

FEBRUARY NEWS

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I hope this early February morning is finding you all warm and dry—the same wish for your horses! Luckily the Groundhog DID NOT see his shadow so we're free to wish for (and receive) an early Spring. Right now I'm not sure whether to celebrate or lament the loss of frozen ground! All horsemen know what lies beneath the melting snow... lots of horseshoe and boot sucking MUD. Oh well. At least now I can **feel** my toes (as they sink deeply into....whatever)!

Thanks to all of you who turned out and participated in the Woodruff Riding School's Old Peoples and Old

Ponies Christmas Quadrille! We had quite a time and I was so proud of our riders and horses! Renate Shields, Laurie Counts, Robin Garbe and Sandy Bailey blended nicely with two of my students, Rachel and Dottie, making a beautiful presentation. It's safe to say we get better each year! You folks were awesome!

You already know that I'm your newly elected leader and I am so excited about being able to give back some of what has been given to me over my past 6 years of membership. This club is great—and you New Folks are in for a great surprise. We have the

most supportive group of horse people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. Don't be shy! Jump right in and participate in our scheduled activities this year. Our lessons will make us better able to compete in the OPRC Rally this fall! TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR INSTRUCTORS and LESSONS!!! That's what they're for! Besides, your horse deserves a more educated YOU!

Here's to a superb 2011!

Sue

MUSICAL RIDE/QUADRILLE



From our Christmas Musical Ride—2010

Pictured here is a beautiful example of a movement called a “Sweep”. This is actually MUCH more difficult than you might think—especially when the horses range in size from 14.1 to 16.3!!! The inside horse is turning on the forehand while the outside horse may be trotting. This is one of the many Drill Team movements we learn in the Musical Ride.

Musical Rides are scheduled the last weekend of each month. Currently scheduled on Saturday’s. Watch for details from Laurie Counts.

*“Just because it’s
Dressage doesn’t mean
it’s Uptight!”*

FIRST DRESSAGE LESSON WITH DANIELLE

About 16 riders turned out to brave the cold and have a super time with Danielle Geofrion—our “fav” dressage instructor. Danielle put our intermediate DQ’s through the ring in the first hour then relaxed into the second hour of Musical Ride. Musical was attended by some or the musical regulars—and I

was lucky to ride in it myself! Well, tried to ride in it! My horse wasn’t so sure about sharing his ring with all those strangers and I had absolutely NO IDEA he could canter so nicely sideways. Oh, is that a dressage move? Er, maybe not. We definitely have to get more riding in so we don’t embarrass ourselves next

lesson!

The third group also had a great time. Not only will you improve your flatwork, you might meet a new friend!

Don’t miss the next lesson, and please know, we’re able to laugh at ourselves. Just because it’s Dressage doesn’t mean it’s uptight!

LESSON POLICIES—A REMINDER

Our instructors and facility owners are taking time to prepare for you and teach you at a “below average” rate. Please show respect for your instructor by arriving on time (early is better) and properly dressed. As for all mounted activities, an ASTM certified helmet is required. Riders must also wear an Emergency Medical Armband (see our website for the form). All horses are also required to be

current on their vaccinations and have a valid EIA/Coggins test in hand for review.

The club’s Cancellation policy is simple and will be enforced. If you cancel less than 48 hours before your lesson, you are required to pay the full tuition unless your spot can be filled from the waiting list.

Park in designated areas and remember to pick up after

your horse. Absolutely no manure should be left on the premises—including the arena. Don’t be an ungracious guest!

If you need special assistance or some encouragement, call your lesson organizer. We are all happy to help—it’s what we love to do! All of us have been the one needing the help at one time or another—So—get your self in gear and come RIDE!

HIGHLIGHTS OF AGM 1/16/2011

The Club had it's Annual General Meeting on Jan 16, 2011 at the Jeffersonton Community Center—Jeffersonton, VA. President Betsy Burnett chaired the meeting with about 50 members and prospective members in attendance. OPRC National was formed in 2000 and now has 26 chapters nationwide. Our chapter began in 2002 and has been active for 8 years under Betsy's leadership. She encouraged all members to participate in the activities slated for 2011

Introduction:

Membership dues remain \$60 for an individual. Member and Spouse may enroll for \$100. Social memberships are also available for those not participating in mounted events for \$30. \$17 of the dues are sent to National OPRC (NOPRC) leaving a balance of \$43 for the club. Of this, \$25 is awarded back to the rider in the form of a Lesson Voucher leaving a balance of \$18 as revenue for the club.

Schedule of Events:

Schedule for 2011 has been updated and will be available on the chapter website. Miranda encouraged members to attend, even if not

actually participating, and for all day events there would be time set aside for lunch and socializing. Musical dressage will continue at Sue Knox's and other events were a Spring Lesson Weekend, a Happy Hour Trail Ride, a Scavenger Hunt and the national Rally. The ever popular Summer Camp at Pennmerryl Farm will take place on June 3—5 and a Fall Getaway at Pennmerryl is also planned. Miranda said that all these activities relied on volunteer help and asked that members step up and help out.

For members interested in Trail Riding,, Miranda introduced Nancy Treusch, President of Trailblazers, Inc based in Fauquier County. For more info, visit their website at www.trailblazersonline.org.

The President said that each lesson will have a designated safety officer with adequate and tested communications, who will act as the prime responder in case of an emergency. Medical armbands with correct information are to be worn by all members attending club events. Armbands are available from Dover Saddlery or Horse Coun-

try. Hard Hats with chin straps are mandatory at all times when mounted, regardless of discipline, and are strongly advised while working closely around horses.

Election of Officers:

Susan Knox was nominated for President, Miranda Kettlewell agreed to stand for re-election, Robin Garbe was nominated for Communications. With a full slate and no further nominations from the floor the Board of Directors was unanimously elected for 2011:

President—Susan Knox

Vice President—

Miranda Kettlewell

Secretary—Susie Rowe

Treasurer—Laurie Counts

Communications—

Robin Garbe

Two members-at-large will be nominated by the new president.

Membership Coordinator -

Betsy Burnett

Presentation:

The Secretary read a farewell letter to Betsy Burnett from the President of NOPRC and presented her with a gift of an embroidered throw. The new President then presented Betsy Burnett with a folder containing personal tributes from members and an equestrian statue with an engraved plaque. Betsy expressed her deep appreciation for her gifts from the Chapter.

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Directors was
unanimously elected for
2011”*

OTHER VOLUNTEERS—2011

Members at Large for 2011:

Christine Lambdin
Paula Payne

Classified Ads:

Katherine Hedrick
jhedrick@erols.com

Ratings:

Sharon Sweeney

We are looking for volunteers to take photographs at our various events. If you are able to do so, and get some good shots, please let one of the board members know. We would like to have pictures for both the newsletter and for our website.



Warrenton, VA

www.oprcpiedmont.org

Contact:

Events & Info
Susan Knox, President
OPRC Piedmont
woodruffshires@hughes.net
540-937-4741

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Susan Knox, President
OPRC Piedmont
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Membership & Renewals
Betsy Burnett
Membership Coordinator
ebburnett@earthlink.net

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Our next Dressage /Flatwork Lesson is scheduled for

Sunday, February 13 at Woodruff Riding School (Sue Knox's Indoor)

With Danielle Geoffrion, Instructor.

Our Next Musical Ride tentatively scheduled for February 26— dependant on completion of a construction project currently under way. Look for information from Laurie.

Rating Dates are Saturday, February 12 and Saturday March 12, 2011 at the Knox Indoor—4255 Jeffersonton Road, Jeffersonton VA

You must be rated before participating in any mounted activity.

Susan Knox is available most Saturday's through the months of Feb & March.



BRAVO AND THANK YOU!!

This months "Bravo" recipient is actually three of my recent team mates. I want to publicly thank Betsy Burnett, Miranda Kettlewell and Laurie Counts for helping me come up to speed in my new role. Thanks a bunch guys!

If you know anyone who has overcome a hurdle or has gone above and beyond to help another member—this is the place to recognize them.

Please forward your nominations and a very short description of the accomplishment to me for inclusion in the next newsletter.

We have a lot of great people and you all need to meet them!