



South Region December 2011



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A Note from the RS

Karen Thompson

Hi South Region, I am so excited about the 2012 United States South Region Pony Club Year. This newsletter is another avenue that we are reaching out to you, our members, to communicate important regional activities.

Your SR Board has established a great calendar which will be fun and exciting. Rally dates are reserved along with additional clinic and camp opportunities. Your DC is available to assist you with your PC activity planning and don't forget your club's important monthly mounted and un-mounted meetings. I feel that the monthly meeting is the most important event to plan your riding schedule around.

Have a great time loving, living and learning about your horse and how to take care of him or her..

Remember along with your DC, JDC and club officers, you have regional officers which can assist you if you ever have questions.

In closing – have fun. Enjoy everything about Pony Club including the great friends you will make. Karen❖

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2012 SR Calendar of Events

January 3 730pm est	DC Conference Call	Tentative Date
January 7	Standards & Ratings Clinic	Pinchona Host, Montgomery, AL
January 8	D Clinic	Pinchona Hosting
January 13-15	HA & HB Clinic	Hoof Print Host, Auburn, AL
January 26-29	USPC Annual Meeting	New Orleans, LA
February 25-26	EBTH/Quiz Rally	Woodbine Host, Cowetta Fair Grounds
March 9-10	Upper Level Clinic	Cahaba Host, Birmingham, AL
March 31	Games Rally	Piedmont Host, Barlyn Farm, Covington, GA
April 1	D Clinic	Hilltoppers Host, Ashland Farm, Covington, GA
April 13-15	Eventing Rally	Pine Trace Host, Poplar Place
May 12-13	Show Jumping Rally	Hilltoppers Host, Poplar Place
June 11-16 Actual days of week TBD	South Region Camp	Atlanta Host, location TBD
June 23-24	C3 & B Rating	Hilltoppers Host, Ashland Farm, Covington, GA
June 30	Champ Day (Coaches & HMO)	TBD
July 25-29	USPC Championships	Lexington VA
August 4-5	HB Rating	Cahaba Hosting in Birmingham, AL
August 18	D Clinic	Midland Foxhounds Hosting, Location TBD
Sept 6-9	AEC's South Region Volunteer	Volunteers needed for AEC's
September 29-30	Bud Hawley Clinic & C1/C2 Clinic	Hoof Print Hosting, Location TBD
October 20	Dressage Rally	Cohutta Highlanders Host (need fac)
October 21	Upper Level Clinic	Cohutta Highlanders Host (need fac)
November 3	South Region Annual Meeting	Woodbine Hosting, Peachtree City

Important January Events

Standards and Rating Clinic – January 7

This fun event is hosted by Pinchona Pony Club. The USPC curriculum, which is reflected in the Standards of Proficiency, is designed to teach not only the riding or mounted skills to our members, but also the care of the horse and equipment, responsibility and self-reliance, communication skills, and understanding of the physical and mechanical functions of horse and rider. We use the Standards of Proficiency and the respective ratings to provide opportunities for goal setting, to recognize achievement, and to increase enjoyment by encouraging Pony Club members to gain confidence while at the same time, placing them in a safe and appropriate learning environment. We believe everyone participating should be very familiar with the Standards of Proficiency (SOPs) in order to base their instruction program on the clear progression of skills described in the Standards.

In an effort to familiarize our members, parents and instructors, with the USPC Standards of Proficiency, the Region is hosting a Standards and Ratings Clinic on January 7 in Montgomery, Alabama at the MANE Riding Center. It is required that each club sends two officers to the S&R clinic (free of charge). We encourage every member and parent to attend, but we encourage a particular focus on our members who are teaching to the standard and our instructors utilized by each club. The entry fee is \$10.00 – which is a bargain. Lunch may also be purchased for \$7.00 a meal. Please see the S&R packet for more details.

D Clinic - January 8

Following the S&R Clinic is a great opportunity with our Level 4 National Examiner, Susan Morgan. Hosted by Pinchona Pony Club, this clinic is limited to 12 members and their horses. The clinic is at the MANE Riding Center and the instruction will be flat and grids lesson for \$70.00 per rider. Lunch may also be purchased for \$7.00 per meal. Please see the S&R Packet for more details.

HB/HA Clinic – January 13-15

Hoof Print Pony Club would like to invite Pony Club Members who are preparing for upper level ratings, HB/C3/HA and up to attend and participate in a prep that will focus on all sections of the tests. To include but not limited to; bandaging, longeing, nutrition, veterinary care and anatomy taught at the Auburn University Anatomy Lab. Candidates will be accepted on a registration first received basis. Candidates will be grouped according to rating level for which they are prepping. The clinic fee is \$120.00 per member and includes instruction, food and housing.

The facility is located at the home of Kimberley and Sumner Umphress in Opelika, AL at Rockwood Equestrian. Parents are welcomed but need to register with Kimberley as space is limited. Please see the HB/HA Packet for more information.

USPC Annual Meeting – January 26-29

It's not too late to register for United States Pony Club's 2012 Annual Meeting and Convention, and there's no better place to celebrate than in New Orleans - home to the unique music, parades, history, and charm. Situated on the banks of the Mississippi and birthplace to many cultural traditions, this city has a world of new experiences awaiting you. Not only is New Orleans the perfect setting for USPC's Annual Meeting celebration, but educational programs and equine networking opportunities will abound.

Excellent Learning Opportunities: 30 plus workshops & seminars, the Equine Research Fair returns this year for our science and knowledge-oriented members along with the Pony Club Paddock. Some exciting new programs!!! DC & JDC Leadership Training begins on Thursday.

The Equine Extravaganza: The faculty of the Louisiana State University's Equine Health Studies Program will host a scientific poster session in conjunction with the USPC Annual Meeting and will assist in our new and exciting program for our C's and up Pony Club members.

Mardi Gras Banquet: You are invited to a true New Orleans Gala. Starting with our reception which will include a Dixie Land jazz band! Then join us for a dinner serving traditional New Orleans delicacies while enjoying our keynote speaker. Now the fun is just beginning!! Immediately following our dinner, dance the night away at our masked ball, in true New Orleans style.

Trade Fair: Visit over 30 vendors including some of our national sponsors for all your equine needs and wants as well as our USPC bookstore.

Gabby Fabiano and Elizabeth Coats will represent the South Region at the National Youth Conference.

January Un-mounted Lesson Idea

Brenda Yike offered the following idea to help members perfect their Health & Maintenance Record Books:

Have kids sit in a circle & pass their record books to the person on the right. Ask the person holding the record book to tell you the date the horse was last shod or trimmed to see how easily this information can be found & if it is up to date. Continue passing the books around the circle, asking similar questions, until each member gets their own record book back.

This activity will demonstrate to members the necessity of an organized record book and allow them to get ideas from other members.

HORSEMASTERS PROGRAM IN MONROE

The Horsemasters Program is designed to teach interested adults about Pony Club and to help increase our valued Pony Club volunteer base. All adults are welcome, whether or not they have prior equine experience.

While some activities are geared toward „beginning“ riders, we welcome more experienced and highly-skilled adults and Pony Club alumni as well! Members of Horsemasters Groups become Corporate Members of USPC, and friends or Sponsors (at the discretion of the District Commissioner) of the club, center or region.

The USPC Horsemasters Program for Adult Volunteers affords the opportunity for adults to experience many of the same benefits that Pony Club youth members receive: the chance to learn from our excellent curriculum, an opportunity to be part of a „team“ of likeminded individuals wanting to work together, and a venue to enjoy a horse. Horsemasters follow the USPC curriculum in an adult-friendly format, which allows adults to explore areas of interest and customize their own program of study to meet their individual needs.

The Horsemasters Program does not have Pony Club ratings as such, instead, it affords participants a way to measure their progression with an evaluation process of checking off areas studied, practiced and proficiency acquired. We hope all your members will have a good time and hone their skills in both Horse Management and riding, as well as learn more about Pony Club.

Jennifer Hood & Joyceann Solomon hosted an organizational meeting in Monroe to begin a Horsemasters program in their area. On December 1, 2011, they opened the meeting to over 30 adult riding enthusiasts. They have established their HM Liaison and are accepting applications for “Over the Hilltoppers” club. We hope that other clubs in the region would like to form a Horsemasters group as part of their club activities. The Horsemasters will be able to rally and compete with other horsemaster teams in 2012. For more information, contact one of our Regional RIC’s - Jennifer Hood. Join the fun!

Testing Updates

Kevin Price, USPC Chief Executive Officer

2012 Pony Club Standards of Proficiency

At the October Board of Governors meeting, the Board endorsed the proactive approach of changing the word ‘rating’ to ‘certification’ in our new-for-2012 Standards of Proficiency to bring greater professional recognition to achievements of our members.

For over 57 years, USPC—as an educational entity—has had educational Standards of Proficiency (SOP) and a rigorous examination process administered by local and national examiners who certify the knowledge, skills and abilities of USPC Members seeking to achieve a Standard of Proficiency. Upon successfully proving one’s proficiency per a standard, USPC awarded the member a certificate of achievement signed by appropriate officers of USPC. The entire process—establishment of the Standards of Proficiency, testing procedures and process, identification and approval of examiners, test sites, etc. —are all governed by Policy and Procedures, and administered by USPC and its officials.

In an effort to bring more professional recognition to work undertaken by USPC and the achievements of our members it was decided to change our word usage from “rating” to more industry recognized terms of “certificate” and “certification.” In taking this step, legal counsel for USPC was consulted, and a review of literature pertaining to common industry practices was undertaken.

Therefore, beginning January 1, 2012, members tested at the local level will receive a “certificate” upon completion of their respective examinations (tests) and those completing a national examination will be awarded a “certification.” Certificates and certification are more industry, business and educationally recognized terms. Our Pony Club members, particularly upper level members, will now be able to state that they hold a Certification—a B or H-A Certification—of achievement. This change in nomenclature will clearly identify the achievements of our members and provide added value for when they apply for college, jobs, course credits at school, etc.

Any UL Candidate planning to certify (test) in the Spring must have form into Karen by January 31, 2011. See USPC testing site for more details.

2012 Regional Officers

Regional Supervisor (RS) – Karen Thompson
VRS Activities – Willie Johnson
VRS Activities – Stephanie Broome
VRS Instruction – Sarah vanOs
VRS Instruction – Katie Fite
Secretary – Valerie Simonian
Treasurer – Nancy Thrasher
RIC – Martha Fabiano
RIC – Jennifer Hood
HMO – Brenda Yike
Web Master – Kelly Smith