



The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. E-News from National

April, 2007

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Are You Coming to Festival?



The Festival 2007 Gold Book is in the mail (in your Spring *USPC News*) with all the sign up information you need to plan your trip to the Kentucky Horse Park for Festival 2007, July 24-31. The Championships competition will be fierce; the clinics and workshops will be fabulous, and there is something at Festival 2007 for everyone! Please join us.

Get your red pen out: we’ve found that the phone number listed for Devers (hay, straw and shavings) has been changed since last Festival.

Please make a correction in your Gold Book (top left hand corner of page 3) so the phone number reads 859-233-9702, and let the families of your members know in case they need to make arrangements for hay and bedding for early arrivals.

Festival Tetrathlon Camp

Attention Tetrathlon Competitors: There’s a Camp at Festival (Gold Book, page 7) just for you! It will include:

Swimming – stroke coaching, diving from start blocks, safety, conditioning – Campers will swim offsite at a nearby pool each day. Transportation to the pool is the responsibility of the parent or chaperone. Directions will be provided in camper packets. Inexperienced swimmers welcome!

Running – discussion of cross-training, integral training, avoiding training injuries – Instruction includes cross-training techniques, strategies for training. Beginning runners and track team members will be coached in appropriate groups.

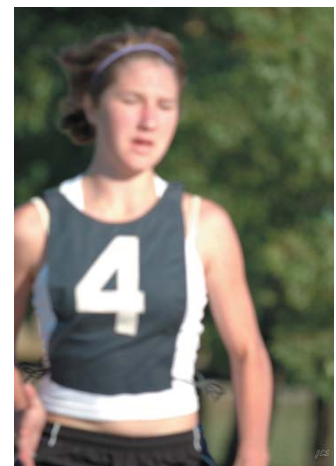


Photo courtesy Jim Schuessler

Shooting – discussion of merits of various guns, coaching in safety and lots of practice – We will compare and contrast the many models of available guns. And we will practice, a lot. And as always the emphasis will be on safety. Campers may share pistols, but should bring their own safety glasses.

Riding – mounted lesson each day – Campers will ride once each day. They may share a mount for the mounted instruction. A pony may be used for 2 lessons each day. Campers who do not bring a mount – or who have not made arrangement to share – will audit a riding group each day. Families of participants must make the horse-sharing arrangements.

Additionally, this camp will provide the opportunity to learn about the Pentathlon sport of **Fencing**.

For more information, see the 2007 Festival Gold Book, included in the Spring edition of *USPC News* or on the web site.

Don't miss the educational programs at Festival 2007!

This is your chance to ride with many acclaimed clinicians at the beautiful Kentucky Horse Park. If you can't bring your horse, there will be a full schedule of unmounted workshops as well, including the Festival Barn Fair and the opportunity to audit any of the mounted clinics. Check out the spring issue of *USPC News* for the Festival Gold Book where you'll find all the details and entry forms. You can also find this information on the USPC website at www.ponyclub.org



George Williams was a clinician at Festival 2004

Planning to Camp While at Festival?

Make Your Reservations Directly with the Kentucky Horse Park:

<http://kentuckystateparks.reserveamerica.com/jsp/commonpage.jsp?goto=/usa/ky/khsp/newindex.html>

...or you can call and make reservations: 1-888-459-7275.

From the Bookstore:



New Items from the Bookstore

Show your Pony Club enthusiasm at events and rallies with these special order saddle pads made exclusively for USPC! The all-purpose saddle pad can sport the USPC embroidered logo patch or have USPC colorfully embroidered directly on the pad. The pads are quilted poly cotton twill with cotton backing. American made by Equine Textiles here in Kentucky!



Don't forget to send for your copy of the USPC Traditional Standards and Ratings DVD. This two DVD set provides a visual representation of the riding requirements for the USPC Traditional Standards of Proficiency. D through A level demonstration riders are shown on the flat, over fences, and in the open.

Check out these and other great products at <http://uspcbooks.stores.yahoo.net/>

“Support USPC” Web Pages Updated

Check it out! The information found under Support USPC on the Web site has been reorganized and updated. There are now three headings: Giving to USPC, Sponsorships, and Alumni.

On these new pages, you can find information on ways to give to USPC and show your support. This is great information to share with your member families and volunteers. You can now make a donation to the Annual Fund, purchase a brick in the Walk of Fame, receive additional information on including Pony Club in your will, and check out sponsorship opportunities for Championships and Festival.

The Sponsorship pages include information on Corporate Sponsorships and Business Associates, advertising in Pony Club publications and sponsorship opportunities for Championships and Festival. If you own or are involved with a business that would like to support USPC, we'd love to hear from you!

The new Alumni page is devoted to keeping our Alumni informed of Pony Club activities and developments. Alumni can fill out the Alumni Questionnaire, letting us know what they have been doing since they graduated from Pony Club, submit a change of name or address, and receive information on volunteering with local clubs. Also included are current and past issues of Pony Expressions, a newsletter generated from the Development Department. Clubs and regions can also use this page to nominate an outstanding Alumnus for the Academy of Achievement and to list any reunions they are hosting.

We hope you enjoy this updated section of the USPC web site.

Business Associates

The USPC Business Associates often offer Pony Club discounts and specials for members, and fundraising opportunities for clubs and regions. Be sure to check out some of our new Business Associates by clicking on the link <http://ponyclub.org/business.php>



Rolex to be Broadcast on TV; Don't Miss It!

Equestrian Events, Inc., organizer of the 2007 Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event, presented by Farnam, and the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) have announced that NBC television will once again bring the thrill and excitement of America's only Four Star Three-Day Event to a national television audience.

This year's Rolex Kentucky CCI****, an FEI Qualifying Competition for the 2008 Olympic Games, returns to the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY, April 26-29. Anchoring a worldwide television schedule will be a domestic broadcast on NBC airing as a one-hour special on Sunday, May 6, from 5:00-6:00 p.m. EDT.

ALSO AT ROLEX:**The Prince Philip Cup Games Celebrity Challenge**

To add to the excitement of the 2007 Prince Philip Cup Games Competition held in conjunction with Rolex/Kentucky 3-Day Event, the USPC announces the addition of a “Celebrity Challenge Round” where well known Rolex “Celebrities” (competitors, course designers and announcers) will join the six Pony Club teams for a round of games.

The Celebrity Challenge will be held at noon on Friday, April 7th, in the Walnut Arena at the Kentucky Horse Park. The “Celebrities” are graduate Pony Club members, both from the United States and from other countries. While the participation of the celebrities depends upon the final Rolex competition schedule, the *tentative* list of competitors includes:

Amy Barrington, C, Hamilton Pony Club, Ontario, Canada
Mick Costello, C, Pebble Beach Pony Club
Phillip Dutton, A/Nyngan-NSWales, Australia
Michael Etherington-Smith, The Pony Club (United Kingdom)
Brian O’Connor, B, Redland Hunt Pony Club
David O’Connor, B, Redland Hunt Pony Club
Karen O’Connor, A, Groton Pony Club
Beth Perkins, A, Upper Valley Pony Club
John Williams, A, Mendon Pony Club

Updates from the Activities Services Department:**Written Tests no longer required for Riding Discipline Rallies**

Beginning in January 2007, written tests will no be required at qualifying rallies. Quiz, however, will still have the Written Test as one of the possible phases. Regions may continue to write and give their own written tests but they will not be required for Qualifying Rallies.

2007 Hildegard Neill Ritchie Foxhunting Writing Contest

Please remind your members that The 2007 Hildegard Neill Ritchie Foxhunting Writing Contest deadline is May 1, 2007. Information regarding the contest may be found on the USPC Foxhunting Website www.foxhunting.ponyclub.org, under Opportunities.

The annual Hildegard Neill Ritchie Writing contest is open to all D- or C-rated Pony Club members. The winning submission will receive a \$200 cash prize to be spent on Foxhunting dues, hunt capping fees, Pony Club camp or anything related to these activities. Second Place: \$100; Third Place \$50. The winning entries will be published in *USPC News* and in *The Chronicle of the Horse*.

The contest award is from a memorial fund established by friends of Mrs. Ritchie, who was a long-time Pony Club supporter and volunteer. She founded the Colorado Springs Pony Club in 1958 and was its District Commissioner for 30 years. She was Regional Supervisor of the Colorado (now Rocky Mountain) region for 12 years and hosted regional Pony Club camps on her ranch for 20 plus years. She served several terms as a USPC Governor and received the USPC Founders Award in 1989.

This contest is great fun for members; they need not have hunted in order to write about hunting.

Ride Dressage? Here's an Invitation to the Youth Dressage Festival from Lendon Gray

Attention Dressage Riders: Here is the link to the Lendon Gray Youth Dressage Festival. <http://www.dressage4kids.com/>

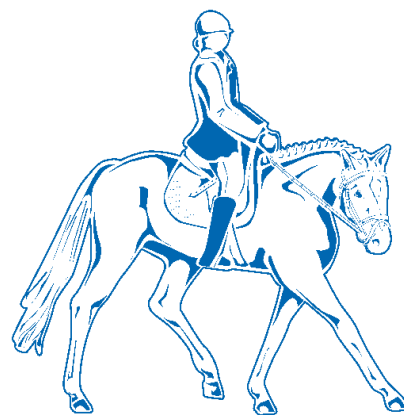
The following class has been added to the show and is not yet on the prizelist.

- We have also added a new class. "Riding for Reading" is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting reading, literacy and education through equestrian sports and activities. Riding for Reading awards monetary grants to school libraries and distributes books collected in book drives to school systems, youth organizations and adult centers.
- Instead of riding just for themselves, the riders represent their schools. Riders in the class earn a grant for their school and prizes for themselves. Alternatively, riders may choose to ride for a school designated by the Youth Dressage Festival as the beneficiary of a library grant and the book drive.
- We also have Roving judge awards – similar to the theme of the shining star, except it can be given for anything from sportsmanship, helpfulness, cleanest tail, anything of note or fun.
- There are three educational activities – they vary from year to year.
- Every other year there is a sportsmanship discussion with the parents during the written test.
- We have a program for the younger siblings and lead line riders during the show. There is a two hour session each day of the show for these children, doing arts and crafts, stick horse riding, etc.
- We have a tag sale.
- We usually have a team of foreign riders that we find horses for.
- Proceeds go to scholarships for equestrian education – any competitor is eligible to apply for a scholarship.

Also, The United States Pony Club is sponsoring individuals from all USEF or FEI JR/YR dressage levels to be part of a team to representing USPC. Please visit the USPC Dressage website for more information: www.dressage.ponyclub.org

Here's a quick link to the D4K Newsletter for March!

http://www.reykurassociatesinc.com/clientwebfiles//d4k/newsletters/Dres\sage4Kids_March_News.htm



Calling all USPC 'Haflinger-Riding' Members!!!

If you, or someone you know, is currently riding a Haflinger for Pony Club activities – HOPE wants to know about it! The Haflinger Owners Promotional Enterprise (HOPE) would like to recognize USPC members who qualify for Championships on their Haflingers. Please contact them and let them know in which discipline you will be competing at Championships in July. All Championships competitors riding Haflingers will receive a recognition Award, but you must register to be eligible. You can register by contacting Jennifer Rous-

seau at 847-304-5639 or rousseaj@dls.net. Or you can stop by the HOPE booth in the trade fair at Festival and register on-site.

If you will be attending Festival (Championships or Education) with your Haflinger, you are invited to a special reception at Deer Haven Farm near Lexington. Don't forget to register and let HOPE know if you're coming to Festival so they can include you in their plans!

Ride a Shetland in Show Jumping?

The Board of Directors of the American Shetland Pony Club announced that they will again offer a \$10,000 scholarship to any registered American Shetland Pony who earns the title of Champion Small Pony Hunter at the US Equestrian Pony Finals to be hosted in August.

“The \$10,000 incentive prize was designed to encourage participation and reward success,” explained Zona Schneider, Operations Director of the American Shetland Pony Club Executive Committee. “Today Shetland Ponies are not the wooly ponies depicted in Thelwell cartoons. They are sleek, well-bred little athletes with excellent dispositions and a great deal of heart,” said Johnny Robb, Marketing Director of the American Shetland Pony Club. “American Shetland Ponies are making inroads in a number of areas including Pony Hunters, Pony Jumpers and Dressage,” added Robb.

To be eligible for the \$10,000 prize, the Champion Small Pony Hunter must be registered with American Shetland Pony Club (ASPC) and the owner and rider must be current members of the ASPC at the time of the win.

In addition, the winning pony must measure within the ASPC height limit of 46 inches at the wither. Owners and riders who have qualified an American Shetland Pony for the 2007 Pony Finals can join the ASPC prior to the Pony Finals and be eligible for the \$10,000 prize.

For more information about this and other programs offered by the American Shetland Pony Club, visit their website at www.shetlandminiature.com.

From Instruction:

Want Up-to-Date Horse Health Information?

New AAEP Web Site Delivers More Equine-Health Resources for Veterinarians and Horse Owners!

Guided by its mission to improve the health and welfare of the horse, the American Association of Equine Practitioners has relaunched its Web site, www.aaep.org, with new educational tools for veterinarians and the addition of equine-health resources for horse owners. The AAEP's site formerly dedicated to equine health for the non-veterinarian – myHorseMatters.com – is now part of aaep.org. Veterinarians and horse owners can conveniently access customized equine health articles and tools in the same location.

The AAEP site will continue to offer its popular online resource for horse owners, “Ask the Vet.” Each month an AAEP-member veterinarian answers questions from horse owners on a specific topic. During the month of March, Dr. Danielle Bercier from Baldwin Animal Clinic in Summerdale, Ala., discusses equine ophthalmology.

In addition to veterinarians and horse owners, aaep.org offers resources customized for veterinary students, equine industry groups and the media. Health articles that are available for reprint in industry media can be downloaded from the “News Room” on the new site.

All resources on aaep.org have been developed by veterinarians and animal health specialists. For more information, please contact, Sally J. Baker, AAEP director of marketing and public relations, at sbaker@aaep.org or (859) 233-0147.

The American Association of Equine Practitioners, headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky, was founded in 1954 as a non-profit organization dedicated to the health and welfare of the horse. Currently, the AAEP reaches more than 5 million horse owners through its nearly 9,000 members worldwide and is actively involved in ethics issues, practice management, research and continuing education in the equine veterinary profession and horse industry.

Looking for Great Horse Management Clinicians?

USPC has a list of Horse Management Clinicians on the Web site, www.ponyclub.org

The list can be found on the [forms](#) section under H for HM, and is called HM: CHMJ List 2007. The CL on the form means they are clinicians.

The Tip Sheet

News of What Topics are Currently Before the Board of Governors for Spring 2007

This document provides a brief report of a few of the issues addressed in the meetings of the Board of Governors (and of the Corporation), Jan 26-28, 2007, Portland, Oregon. This is not designed to replace formal minutes taken at the meetings, but simply gives membership and club and regional leadership an update of some of the subjects coming before the board. More extensive discussion of board and committee subjects is provided in *USPC News*, in committee discussions, and in some cases on web pages (such as Instruction, where details pertaining to specialty ratings are to be found, for example).

Notes from the Board of Governors Meeting, Friday, Jan. 26, 2007

The Instruction Council has focused on issues including delivery of the D and C level programs in 2007 and integration of Instruction committees to benefit the D and C levels. Four committees will be incorporating their energies: RIC, HM, D-1 - C-2, and Visiting Instruction program will work together to improve delivery of programs to D level members.

Also, Instruction rolled out the new National Examiner certification levels:

Level 1: Traditional C-3 or HB (may be both ratings if qualified)

Level 2: C-3 Show Jumping or C-3 Dressage or Traditional B or combination of the three (depending on qualifications)

Level 3: B Show Jumping or B Dressage or H-HA or combination of the three (depending on qualifications)

Level 4: A Show Jumping or A Dressage or Traditional A or combination of the three (depending on qualifications)

Among other items, Activities noted that each Discipline will be creating lesson plans for 12 mounted and 12 unmounted sessions, all to be posted to the web sites for club members and instructors to download and work from.

Financially, the organization is doing well. The 2006 Annual Fund raised over \$270,000. There was a 32% increase in the number of total donors. Endowments were up 13%, although operations had a \$60,000 loss due to decreased Championships attendance. USPC is still in a strong financial position but these losses are being addressed.

Meeting of the Corporation, Saturday, Jan. 27, 2007

Executive Director Peggy Entrekin provided a review of the accomplishments of 2006 and plans for 2007, including planning for Festival and the successful completion of USPC's Building #2 which provides office space for 6 other equine associations at the National Horse Center. As an area of concern she noted membership numbers. "In 2006 USPC had 11,488 members. This is just under the 11,502 members in 2005. However, members 22-25 years of age accounted for 190 and Center members accounted for 155, after separating these - the traditional club members for 2006 shows a decrease of 3.2 %. Also, for the first time in a number of years Championship Participation was down. 18 % in the West compared to 2003 and 14.6% in the East compared to 2003."

Outgoing president Margo Leithead gave her farewell address, reviewing the changes over her presidency (Age Extension – Specialty Ratings – Horsemasters – The Centers Program) and welcoming incoming president Arthur R. Kramer. Leithead also presented the names of the following officers for appointment to the Executive Committee of the United States Pony Clubs, Inc. for 2007. The motion carried.

- President- Arthur R. Kramer
- First Vice President- Thomas Adams
- Secretary- Daniel G. Murphy
- Treasurer- Raymond Stronsky
- VP Activities- Anna Clader
- VP Instruction- Larry E. Byers
- VP Regional Administration- Mike Amos
- VP Festival- Margo Leithead

The 2007 listing of board members was voted on and approved, with the following governors approved according to the number of years they have remaining of their three-year terms:

New members: (Class A) Patrick Allen, Mike Amos, Larry E. Byers, Arthur R. Kramer, Daniel Murphy, Nancy Pittman and John Wurzler. The following Governors have two years remaining for their term on the Board: (Class B) Thomas D Adams, Nancy Ambrosiano, Sophie Pirie Clifton, Elizabeth Johnson, Shelley Ryan, Ron Van Dyke and Jan Whitehouse. The following Governors have one year remaining for their term on the Board: (Class C) Anna Clader, Tamara J. Erickson, Ann Rickard Haller, Alicia Henderson, Richard Lamb, and Raymond B. Stronsky, Margo Leithead will serve a one-year term.

In addition, the nominating committee recommended fixing the number of members of the Board of Governors at 21. This motion was voted on and carried.

In the Public Comment period, Lynn Bammel, a National Youth Congress delegate, shared her thoughts on some issues in Pony Club, including the need for age confidentiality at upper-level ratings, encouraging regional exchanges, requesting that college riding-team scouts be invited to USPC National Championships, and recommending that the C3 rating remain a regional rating.

In the Sunday, Jan 28 BoG meeting,

Clare Boardman of Britain's The Pony Club was introduced and invited to observe the meeting.

Board of Governor Ann Haller introduced the 2007 National Youth Congress (NYC) representatives. The group presented a policy proposal that would set requirements for D-1 through C-2 examiners in order to bring consistency to these ratings. A second proposal asked that a system be established to oversee club "member in good standing" policies to bring consistency to these policies and to accommodate the needs of Participating Members who move between clubs and regions. Board members were appreciative and a short, active discussion period followed.

In Strategic Planning, Pat Maykuth updated the Board with a recent analysis of the DC attrition rate: The average time a DC stays in the DC position is now 1.5 years. Following are some of the reasons for the short time in office: Unclear awareness for what was important for them to do in the DC position. Felt they had to be "all things" to everyone in their club. The job of DC telescoped out (and took over their life.)

Ad Hoc Horsemasters Committee reported progress to date, in view of the upcoming May, 2007 BoG discussion and vote on whether to formalize Horsemasters as a USPC program or cancel it. As of January, nationwide, there were 39 groups, 274 current Horsemasters members, \$21,920.00 collected in 2006 from fees and programs.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Riding Centers noted that to date, there have been 150 inquiries and 13 Centers have been approved. The committee is working on improving coordination between centers and regions. Ms. Boardman noted the U.K. is experiencing similar growth with their Centers program. It was started in 1999, and currently has 12,500 members (compared to 34,000 regular members).

Two new Ad Hoc committees have been created: an Ad Hoc committee had been appointed to research the feasibility of USPC becoming the National Governing Board for Modern Pentathlon. In addition, an Ad Hoc committee has been appointed to research Virtual Pony Club, exploring the web opportunities and best practices to make USPC concepts and education more broadly available and attractive online.

The next meeting of the USPC Board of Governors is May 17-20, 2007, at the USPC Headquarters at The Horse Park, Lexington, Kentucky.

With this heads-up note, we hope you've got a sense of what's moving forward or under discussion at the national level: If you see anything here that sets your hair on fire, or a subject near and dear to your heart, you know to keep an eye out for it, and if you need to, you can get in touch with the appropriate committee or staff members and participate in guiding this excellent organization. Input and understanding from across the clubs and regions continue to be essential as we implement big new changes begun over the last few years, and an open dialogue with our essential implementers and participants will streamline the effort. Through tools such as this Tip Sheet, the *USPC News*, E-News from National, expansion of the ponyclub.org web site and the outstanding Leadership Camps, we will continue to try and get the word out and keep everyone informed of actions and ideas brewing at every level.

Submitted by Nancy Ambrosiano, Chair, Communications Committee