

OPRC PIEDMONT NEWSLETTER

March 2010

Dear Members,

Yesterday's lesson with Danielle seemed to go well and, in the end, we had fifteen people show up. I hope everyone got something out of it.

This has been a hard winter and it's been long. Horses are notoriously not "in bloom" in March because they have not had real grass in ages and their coats are shedding. It's difficult to keep a horse looking in the best shape when they're covered in hair, mud, and...let's not go there. We all have our "blooming times" and March is not one of them!! After you start riding regularly, you will see the muscle come back and when the grass becomes nutritious, you will see the bloom start to appear. Start slowly, it happens every year. Don't forget to contact your vet for spring shots and a new coggins.

Below, I quote from an email sent to me by Sharon Sweeney and I believe it says a great deal about long, hard winters. " I think as we get older we tend to lose some core strength which makes our balance go and then we develop those bad habits with our hands." That vicious circle is something to think about when you ride and AFTER you ride. Balance is of the essence when you are on the back of a horse; it's what keeps you together. If you need to work on that, please do. It's your safety net!!

BIG NEWS: Miranda wasn't at the lesson as she was in Richmond with daughter Alice who just had her second baby, a boy called James. See, even granmama's can get on the back of a horse (and stay on!!)

A reminder about saddle pads; please contact Christine if you want one (next order) or if you are to pick one up. The price is \$25 per pad and they are really nice. At the moment, she is only ordering dressage pads.

Camp is filling up so if you want to come and have a really great time, let Miranda know.

The bylaws, with the change I mentioned, will be published on our website when Donna gets the time to do it. It's not a bad idea to read them as it explains a lot about how and why this chapter was organized.

As to the rest of this month, I've had to cancel the make up lesson on Saturday the 20th for lack of interest. I will probably be too wet anyway. Kay Brady has sent out an email about her cross-country lesson on Saturday, the 27th that will be here (directions on the bottom). A few logs in the lower field went down the Rappahannock but there's still enough to jump. I'll also have a gymnastics grid set up in the ring and will be more than happy to help anyone with that. Please respond to Kay if you would like to come. Laurie has just sent out an email regarding the next musical ride on the 28th. Please sign up with her and not me.

On Sunday, 11 April we had planned on having a Fix-A-Round but as I sit here, I wonder who's been practicing jumping let along riding at all!! My inclination is to have a jumping lesson with Chad, start slowly and MAYBE build up to jumping a small course. If we have time we will address rules of the show ring but that seems fairly immaterial at the moment. Let's just get out of all the mud right now. I'll contact him and if he can't do it, I'll find someone. We will have the lesson on the 11th but the format will change. Please let me know if you would like to come and I'll set up groups again.

Please entertain the idea of helping on our work weekend, April 17/18. Bob and I provide the chapter with a farm for lessons at no cost to the members. We have a ring, jumps and a small cross-country course. We have Charlie who takes care of the mowing and ring dragging but is not expected to paint and repair fences, nor do the weed wacking around them. We need your help to keep the equipment in good and safe repair for your instruction. I will send out more details as the time approaches.

You should've received an email from Barbara Virgo concerning Trailblazers Obstacle Course Instruction Session. This is a fun day for anyone to practice doing obstacles with your horse in case you would like to try some competitions. Please let her know.

I want to mention that the World Equestrian Games, or WEG, will be held in Lexington, Kentucky from 25 Sept -10 Oct. Here is a little information. Tickets are from \$25-\$150. Accommodations in a rental house are from \$450-\$700 per day for a 3 bedroom house (sleeping 6) anywhere from 6-26 miles from the event. If anyone is interested, please contact me. Tickets and accommodations are going fast.

Sat. March 20	dressage makeup with Danielle	CANCELLED
Sat. March 27	cross country with Kay Burnett's	email Kay
Sun. March 28	musical ride at Sue's	email Laurie
Sun. April 11	jumping/gymnastics	Bunett's email Betsy
Sat April 17/18	work weekend	Burnett's

KICK ON - but gently!!

Betsy

Directions to the Burnett's @ 21205 Aberdeen Lane, Jeffersonton

From 229 towards Culpeper, turn left on Jeffersonton Rd, pass Sue Knox's place, turn right in front of the brick church onto Jeffersonton Rd. Go past the post office and continue straight on for maybe 2 miles. DO NOT turn right onto Jeffersonton Rd. at the top of the hill. Go straight on to Myers Mill Rd. Continue until you see Aberdeen on your right. Come all the way back to the barn and park in the front field before the barn. Our drive is about a mile long. There will be cones, signs, or people frantically waving arms.

From Warrenton, take the Springs Rd for about 7 miles. Pass the Fauquier Springs Club, go OVER the Rappahannock bridge and turn left on Myers Mill Rd. Go 1.7 miles to Aberdeen on your left.

Cell phone - 219 1227
Barn 937 4626