

OPRC PIEDMONT NEWSLETTER

April 2010

Dear Members,

We had a great lesson with Danielle on March 14th. Unfortunately, we couldn't all find the time for the make up lesson with her that we missed due to snow and stuck trailers. Laurie organized another musical on the 28th and members seemed to have fun. Kay Brady was kind enough to give a really wonderful cross- country lesson here on the 27th. We had two groups and great instruction. Everyone went home with ways to improve and they also had a lot of fun. I was delighted to see a few new members! I know that several of our members attended the March 21st Trailblazers Obstacle Course lesson. It was very nice to be invited and, although I couldn't go, I had nice reports of positive experiences.

I'm glad to report that Robin Wilcox passed her D1 and is now a full- fledged riding member! Also Dana Woodward and I rode here last month to start to scope out the Scavenger Hunt stuff. We found many possibilities and the outline is coming together. We'd like to organize a riding group and a walking group so we can include spouses and children. Dana and I decided not to advertise the event as we would have no control over the mounted abilities of those who came. We thought we'd do it by invitation only in order to include our friends.

Now things are in full swing and we should all be almost back to normal (whatever that is!). The April schedule is very full and May will be also. Please pick and choose what you would like to do although I'd like to have as many as possible here on Sat the 17th for the Work Day. We will be weed eating, painting and generally tarting the place up. Who knows, we might include a bit of jump building/fixing if we have enough people. I want to change that skinny, airy hogs back on top of the hill. If I don't like it, I can't see that many others do - well, expect for Colleen who will jump anything!! Before that Sat, I will send out a more detailed list of stuff that is needed. At the moment, I have three people coming. Afterwards, if you like, you can use the pond for fishing and canoeing. I may be forced to produce lunch for all of you as an added incentive!! :0) Number 1 on my wish list is to find a place that is adequate for setting up a separate dressage arena for the Lesson Marathon.

Sunday 11 April

Here are the times for those of you who have signed up for the "Chad" lesson. Remember, I changed the lesson from technical to basic as none of us has been riding much let alone jumping!! If more of you would like to come, let me know soon and I'll try to put in another group. I see that the actual cutoff date is the 6th so you have a couple of days to reply. The fee is \$15 or you may use your voucher. The chapter will pick up the rest of Chad's fee. Such a deal!!!

For the "newbies": Chad has been teaching us for about three years. As I have said before, he is very experienced in showing, hunting, eventing, and teaching. He comes all the way from Baltimore to teach us as he likes us. He's good and does not coddle but, at the same moment, does not push you or your horse beyond your capabilities - up to them, but not beyond.

9:00 Laurie Sharon Jenny Jeanie Colleen

10:30 Sue K Renate Julie Jackie Miranda

Saturday 17 April

Work Day at the Burnett's to get ready for the Lesson Marathon and other important lessons. Please respond to me.

Saturday 24 April

As you know, we are instituting a new member -teaching program this year. I would be happy to have people here for flat/fences lessons that will build on the teachings of Kay, Chad and me. Let me know if you are interested. I think we will stay in the ring this time as we can do a lot of work there. This lesson will be free which doesn't mean that, because something is free, it's not good! Your Board thinks there is enough talent in this chapter to "spread the wealth".

Sunday 25 April

Laurie will be setting up another Musical Ride at Sue's. Hopefully we will be able to have a performance sometime during this year!! An email will follow and, as before, please reply to her.

I'm so delighted that so many new members have responded to Camp!! That's really exciting and I'm sure you will all have a great time – we do. Now that we have the system under control, it's easier on the organizers and more relaxed. Last year the WII was great fun. Start practicing!!

I know I repeat this *ad nauseum* but please try to remember to put a "lesson notebook" in your truck. After the lesson you can write down whatever nuggets you gleaned from that experience. It's very helpful to review this information during the week and before you ride again. As you look back on notes from previous months, you can see what you have forgotten to emphasize and be able to figure out what is going wrong.

Heads up for May: Rating up, Lesson Marathon, Musical Ride, and a Happy Hour Trail Ride!

KICK ON!!!