

Potomac Pony Club Parents' Meeting  
Thursday, January 27, 2005, 7:30 pm  
At the Tilley's

Present: Ellen Gordon, Dee Cook, Karen Tilley, Diana Sahadi, Amy Pascal, Kay Karro, Kathleen Balogh, Elizabeth Kenten, Marie Knutson, Melane Hoffman, Francie Dougherty, Sandy Goodman, Julie Bellet

Kathleen Balogh suggested that we update club email list, adding and subtracting names as appropriate. This is something that **Brenda Jones** and **Sarah Defnet** would need to do.

**Elizabeth Kenten** is taking orders for Giant cards.

No update on Southern States coupons/funds. Kathleen wondered about someone seeing if we might collect empty feedbags from Muldoon's farm on Rt. 109 near Poolesville, as their trash was blowing one day, and she saw they use SS brands.

Show Jumping Program: We need everyone selling ads, even just 1 or 2 will help. Sarah Defnet will pull it all together into the brochure, but we need a committee to help. **Melane Hoffman** will check in with Sarah and find out what kind of helps she wants and ask her to update last year's forms as necessary, so we can make them available to everyone in the club.

Tack Sale: Melane handed out a demo flier and asked for comments. Everyone was enthusiastic. We chose a date: Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, with June 5<sup>th</sup> as our radiate. It will run from 8 am-noon, with gates opening at 7:30 am for sellers. We will sell breakfast foods only. Melane will bring a very large coffee pot. Dee Cook will provide a generator. Sandy Goodman's whole family will help set up/staff the food booth. Melane suggested that we sell some kind of simple craft; she thought perhaps some cute horse fleece fabrics sewn into pillows or scarves. Francie Dougherty suggested we choose a craft and get the kids involved in making the items. Kathleen suggests we offer pony rides. Sandy offers to bring Star and Rosebud. Perhaps we could charge \$5/ride, perhaps we could offer pictures of kids taking pony rides. Maybe our older pony clubbers—the 16/17 year olds could help lead ponies. Crucial item will our insurance cover this activity? **Kay Karro** will check on this. We should get this in the Equiery's calendar, with our website included, or a contact #.

*Ellen describes our planned big fall fundraiser idea: a Judged Trail Ride. We selected October 1 as the date, with October 2 as a rain date. Anyone check for horse-event related conflicts, though we think that weekend is clear. This event can be done for minimal cost, but will require EVERYONE's help to make it happen, make it successful. It can be lots of fun to plan and design. We will many to help in the planning phase. On the actual day of the event, we need*

*EVERY pony club family represented, so please put this on your calendar in pen, not pencil! This means we need every pony clubber there, with at least one parent accompanying, if not the whole family. (Pony clubbers can participate in the event as well, so they don't miss out on that part, but will need to be around to help, as well). A judged trail ride is not a competitive event, but more for fun, can be done by kids and adults, all levels. It is in the open, but can be done at a walk or trot. There will be 10-12 obstacles, with 2 judges (club volunteers) at each obstacle, to determine whether rider did or didn't accomplish. Obstacles will be things you might encounter on the trail, e.g., opening and closing a gate, walking across a wooden bridge, as well as fun stuff, like getting your horse to walk calmly by a spooky Halloween decoration. Can be ridden alone or 2 or 3. Anyone who successfully accomplishes all obstacles will receive a prize. We will sell food as well, and perhaps make lunch a part of the entry fee, if we charge, e.g., \$25.*

*To increase our attendance, fun and \$ earned that day, we would like to have a "clean rounds" jumping course in a ring, as well. This means that we will need to have at least 8-10 jumps and a ring by October. Clean rounds, as Dee has explained, means you aren't competing against anyone, just yourself. Course is set up, you pay your fee, enter the ring, and follow the course. If you go clean without refusals, you get a prize. If you don't, you can come out, try again if you desire, by going to the end of the line and waiting your turn, then paying your fee again. We would change jump heights on an advertised schedule, e.g., 18" from 9-10 am, 2' from 10-noon, 2'6" from 12-1, 3' from 1-2. Plus we could add in, e.g., an oxer when it gets to 3'. That way, people can pay to try it at different heights, and if they want to do both clean rounds and the trail ride, they can plan their time of attendance based on what height they want to jump.*

*There is much work involved, but it can be slowly accomplished over the next 8 months, e.g., Ellen suggests that all obstacles be constructed and either erected on site permanently (e.g., the free-standing gate) or store in the shed by mid-August. We need a subcommittee to oversee this. At the meeting Kay Karro, Dee Cook and Amy Pascal volunteered. Most of the work honestly looks to be fun. We can use more on this subcommittee, so please contact Ellen ([gordonballard@netzero.com](mailto:gordonballard@netzero.com) or 301-407-9155) if you want to volunteer for the subcommittee. Ellen expects the subcommittee to meet once each in February, April, June, August and September. At least one of those times we will walk the site. Even if you don't want to be on the subcommittee, we will ask individual pony club families to be responsible for an obstacle. Costs for obstacles will be low, and the club can cover them as necessary, but we will need people to actually make the stuff, or in other cases, be responsible for purchasing items and getting them to the shed. There are additional attachments to this email with notes on details, e.g., a suggested timeline. We want to publicize this by getting a flier ready to go to all pony club events, e.g., Quiz, Games rally, DC meetings, and to our other nearby regions, Maryland and Virginia. As event gets closer, we will work on other publicity as well.*

*Kay Karro suggested we may also want to consider some kind of costume element to the day, given the Halloween theme. There was interest; subcommittee can discuss this further.*

It is suggested that we have a port-a-potty on site at our field at all times. Francie says she keeps one at her barn for \$52.50/month, and it is cleaned every other week. Gene's John's is her contracted. Discussion led us to agree that we would probably just need it from April/May-October. We voted and all were in favor of this option. **Melane** will follow up. A single potty may be sufficient for much of what we do there, and if necessary we can bring a second one in on event basis.

Dee described the shed, now on site! It cost the club roughly \$3900. She has keys available.

We discussed, again, getting jumps for the club. Frederick PC may make some available for purchase. We discussed getting families to donate jumps, or perhaps to have a build a jump day, where families donate materials, then get together to build them. We need a wish list with types of jumps we want. Upper Marlboro business is a good place to get poles and coops. Dee has cups to donate. The club has 10 cups, currently stored at the Balogh's. Someone suggests buying used jumps from Bert Lytle. These are high quality show jumps that are no longer in good enough shape for high level shows, but with some work on our club's part could provide us with some really nice jumps. **Karen Tilley** will call Bert and check.

Dressage ring for Funday rally: Francie offers to loan hers to the club that day.

There is a lesson this coming Sunday with Fran Ichijo if weather permits. Decision on whether or not to hold will be made by 9 am, because of Fran's schedule. We will do the lessons with Fran in February as a series. The lesson dates are February 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Fran has agreed to be our showjumping coach, and Karen is working on getting a second coach as well

Jo Emblin is our Games coach. Sandy says Jo's possible lesson days are Mon, Wed or Thurs. **Sandy** will check Rickman Farm, indoor as a possible indoor location for Games sessions. Canterbury Farm is still a possible location. These will probably begin around the end of February. Sandy would like to hear from anyone whose pony clubber is interested in doing the games sessions.

Dee says Polocrosse practices will also start up at the end of February, will take place on weekends, and will be held at Rickman Farm.

A block of 12 rooms has been reserved at the Manheim Country Inn and Suites for show jumping rally. They are in Sandy Goodman's name. If you think your child is interested in SJ rally, please call Sandy and let her know. You should

also call the hotel, and pull one of the reservations from her name into yours (reserve with your own credit card). You can cancel your reservation anytime if your plans change (though rooms are usually highly in demand, and if you cancel later, there are likely to be many others who will be happy to take over your reservation).

Karen explains briefly about our club's philosophy in regard to lessons. The trainers we use for our lessons are professionals, and we let them make the decision as to which lesson/level each clubber should be placed in. We leave it up to the coaches to determine at which level they should compete for any given rally.

Karen adds that we generally have a maximum of 5-6/lesson, which also affects who goes in which level. We want everyone to have a chance to do lessons, and if need be, might even have to decrease frequency, in order to accommodate.

In regard to ratings—the D2 is a very large range—and the skill levels vary enormously within that one level. Discussion of what it takes to rate up, how rating up is affected not only by skill level, but by drive/motivation to go higher.

We will be starting a Junior D1/D2, special program over some # of weeks for new members.

The mega room session for Quiz has been switched to Sat Feb 26, instead of Sunday, Feb 27.

Feb 27<sup>th</sup> is the date for the Capitol Region's horse management seminar. It will probably start at 9 am (parents and pony clubbers). Dee mentions that Feb 27<sup>th</sup> is also the MD region's horse management seminar.

Someone asks if it would be possible to solicit for an order for blue club shirts.

There will be lunging preps with Francie, for C1-C3 aspirants. The clubbers will bring their own horse, and Francie will work with 2 at once, for 1 hour. No dates yet, though likely to be on Saturdays.

Update on Colleen Rutledge's newborn, Connor. (Colleen has coached a number of clubbers for SJ rally). He's a month old now, is at Johns Hopkins, has a heart problem that is serious. He is doing better. Club members are providing meals to Colleen and her family on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you would like to sign up, please contact Karen.

Our awards banquet is fast approaching. We have a number of invited guests, including Potomac Hunt members who donated \$ to our club. Melane has offered to be a "greeter" since she knows these folks. Don't forget to bring your live auction donation items!

Kathleen let us know that we had \$8652 in the PPC account, even after the shed purchase! This includes all the dues recently received. Trip Harding donated \$440 to the club through the lessons he offered while he was in Maryland.

Karen shows us the commemorative flag presented to PPC at the National meeting, as our club is now 50 years old! Marie Knutson suggests we get that 50 year/USPC club logo made into a printed shirt. Much interest in the idea.

Karen notes that if we spend more than \$600 on an instructor (which we often do), we need to get them a 1099.

Ellen suggests that it might be very useful to complete the club brochure. It could give people an idea of our club philosophy, and let potential pony club families know how much fun pony club is, but also make it clear that it only works with lots of volunteer assistance. General agreement.

(Note regarding format used here: Names in bold indicate an action item. Where a name appears for the first time, it includes that person's surname. Thereafter only first names are used, unless we have duplicate names, or if there's an action item that needs to be especially clear. For this particular report, because the judged trail ride info was so much longer than any other discussion, I chose to italicize it.)

Ellen Gordon, Secretary  
Potomac Pony Club