

## FEBRUARY 2004 OLD DOMINION NEWS

**REMINDER!! CLUB END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORTS ARE DUE AT THE NATIONAL OFFICE BY FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>. DO NOT BE LATE, SEND ME A COPY.**

Once again the USPC Annual Meeting was a huge success and the Old Dominion Region had active participation in this event.. We had adults and kids in attendance from Cape Henry, Crescent Bay, Glenmore Hunt, Highlands, Holston, Mt. Skyline, Rapidan River, Roanoke and Rockbridge Hunt. WOW! There were a number of highlights for the USPC and the Old Dominion Region at this meeting and they included the following;



**USPC 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** – and what a bash it was. The Friday evening Birthday party had 9 of the most incredible birthday cakes one will ever see. Good company, good cake and good dancing. A great time was had by all.



**HOLSTON PONY CLUB** received their 25 year plack. You should be proud to be able to say that your club has been providing services to youth members for such a long period of time. CONGRATULATIONS!



Our beloved **Becky Thompson** and **Dorothy Renfro** were both honored as USPC Regional Legends at a very classy banquet on Saturday evening. This was a very special event. Our region is so fortunate to have been touched and influenced by these two wonderful, dynamic ladies.



**Eleanor B**, Mt. Skyline PC, was a recipient of **the US Cavalry Award** for her accomplishments in Eventing. To be a recipient of this award Eleanor has to have been the first place pony club competitor at a USEF Recognized 2 day or 3 day event held in the US. Eleanor's outstanding accomplishments at the Inaugural Jersey Fresh CCI\* (placed 22<sup>nd</sup> overall, 4<sup>th</sup> place YR) and the Morven CCI\* (6<sup>th</sup> overall, 1<sup>st</sup> YR)  
**WAY TO GO ELEANOR!!!!!!**

### OTHER NEWS.....



**Tiffany B**, Mt. Skyline PC, had the very exciting opportunity to be a member of the **International Foxhunt Exchange** which took place in the UK in late November. I know this was an exciting opportunity for Tiffany, an avid Foxhunter, and that it provided her with lifetime memories. I am very proud of her as I have no doubt that she was an excellent ambassador for the USPC and the Old Dominion Region AND because she came back in one piece!! – click to here for first hand account and photos

**Rolex International 3 day:** Each USPC region will be given two complimentary tickets for the Rolex 3 day to be used by active pony club members. I have asked that any members who plan to attend Rolex that would like to have one of these tickets let me know. Well, what a response I have had to that request. It seems we will have quite a few going to the Rolex this year. It may be that we have to put all names in a hat and draw. Perhaps we will do this when in Raleigh so that the kids will know and can plan to buy tickets if needed. So, be sure that your interested members have contacted me by email to let me know so that they can be included in this. I will need to know by Feb 18 at the latest so that I can bring all the names with me for the drawing. I have asked for any extra tickets that may be available but will not have an answer on that any time soon.

**Leader Camp:** We have quite a group going to Raleigh for the Leader Camp along with the Carolina and Virginia Regions. I think we will have a wonderful time. Please do not forget to write your part for the skit, bring it and the entire script with you along with your hat and shirt. Hope you all have been able to get shirts made, let me know if I can offer any suggestions on shirts/hats or your part of the script. I look forward to seeing you all, please drive safely.

**HM Clinics:** By now you have all received the email with info on the HM Clinics. Please contact Diane Hinch with any questions, she will be able to answer them for you. Her email address is [hinchdh@wwrc.state.va.us](mailto:hinchdh@wwrc.state.va.us).

**Upper Level Testing Applications:** I hope that all of your members are working on their applications. The sooner they have them to you and you send them to me then the sooner they will be received at the national office. The absolute deadline to have them to the office is April 15 (same as tax day), but the earlier the better. All applications should be to me by April 1. This is tight but allows a little time if there should be any missing info to still allow us to get it to the office on time. Any members taking the H/HA MUST have completed the required First Aid course and copy of the card must be included with the application. Be sure to have your members read the Information to Applicants which was sent out in NFN late last year and is available on the USPC web site under forms, and "T" for Testing Info.

**Scoring for rallies:** Bev Renfro has offered to take on some training of people interested in rally scoring. We need to have some people trained so that we can avoid scoring problems at our future rallies. I believe her plan is to conduct a paper rally using the internet and the wonders of email as the venue with the actual programs that are used for scoring at rallies. Please spread this word and send on the names and email addresses of any parents or other adults who are interested and willing to help us out. Bev's email address is [renfrob@cstone.net](mailto:renfrob@cstone.net)

**Championships 2004:** It is hard to believe that it is time to be planning for championships – seems like they just happened last month. Well, maybe a bit longer than last month. Remember to have your members who are interested in qualifying for Championships complete our Championship Intent Packet, this can be found on the web site using the forms section and under the rally entry link as well. I have a block of rooms at the 4 Point by Sheraton which is located very close to the KHP. I will provide the necessary info to all who qualify as each rally is completed. Once I know how many rooms we will use for Champs I will release any others to the hotel. If you have any families or members who will go to Festival for the Educational portion only they can check with me to see if we have any rooms available but I suggest that for those not hoping to qualify for champs you make room reservations now as it will be hard to find them as we get much closer. The KHP has a very nice campground and the cost is \$20/night for a site. All reservations will have to be made through the USPC office and I do not think they will accept reservations this early. The Campground reservation form will be in the Gold Book for Festival which will be sent out in the Spring USPC News. If you plan to camp I suggest that as soon as that is received you make your reservation for a site.

If any of you have members who are interested in qualifying for Games please be reminded that they must compete at our Games Rally as a team. It is not easy for a club to put together a complete team of kids who want to go to champs (5 kids for Jr and Sr, 2 for Adv). To facilitate this opportunity please let me know if you have any who would like to try to qualify and we will coordinate to put a team together. This requires a lot of effort on the part of the member and their parent(s). It will involve getting together with other team members prior to our rally so that they can practice as a team and develop all of the strategies that are needed in Games. I have already been contacted by one member who would like to qualify for Advanced and she needs a team partner. Please ask your members and let me know so that I can put them in touch with each other. I will, of course, keep any of you informed as I become aware of any plans.

### **Pony Club Growth:**



We are seeing a growth in the Old Dominion Region PC Family which is very exciting! Join me in welcoming our newest additions. The **OUTER BANKS PC**, located on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, is a satellite of the Cape Henry PC for 2004 with the hopes of becoming a registered club of the USPC in 2005.

**SINKING CREEK PC** is the proposed new club located near Blacksburg, in Giles and Craig counties. They have already filed all necessary paperwork and fees to become a registered club and we are just awaiting the final approval from the Board of Governors.

These additions will help to provide the "Pony ClubExperience" for more equine youth enthusiasts. I am very excited for them as they start on their new journey.

**Pony Club Opportunites:** The USPC offers many opportunities for their membership beyond the instruction and competitive programs. As a DC it is hard to be aware of everything that is available to our members so I would like to take this time to point out a few of them and hope that this will be passed along to our members. Much of this information can be found on the USPC web site.

- Scholarships – There are a number of colleges/universities that offer scholarships to USPC members. There is a link from the USPC home page for Opportunities that has a list of these scholarships. I did notice that the Dorothy Renfro Scholarship is not listed on this page so do not forget that. Info on this scholarship can be obtained by contacting the Development Office at USPC.
- International Exchange Programs – Again, there is a link to information on International Exchanges from the USPC home page to Opportunites. Typically there are exchanges in Games, Tetrathlon, now Foxhunting and Polocrosse. There are other opportunities for these exchanges sometimes in Quiz, Iner-Pacific Exchange, Dressage Exchanges and others
- Recognition Awards – Did you know that there are Recognition Awards given annual by the USPC Eventing Committee? It is the USPC member’s responsibility to fill out the information form and send it by the November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline each year. Information on these certificates can be found on the USPC web site using the link to forms and then “E” for Eventing Recognition Awards.
  - USPC Cavalry Award in Eventing- to be eligible a participating pony club member must have been the top placed pony club member at a USEF recognized 2 or 3 day event in the US. The Cavalry awards are given annually at the USPC Annual Meeting. Information on this award is found each year in the Annual Eventing Newsletter (2004 Eventing Newsletter is now posted on the USPC web site. From the home page use the link to Publications and then choose rulebooks and you will find the newsletters on that page)
  - Trish Gilbert Award for YR – again this is an Eventing award. The Info on this award is also published each year in the Annual Eventing Newsletter.
- Contests – Information on contests can be found on the USPC web site using the link for Opportunities from the home page. Typically, there is an annual Foxhunting Contest and an annual contest for the design of the championship t-shirt. Other contest opportunities come up at various points in time
- Grants for clubs and regions- There are some opportunities for finding funds through grants. There is the Betsey Raines Dressage Grant which is for either clubs or regions. Info can be found on the USPC web site using the link to forms and then “B” for Betsey; the USPC Grant program has been stagnant for the past several years due to a lack of interest and requests for funding. What a shame, maybe if enough people bring this up again it will be revitalized

**There are no opportunities developing all the time, check the USPC web site frequently for updated information on new Opportunities.**

**Membership Reminders:** Questions on dual membership are being presented to me more and more frequently so I thought it a good idea to touch on this subject at this time. Is it allowed for one to be a member of more than one pony club? YES, this is allowed BUT there is a process and protocol that needs to be followed. This process is based on both common sense and courtesy. If you are approached by a member or parent about joining your club by someone who is already a member of USPC this arrangements needs to be discussed and agreed upon by both DC’s if the two clubs are in the same region, with the RS in consult. A member pays USPC dues only one time. This is the parent club and is the club that determines rating and rally participation. If the two clubs are in different regions than both DC’s must be in contact and in agreement and the two Regional Supervisors must also be in agreement and approve of this. Again, the club/region through which national dues is paid will be the club or region that determines and recommends the member for rating and championship eligibility.

Now, lets talk about another membership situation that is not a dual membership one. This is a hypothetical but not unrealistic situation. Say you are contacted by a youth or the parent of, who says that (s)he was a member of the USPC in the past and would now like to rejoin by becoming a member of your club. Is this allowed? ABSOLUTELY, but I would strongly suggest that you take the following steps before welcoming the member into your club with open arms, which is most likely what you will be doing in the end.

Gather information, as much info as you can . Ask that person lots of questions, such as; When were you last a member? What club/region did you belong to? Why are you not rejoining that club/region (unless the reason is obvious such as family relocation or school situation).

Make contact with the DC of the former club either by phone or email to find out if (s)he was a MIGS of that club or region. In cases where the other club/region is in fairly close proximity and there are no obvious reasons such as a

move or school situation, perhaps ask if they can tell you why that member is not or did not rejoin their club. Ask if there is anything that you should be aware of. It might be something as simple as the club does not have any older/upper level members with all of their members being under age 10 so there is no peer group. It could be that they are not willing to say anything other than, yes she/he was a member of our club in the past.

Gathering info may help you in making a decision to accept or decline the new member. It may help you to avoid an unpleasant situation for you and your club members in the future. **Remember, as the DC you have the right to accept or decline a member, with or without cause. I would strongly advise that if declining a member you do so without stating a cause.**

**Information for the web site:** I am always looking for information that can be included on our regional web site. I would love to have information on the kids and their accomplishments which do not have to be horse related. I would love to have some photos to put into our photo album. Please pass the word and ask people to send me stuff. We can make the web site be a better one but we need help!!

**Silent Auction at Quiz Rally:** Remember that each club is required to bring at least 10 items for the Silent Auction which is held at Quiz Rally each year. This is the only planned fund raising activity that we have for the region this year so we need to make it the best one yet!! Bring your items to the Silent Auction area at Quiz and give them to Historic River folks who will be there to run the auction.

**RUMOR HAS IT THAT WE HAVE 120 COMPETITORS COMING TO QUIZ! WOW!!!**

I look forward to seeing those of you who will be coming to the Leader Camp weekend in Raleigh on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Please drive safely,

Happy Trails,  
Jan

**TO RETURN TO THE WEB SITE PAGE HIT YOUR BACK BROWSER.**