

January 2005 News

Happy New Year to all !!

Hope you are all finding a way to keep warm on this blustery, ice cold day!! The weather has been crazy with unseasonably warm weather, snow in the southeastern corner of the state (big happening here) and now unusually cold and windy! Makes it difficult to stay in the saddle.

The Old Dominion Region had a good contingent at the USPC Annual Meeting in New Orleans. I was unable to attend but by all accounts hear it was a very well organized and successful meeting with lots of good workshops. I hear that the banquet on Saturday evening was a splendid display of New Orleans entertainment!

I would think that by this date you all have your instructional program for 2005 outlined and have started your Quiz prep programs. Some of you may be able to keep the kids in the saddle, in spite of the weather, and have your mounted instruction program underway as well. Remember, the closing date for Quiz Rally is coming up fast, do not delay. Quiz preps are a great opportunity for your club to get in a lot of the unmounted sections of the Standards and they are a great opportunity for your C members to work on their teaching skills. C3 candidates could be developing their lesson plans for their C3 rating and doing "test runs" with the younger members of your club. There are a lot of creative ways for the kids to be involved in the Quiz prep sessions, even if not planning to participate in the Quiz Rally. I take this opportunity to remind everyone that the Quiz organizers are asking for help from C members who would like to do a Station or part of a Mega Room. If you have anyone who is interested please have them contact Diane Hinch with their ideas immediately at Diane.Hinch@wwrc.virginia.gov , Diane will give those interested more specifics. This is a great way for C3 and up members to fulfill the region Active Participation requirement for rating.

Kim Schmidt has put together a wonderful program for HA preps. Please use this [link](#) to get the specific information or the link for Upper Level Preps from the home page. Pass the word on to your C3 and up candidates, please. Preference will be given to those who are rating to the H/HA in 2005. These dates have been added to our calendar, [click here](#) to see updated calendar.

Jakki Avery (RIC) and Diane Hinch (HMO) presented a proposal to me back in the fall for developing a mentoring program as a means of keeping recent pony club grads involved with pony club as well as to provide them additional opportunity for continuing their education. We are very excited about this program and feel it will be a great benefit to all clubs in the region as an additional resource for instruction from knowledgeable pony club grads. Please use this [link](#) to read more. I will ask all club officers to pass this word along to your recent graduates that may be interested in such a program. There is an application process and reference required with a closing date of February 1 so do not delay in passing this word along.

I am very happy to update all of you on Wintergreen Pony Club. There has been an expressed interest in membership from several potential pony clubbers. Maria Johnson of Amherst, Virginia has agreed to be the club DC for 2005 and intends to instill some new life into the club. Maria had recently moved here from the New York/Upper Connecticut Region where she was a club DC. Welcome Maria!

All club's please remember to mark the dates of February 19-20th for our DC Retreat which will be held at the Howard Johnson's in Lexington. More specific information will be sent out at a later date. If any of you have particular topics that you would like discussed at the retreat please let me know now so that we can attempt to work that into our scheule.

Happy Trails,

Jan