

OPRC PIEDMONT NEWSLETTER

June 2010

Dear Members,

OK, I missed the June deadline by a day- too bad. I wanted to report on camp and plans for the Scavenger Hunt in Sept. I also want to tell you that there will be no newsletter for July and probably August. Announcements about the Scavenger Hunt and any upcoming activities will, naturally, be emailed to you.

Camp, although lightly attended, this year was a wonderful success. We did have two new people come along with the usual crowd. Renate offered her "magic fingers" which was greatly appreciated.

Extra activities included lots of swimmin' and dippin' as the weather was hot but not unbearably so. Tennis just wasn't an option and the boys didn't have much luck fishing. Deannie, Ken, Lydia, and all the dogs were, again, very welcoming. Penmerryl is like a second family to us all by now.

As usual there was a lot of food left over but Jenny was wonderful. "You will eat it until it's GONE!!" – we did, and it was. We had lots of variety to choose from and no one went hungry. We didn't seem to have that problem with the drink.

Jenny's introduction of a **Non Talent Night** was hilarious! First of all Gil Hocker played the Uilleann pipes which are different than bagpipes in that they are more of an "indoor" instrument. They had a lovely sound and we had the benefit of his musical talent for two nights. After that, it was downhill. David read a very funny poem about Albert being eaten by a lion followed by David and Susie doing a truly hysterical skit. Jenny and Lydia Lambdin did a cute song to the tune of My Fair Lady. We really had fun. Bob was a great M.C in "costume" no less.

Lessons went really well and many of us would like to return and have private lessons with both Luanne and Karen. We learn so much from them. Of course, time is a concern. I feel that if we don't do it this summer, it won't get done so, now it's July and I am planning on going down there once this month. Anyone else? I'm going to shoot for the last part of the month and probably go during the week as it suits me better.

The **Scavenger Hunt**, which is scheduled for early Sept, has not been finalized. We are having a Board meeting about it on the 12th so I will have to report after than. I have asked twice for volunteers for this project but, so far, have only had Dana Woodward stepping up to the plate. I know many of you will volunteer when the time gets closer but I need to know if we have enough people to run this thing. As it's our first time, I can't be too specific about the organization of the event but it seems to me, that a lot of people will be needed. Please, please look on the National site under Scavenger Hunt and you will find the "directions" that we will use as a guideline. As I've said before, we will have this event as a fundraiser but not

a public event. We will invite friends for a price. If we open it to the public, heaven knows what caliber of rider we will get and, frankly, that's not worth it. Dana and I have recorded enough objects to find and we have decided to have a walking group so spouses and children can participate. We also decided to allow walk, trot only. The imagination boggles at the thought of gallop!!!! There will be no actual marked path as it's not necessary. Lunch, tea, whatever will follow. If you are at all interested, please let me know. I need some enthusiasm here!!!

Ground pole day had to be postponed, but we had a really nice **Happy Hour trail ride** from the Douglass's on the 12th. Unfortunately, the majority of people who had signed up, chickened out as there was a thunderstorm passing through – that's actually what it did, pass through. Miranda, Kay, Colleen, Alan and I were the only ones that showed up but we got a lot of Bob's famous marguerites which was fine with us!! Thanks, Jackie and Bob, for a very successful, fun and pretty trail ride! Hope we can do it again.

Heads up. Sue and Laurie will be having a surprise for our entertainment. This will be some sort of performance by the **musical ride group!** They have all been very loyal and working hard so I can't wait to see what's in store.

The **pool party** at Jeanie's has had to be postponed until August 8th. A trail ride from their place is an option before the swim. Sounds good to me, more details will follow. Unless someone would like to organize a trail ride in August, it looks like that will be a combination of our events for the months of July and August.

Towards the end of July and during August, Warrenton, Old Dominion and other hunts will begin their **series of trail rides**. Mostly these are very laid back; maybe some jumping options but most people just want to mosey along and get their horses fit slowly, talk to friends, and eat and drink. The schedules are usually in the newspapers but you are more than welcome to contact me for dates and times.

OPRC received some nice compliments in the **CDCTA** bulletin. We rock!!! Five or six of our members entered the dressage schooling show at the Warrenton show grounds.

Have a great summer and don't expire from the heat. Keep your horses comfortable and, remember, they are more affected by heat than by cold. During this break is a wonderful time to check your tack for any repairs, replace worn stirrup leathers and, perhaps, have those billets checked. It's quite tacky to fall off because of failed equipment!!!

Kick on, but oh so slowly!!