

LTBPC notes for April 19th 2015 meetings:

First of all...THANK YOU ALL for showing up! We had 12 kids and 9 parents come to this meeting! We had some fun treats to share, brought in by a couple of our parents as well-thank you! We cannot have a fun and forward experience in U.S. Pony Club without all of your help, ideas, opinions and talents. You are all Awesome.

We started out the meetings all together, with a quick FYI about toxic plants and the very real threat of the herpes virus that is affecting Michigan horses. First of all, if you are concerned about toxic plants, please go to the Great Lakes Region website www.greatlakesregionpc.weebly.com

There is an article done by MSU on Michigan toxic plants and horses. If you didn't read it at the barn, please educate yourself by going to the website and reading it there. We also quickly discussed the herpes virus and what we can do to limit its spread.

Know your horse!

Regularly take P/R and Temperature. Before you are going to travel with your precious mount, take the P/R/T as well as check for nasal drainage, cough, hydration and general appearance. Don't take your horse to an event if you suspect something is up. Once you are at the event/barn, do not share water buckets/troughs. Do not share anything another horse that you are unfamiliar with has touched. Lets keep our equine partners safe this season...starting with vaccinations!

At this point the kids were dismissed to run their part of the meeting. Katie took care of opening the meeting with the PC pledge, introductions and reminding everyone about "Proper Pony Club attire". Isa then led the group through the rally kit and the importance of responsible horse owners having these same supplies on hand wherever their horse resides. She also went through the stall card and feed chart, talking about the importance of having them posted where the horse lives as well. Marah then took over the task of discussing the proper care of the horses tack and other equipment used with the horse. Daasa demonstrated how to properly groom a pony (lucky for Van Gough) and Krina demonstrated how to safely lead a pony out of its stall and to the arena. All of these things are very basic to good horse management and it was worth the reminder of these things to keep our pony pals safe and happy this season. Once kids were in the arena with the pony Van Gough, helmet checks were done by Isa and supervised by Richelle. We then played a quick walk/trot lead line relay game to practice proper leading technique and get our hands on a pony! Great job girls!!

Meantime, parents met in the observation room to discuss, among other things, the proposed new board for next year. After some discussion we voted in the new proposed board for next year:

DC-Jill Byard

JtDC-Julie Taubitz

Treasurer-Michelle Folkersma

HM Liason-Richelle Krommendyk

Riding Coach-Susy White

Promotional Director-Brandi Stevens

Food Organizer-Sammie Dyal

Special Equipment Guy-Boon Scharp

Northern Rep.-April Christensen

Horse Masters Liason-April Christensen

There is still time for discussion on this matter so if you have a suggestion with the direction of the club, please let me know asap so we can talk further at our next meeting in May. Otherwise, Thanks to all of the parents who are willing to step up and make this club something great for our young riders!

Beth Friend then talked about our financials and exchanged contact information with Michelle Folkersma so they can work together to make sure Michelle is prepared for her position next year. Thank you Beth for keeping us on track!

The upcoming Mini Rama and LTBC's responsibility as hospitality was discussed. Jill Byard will take Katie and Marah and do concessions for this event as we have been asked to do. Unfortunately, we do not have any participants to send to this wonderful event this year. There is still time (May 4 is the cut off) if you would like to participate in Mini Rama. Please get ahold of me ASAP if you are thinking about it.

We moved on to Mega Rally and our clubs commitment to dressage rally hospitality. Because we are sending a team of five, we will have enough parents there to help with concessions. We may still need someone willing to do some shopping before this event and plan a menu but we will discuss it later in May. So far, our team of five appears to be Hannah, Marah, Krina, Jolie and Katie as stable manager. There is a lot of work to do to make sure that this team is the best it can be in HM and riding. I am confident that they are up to the task! Can't wait to see what team name they come up with-I am sure it will be fun. Anyone else considering going to either one or both of these rallies needs to let me know so that I can scramble you onto a team. Time is of the essence!

Next, "other events this summer". Looks like there is quite a bit of interest in the two day cross country clinic at Kestrel on the 18 & 19th of July. I will need commitments and \$170/rider by June 5 if you want to do this. I will discuss stabling with Sara Matthews when she returns from Florida and let you know sometime in May what our options are. We have a couple of riders that are interested in the Hopkins Creek Endurance ride at the end of June as well as some interest in the regions Super Camp. Looks like we are going to do concessions for the Stepping Stones Dressage Show being held here at Cedar Creek Crossings in the end of July and some will participate in all or most of the different activities going on here that weekend: games clinic, dressage show, dressage clinic. There is also interest in the JLC testing prep and the volunteer assistant teaching opportunities here at Cedar Creek Crossings in regards to its summer "Mini Camps". If you are interested in CCC Young Ladies Horse Camp the first full week in August, please let me know asap as this fills up fast. Susy White will be our trainer for this camp.

Last but not least, we discussed testing for this season. It looks like Ashley, Jolie and Gracyn would like to test to D1 with Jolie possibly testing to D2 at that time. Also, there is a small portion of D2 traditional that Marah would like to finish at the same time. I will need to check into that. We can do this here at the barn once again and invite Ginger to come back as our examiner. We will look for a date as soon as school is out. Krina and Daasha and I believe Hannah would like to pursue D3 with Daasha doing HM only. This can be done at Gingers location in Bear Lake. I am thinking after Mega Rally but I am open to suggestions and we need to talk to Ginger. Molly would like to pursue her C1 later this season. Maybe down state in late August or early September so I will need to look for opportunities for her to do this outside of our area. Since Katie is considering testing to C1 HM only, we may be able to do that part here and the riding somewhere else. If Daasha completes her D3 HM only, she may attempt her C1 HM only as well. Our Northern riders residing at the Katie Colfer Barn may be doing some testing up there

this summer and pursuing an examiner for that location. All said and done....you guys have some great goals! Please know that we are behind you 100% and wish to help anyway we can. Go Club!!!

We closed our meeting by 3:00. Much was accomplished and discussed. Thanks so much for spending the afternoon with your local Pony Club. Next meeting is a mounted meeting at Cedar Creek Crossings with Susy White on May 3rd at 1:00-3:00. Please let me know if you are bringing a pony or need to use one of mine.

Enjoy the rest of April everyone,

Jill Byard, LTBPC-DC