aside \$500 for each program for the upcoming year. The motion was approved unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the presentation of the Nominating Committee. Lisa Brem, standing in for Chairperson Karen Marcotte, explained the criteria for selecting the slate of officers, the process of gathering recommendations, comments and feedback, etc. She then presented the slate as follows: Betsey Reeves as Regional Supervisor; Audrey Zwicker and Leonora Giguere as Vice Regional Supervisors, Wendy Johnson as Secretary and Curtis Renner as Treasurer. A brief discussion followed. Steve Realmuto asked the two VRS nominees to explain what they would bring to the table. Audrey and Leonora introduced themselves. A motion was made to accept the slate, a vote was taken

and the slate was approved unanimously. After the vote Lisa suggested that the region become more inclusive by bringing back more volunteers and older PC members and suggested better communication in the upcoming year.

Betsey was pleased to announce that the region will be able to send two National Youth Congress representatives; Becca Cole and Katie Biery.

Next, there was a brief discussion of the age extension. A motion was made to allow 22 to 25 year old pony club members to compete at our regional rallies and qualify for championships. The motion passed unanimously.

A new local club was welcomed into the region. Merrimack River Pony Club will be our newest club. Betty Staten will be the DC, with Anne Marcotte and Maria Rockwell as co-DCs.

The National office gave the region a check for \$500 to offset some of the expenses from the Leadership Camp. The money will be deposited in the account for now and allocated at the next council meeting.

The last topic on the Agenda was the calendar. Jericho Forest, Overlook and Worcestershire will host Quiz Rally on April 2, location still to be firmed up. Squamscott will host the qualifying Dressage Rally on June 25-27 at UNH. Merrimack River will host the Games Rally on June 10-11 at Topsfield. Nashoba Valley will host the qualifying Eventing Rally on May 13-14 at King Oak. Old North Bridge will host the qualifying Tetrathlon Rally on September 9-10. Worcestershire will look into hosting the non-qualifying Dressage Rally in the spring-possibly the weekend of May 7th? Swift River will host the Show Jumping Rally at Mt Holyoke in June, date to be confirmed shortly. Wentworth will host the non-qualifying Eventing Rally in the fall with the date to be determined. D Rally will be hosted by Groton on October 1st. All clubs were urged to let us know as soon as the dates and locations are firmed up.

The next regional council meeting will be held at the Groton Church (needs to be confirmed) on January 28th at 10:00. With the business portion of the Annual Council Meeting concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Johnson, Regional Secretary

REGIONAL SUPERVISOR'S REPORT
CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGION
NOVEMBER 20, 2005

Year two in the life of a Regional supervisor can be a great experience, and there were parts of this last year that were wonderful. We have just incredible young people in this region to start the list off! We have some great volunteers, and we have just spent an informative weekend at National's expense, to help us to become even better.

For those who went, the USPC Annual meeting in New Orleans will, I hope be remembered by everyone, because I saw a picture of our hotel after Hurricane Rita, and it was a disaster! Our PC families in that region have all survived, but many have lost homes, and barns, but their spirit is undaunted!!

The new D-3/C-1 program was quite a hit, and Wendy Johnson has plans for that to continue. The plan for that level of member to get out of their own clubs and meet other peers is a good one, even if it is only for social activities.

We had a new Dressage program, that had several clinics, and a group went off to Lendon Gray's Youth Dressage Festival in New York. These girls had a great time, and came back with many prizes.

The Upper Level program, ably coordinated by Deb Maietta netted us several new upper level members, 2A's, an H-A, an H, and another B. This is a huge program, requiring a lot of work, and Deb has done a great job of helping our candidates prepare for and attend these tests. Thank you Deb.

The C-3 program had a few ups and downs, but in the end, candidates did have an opportunity to prepare, and we held a C-3 testing where 6 of our candidates successfully passed their C-3 test.

Rallies ran well, thanks to the mammoth efforts of all our volunteers. We were scheduled to hold 9 rallies, and weather prevented two of those, but we did hold 7, and 5 of those were qualifiers. That is an incredible number of rallies, and I am sure it kept many volunteers busy!! We sent 36 members to championships, and once again, they were stars!!

The leaders of the region had several Focus Group meetings, several Council meetings, and then there is this past weekend, It seems like EVERYONE is busy in Central New England. I am constantly amazed by the level of commitment both by the leaders, and the members. It truly is impressive. CNE is an outstanding region, and I know I have said this before, but I am honored to be its leader. I want to thank everyone who helps make this region run; as the RS is just the captain of the ship, it takes MANY hands to make the ship float and sail! CNER's ship is sailing very strongly and headed into a new year with untold strengths, and I, for one am looking forward to the new year!

Betsey Reeves

UPPER LEVEL REPORT FOR 2004-2005
By Deb Maietta, UL Coordinator

This past year was another busy one for the Upper Level. Seven unmounteds, most open to C2s and up, were held, including the opportunity to view the entire digestive system on an operating table, hands-on lunging, and a three day intensive clinic for HA candidates. In the mounted spectrum, clinicians included Laurie Chapman Bosco, Kate Emery, Cathy Frederickson, Cherie Gaebel, Richard Lamb, Betsey Reeves, and Susanne Winslade. I am particularly pleased with the innovative work brought to our members by Susanne Winslade. Susanne combined the work of positional improvement with evaluation by a physical therapist to allow full body consciousness, review and improvement plans for each rider. Plans are to have Susanne come to the area again this year, and I would encourage DCs to come view the full clinic, as presented by Susanne.

As a precursor for the age changes we will be implementing in 2006, we had three 21 to 25 year olds participate in the UL clinics and the Lendon Gray Dressage clinic this year. This was a successful experiment, and helps us to build continuity between our younger teens and our active young adult graduates.

On the business end of things, the Upper Level ended the year financially in the black, even after all requested scholarships were provided and rebates made to Upper Level members who attended the mounted clinics. These clinics continue to be our most expensive and financially risky regional venture...but also the most effective in getting feedback and creating major changes in position and preparedness for our youngsters due to the consistency in teaching over a full week's time.

Meeting with representatives from the regions in our area, from Metropolitan to Northeast, a testing and prep plan was developed. By creating this plan we succeeded in having two Bs and an HA set up for the area within a few hours of all of our ULs. An A testing was later added in Connecticut, which was attended by Allison Blood. Judy Pelis, Esther Short and I assisted New York Upper Connecticut in hosting the B which was held at Mt Holyoke.

Two candidates passed the A, one the HA, one the H, one the B. This year we saw a new trend, as we had three candidates considering taking two National tests. No candidates who were considering two tests passed both.

One candidate passed one of her tests. One candidate did not pass one test, and became ineligible for the 2nd test. One candidate opted out of both tests. I think the negative results for our candidates who went forward with testings in these situations was hurtful to their opinion of Ponyclub in general, something we need to consider carefully as DCs before allowing youngsters to put in for multiple tests.

Many thanks to Judy Pelis, Catherine Williams and Esther Short, who were instrumental in supporting both me and the program over the last few years, Thanks to all of the parents of ULs in the region who have been such great helpers.

Finally, a word as I step back from this position. Over the many years that I have been involved in the Upper Level, my primary goal has been to ensure that we had quality programs fully available to ALL of our Upper Levels, whomever they trained with, or whatever their finances. By creating a very robust program, we allow more members the chance to develop along the UL track, regardless of the level of intimacy that their instructors may have had with the Ponyclub system. I am hoping that the region will continue to support that goal in the years ahead. I challenge the policy committee to rise to the occasion, ensuring that we not have tests organized, run, or influenced by those whose students or children are testing. In the area of preparation, there are many, many Ponyclub National Examiners and even professionals outside of Ponyclub who are happy to assist. I challenge the region to take a good, hard, look at the business and communications side of our operation to ensure that no conflicts of interest exist between professionals and the running of this critical program. There should be no real or perceived 'inside track' to getting a National Test.

Best wishes to Catherine Williams and Eliza Edwards and Louise Hara as they take on organization of the program.

Deb Maietta

RIC Report
November 20, 2005
Revised Nov. 26, 2005

This has been a banner year for CNER for rating upper level candidates. We have had two A's, one HA, one H, one B, and six C3s pass their ratings this year. A congratulations is due to all participants: members, parents and program coordinators as well as the instructors who worked hard to make this happen. Anticipating the change in the rating structure for the upper levels a Dressage group was started by Deb Maietta. We also had the start-up of the D3/C1 program under the guidance of Wendy Johnson and Amy Quinten. These programs will continue as official regional clinics and lecture series in order to stimulate greater participation within the region. As RIC, I helped with the coordination of many of these programs and camps.

This region can now boast that we have two As, three HA's, one H, six B's, 23 C3s, and at least 30 C2's and the numbers are growing. Clearly we are retaining more members than the average. We are not doing as well in soliciting new members this year and as the number of C's increases, the D's have been decreasing. We need to be thinking of the future and find ways to develop the lower levels as upper level members only happen when they have good experiences at the lower level.

The Standards Clinic was held in Ipswich at Indian Ridge Farm in April. The clinician, Nancy Grout provided a very informative narrative with the help of our demonstration riders. Greater efforts need to be made in future years to increase attendance. My recommendation is to have the clinic held every other year with mandatory attendance for anyone who plans to rate in the coming year in the upper levels and strong recommendations for all others from the club DC's. Efforts should be made to make the location change from north to west or center in the region every time it is held.

A demonstration of the ratings and disciplines within pony club was given in November at Equine Affaire. 18 members and seven horses participated representing seven of our 13 clubs. The demonstration was well received by both the audience and the Equine Affaire organizers. What it demonstrated for me was the fact that pony clubbers are great: if you give them a job, they will do it! And they will do it well! Thanks to all who helped.

As we change and grow, new coordinators for the education programs are starting to take on responsibilities. Catherine Williams and Aliza Edwards will be leading the upper level group, Jackie Jacobs will be leading the C3 program, Wendy Johnson will continue with the D3/C1 program, and Leonora Giguere will be taking on the Dressage program. We look forward to another successful and enjoyable year for our members.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Hara, RIC



*United States Pony Club
Central New England Region
Championships Report
2005*



CNE had a great showing at Championships this year. Fun was had by all! We had 36 competitors and the region once again picked up the costs of the entry fees. As in the past we had a CNE tent that was always packed with parents and competitors. On opening night we dined on pizza and salad. Did you know that a golf cart can carry 2 adults and 27 pizzas!?

In Quiz, we had a Jr. D team with Brooks Robinson, Gabe Wells, Charlotte Woody, and Maggie McManus who finished 9th Overall. Annie Seymour competed on a diverse scramble team and finished 18th Overall. Our Sr. D team with Kathryn Lohnes, Rachel Comeau, Jessica Townsend, and Julia Short finished 19th Overall.

In Games, the Silver Streakers in the Jr. Division with Ari Murphy, Abi Young, Katherine LoChiatto, Rebecca Ashton, Elizabeth LoChiatto finished 7th Overall and 8th in HM. The CNExpress in the Sr. Division with Calley Rockwell, Melanie Staten, Samantha Lutz, Kelsey Bradley, and Carly Seale finished 11th Overall and 7th in HM.

For the first time in a long time we had a full Training level team with Allison Blood, Amanda Brem, Michelle Realmuto, Claire Williams, and Leigh Davis (HM). They showed their stuff by coming in 1st Overall and 1st in HM. Stephanie LeCours and Beth O'Malley (HM) completed on a scramble Novice team and placed 10th Overall and 8th in HM.

Our H1 Show Jumping team with Elizabeth Mudge, Sarah Titus, and Sarah Dowcett (HM) came in 2nd Overall and 4th in HM. Lisa Hellmer competed on an H2 scramble team and placed 2nd Overall and 4th in HM.

Janice Galejs, Meaghan Monroe, Lynda Riccio, Catrina Hellmer, and Emily Holzman (HM) competed on our Training Level Dressage team and finished 12th Overall and 16th in HM. Teaghan Judd was on a scramble team and placed 16th Overall and 12th in HM.

This is Jackie and Iris's final year as Championships Coordinators. We have enjoyed our experience and wish the next Coordinators well.

Respectfully submitted,
Iris Realmuto and Jackie Jacobs

CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGION
Report to the Region
2005

D3/C1 PROGRAM

This past year, the Central New England Region decided to launch a new educational program for the D3/C1's. This was a pilot program to see if we could generate enough interest and support among this segment of our membership. Our hope was not only to provide an educational platform, but also to encourage the members from each club to get to know as many other kids in the region as possible. I am happy to report that the series was a big success and we will continue with the program for 2006.

With the help of Amy Quintin and Jackie Jacobs, we put together a series of four clinics starting in December of 2004. The first clinic was the "Kick-Off" with Molly Dolben as clinician and was held at Bantry Bay Farm in Pepperell MA. The clinic was arranged as a mini standards demo with riders from the D3 level up to C3. Molly had the mounted riders perform a number of games and exercises while she showed the differences in the levels of riders and talked about expectations for this group of pony club members. This was also an opportunity for the kids to start getting to know each other socially. We also took a survey of their primary interests with the intention of providing relevant clinics in the future.

The second clinic was a Hoof and Limb lecture with Allie Hayes. The kids were able to get a first hand look at various conditions, lameness and deformities on freeze dried hoofs and legs. The clinic was held at the Giguere's Gym outside of Worcester MA.

The third clinic was held at UNH in Durham NH with clinician Laurie Chapman Bosco. It covered Conformation and Movement. She started with a classroom lecture on conformation. We then moved to the UNH barns and broke out into smaller groups. Each group was assigned a horse to assess and then one child acted as spokesperson for each group and discussed the actual conformation of the horse. This clinic was extremely well attended with over 60 participants from all corners of the Region.

Unfortunately, the last clinic which would have covered Lunging, Bandaging and Equipment, was cancelled due to inclement weather. We had planned to have upper level members demonstrate various lunging techniques and discuss proper bandaging and equipment usage.

Feedback regarding the pilot program from the members, parents and DCs was very positive and we plan to continue with the same types of educational programs for 2006. We will also continue to encourage the social aspect of these meetings, as a way for the kids to get to know each other on a regional level.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Johnson
D3/C1 Coordinator



*United States Pony Club
Central New England Region*



*Webmaster Report
2005*

This is the fourth year that the CNER website has been in operation. The url is <http://cne.ponyclub.org/>. It continues to be an active site. We have many visitors from within the region and outside.

Two new additions were added to the website this year: a *hotels* page, which lists hotels close to some of our major facilities like Mt. Holyoke and Topsfield Fair, and based upon feedback received at the Leadership Camp, a *Neighboring Regions* page with regional calendars. Our classifieds and directions pages remain very actively viewed.

I would still like to stress the importance of using the regional mailing lists like cner@cne.ponyclub.org. When used, they continue to add value to the region allowing everyone to have complete, correct, and up to date contact with the region. Sending email to a long list of individual email addresses is problematic for a number of reasons. It's easy to forget or omit people accidentally. Another problem is that messages sent to many addresses are often blocked by people's Internet service or SPAM software. So it's possible even though an email included someone, they never receive it.

Respectfully submitted,
Iris Realmuto
Webmaster

2005 Year End Report from the CNER Junior Board

During the 2005 year, the Junior Board made \$537.04, to have a total of \$3726.65 in the bank. The money was made entirely at the Food Booth at Quiz, on April 3. The Junior Board also volunteered at Kingsbury Hill this year, grooming and caring for the horses for the upcoming summer camp. Many horses (more than 10!) were given baths, had their manes pulled, and were given complete makeovers! At this time, we are looking forward to 2006, to accomplish such goals as getting at least one representative from each club, creating a knowledge presentation to be presented to each club, and having a sleepover for the C1's and C2's of the region. We also hope to provide community service at such places as Lovelane, Friends for Tomorrow, Turtle Rock and The FARM, as well as volunteering as jump judges at a large event, such as Fairhill, to have fun as well as to help out the non-ponyclub community. In addition, we wish to provide a clinic series for the Region from May through October 2006, to (hopefully) include such instructors as Carol Kozlowski, Mark Weissbecker, Karen O'Connor, Stephe Baer, and Suzi Gornall.

Submitted by Esther Sort, Jr. Board Advisor

Written by Leigh Davis and Annie Maietta, Co-Presidents

2005 marked the trial year of a dressage interest group in CNER. The members of the committee were Deb Maietta; advisor, Karen Liuzzo, Jill Mudge, Leonora Giguere and Catherine Williams.

Our kick off meeting was an overnight clinic held in early March with clinicians Kelli Mason, Rick Pearson and Janet Moulding. Topics included selecting music for freestyles, transitioning from Training Level to First and the training pyramid. This weekend was very well attended and had excellent feedback.

Later in the spring a mounted two day clinic, Seat Works, was offered at Bantry Bay Farm with Sue Winslade and a physical therapist. This clinic worked specifically on improving the seat and learning to truly follow the motion of the horse. While this clinic was not heavily attended, it was nearly full and was an excellent experience for those who attended.

In June it was great to see many of these same kids doing so well at the Dressage Rally at UNH.

In July we were able to offer a clinic with Lendon Gray incorporated into the Upper Level Camp at Mount Holyoke. Semi privates were able to be offered to Dressage enthusiasts. Again, an incredible value and opportunity for our members.

In August CNER was well represented both at Championships in Virginia and at the Lendon Gray Dressage Festival in New York. Our CNER and USPC teams were at a great advantage at Lendon's shows because of their strengths in teamwork, horse management, written testing and equitation. They all finished very well.

In September Worcestershire hosted a non-qualifying Dressage Rally in Barre MA. While this rally was an excellent experience for those who attended, it's numbers were very small. Members rode two tests of choice and an optional equitation class.

For 2006, we have a two day clinic with Lendon Gray lined up at a cost to the Region of only \$600 after fundraising. We plan to set up another overnight clinic at the Giguere's.

Deb and I would like an opportunity to build on this great start and see this program grow in 2006. With the new specialty ratings, it is even more important that we provide our members with a particular interest in dressage these wonderful opportunities. We would like to hear from the members about what types of clinics they would like us to run. We would also love to add more adults to this committee. Please see myself or Deb if you would like to join us.

Respectfully submitted by,
Leonora Giguere
Dressage Group Committee Member

C3 PROGRAM
CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGION

2005 Year End Report

The 2005 C-3 Program had its ups and downs, but there was a program, and CNER now does have 6 new C-3s to boast about! There was a testing on the 20th and 21st of August held at Apple Knoll Farm in Millis, MA. Apple Knoll is an excellent facility for this type of occasion, as it has all the necessary components, and they were very friendly towards us! Three examiners came from all over to officiate at the test; they were Barbara Hay from Flemington, NJ, Heather Bell transplanted from California to Northfield, MA. and Andrea Arrandale Duguanno from Waterford, MI. There were 9 candidates, with one of these being from Anawan PC in the Southeastern New England Region. They all worked together as a group and this is really an important thing to see happening with a group like this. They helped each other whenever they could; they were friendly to all, and just an amazing group to watch!!! They tried hard, rode well, and did very well on their unmounted topics!

Unfortunately, not all who were there were successful at passing the standard on that weekend, Stephanie LeCours gave it a very good try, especially after her own horse was kicked, and she had to find a substitute, and Ashley Taylor likewise was on a strange horse at the last minute. Both of these girls deserve special mention because they were so positive in their attitudes, something CNER can be very proud of! Those who did pass were: Michelle Borden and Sarah Titus of Rockingham PC, Amanda Brem and Lisa Hellmer from Old North Bridge, Samantha Lutz from Groton, and Anne Maietta form Jericho Forest.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsey Reeves